

the colorado symphony



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLORADO SYMPHONY FAMILY SERIES PRESENTS BEETHOVEN LIVES UPSTAIRS

Designed for families, concert features selections from Beethoven's greatest compositions

Artists: Colorado Symphony Orchestra

Scott O'Neil, *resident conductor*

Susan Hammond, *originator and executive producer*

Paul Pement, *artistic director and producer*

Performances: ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY! 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 13

Tickets on sale now! Children's tickets currently start from \$13.

DENVER – March 3, 2011 – The Colorado Symphony Family Series continues on Sunday, March 13 with the world-famous production of *Beethoven Lives Upstairs*, a theatrical symphony concert that introduces families and children to the music of Beethoven. Specifically designed for audiences who are new to symphonic music, *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* features selections from *Moonlight Sonata*, *Für Elise*, the Fifth and Ninth Symphonies, and more. Described as “One of the most completely wondrous examples of children’s entertainment ever” by *Billboard*, *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* magically weaves music into drama as two actors share their anecdotes and observations based on true incidents from Beethoven’s life. Presenting history, drama, music and fun, the performance is approximately 50 minutes in length and is recommended for concertgoers ages six and up.

The original audio recording of *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* claims dozens of top music, educational and parenting awards. It has gone multi-platinum, been translated and distributed around the world, and made into an Emmy award-winning film.

The theatrical concert version of *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* is an adaptation of the best-selling and award-winning Classical Kids audio recording, *Beethoven Lives Upstairs*, produced by Susan Hammond and originally directed as a staged concert by Peter Moss with additional direction by Dennis Garnhum.

Plot Synopsis

This world-famous production of *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* features a lively exchange of letters between young Christoph and his Uncle. Their subject is the “madman” who has moved into the upstairs apartment of Christoph’s Vienna home.

The funereal second movement of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony sets the scene as we travel back in time from March 26, 1827, the day of Beethoven's death, into the more intimate setting of young Christoph's house in Vienna a few years before. Christoph's father has just died and Beethoven has taken the room upstairs.

As the correspondence with his uncle unfolds, Christoph recounts the horrors of the composer standing naked at the window, water dripping down into their apartment and Beethoven playing late into the night. Finally, after attending the famous first performance of the Ninth Symphony, Christoph comes to understand the genius of Beethoven, the torment of his deafness, and the beauty of his music.

Tickets: Remaining children's tickets start from \$13. Remaining adult tickets start from \$25. Tickets are on sale now at www.coloradosymphony.org, the Colorado Symphony Box Office: (303) 623-7876 or (877) 292-7979 or in-person in the lobby of Boettcher Concert Hall in the Denver Performing Arts Complex. Hours are Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

About the Colorado Symphony

The region's only full-time professional orchestra, the Colorado Symphony embraces a tradition of musical excellence by presenting a wide variety of symphonic performances. Established in 1989 as the successor to the Denver Symphony, the Colorado Symphony is Colorado's only resident orchestra composed of professional musicians employed to play symphonic music on a full-time basis. From classical repertoire to innovative new forms, the Symphony performs in Boettcher Concert Hall and throughout the Front Range presenting outstanding education and outreach programs, and free summer parks concerts in addition to season-long Masterworks, Pops, Holiday, Family and *Inside the Score* series. Presenting music that is timeless and performing in ways that are forever new—the Colorado Symphony exists to bring music to life. Full of energetic new programs, exciting guest artists and a brand new roster of guest conductors from around the globe, the 2010/11 season offers something for everyone. For more information about the Colorado Symphony, visit www.coloradosymphony.org.

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