
CARMINA BURANA OPENS BPO M&T BANK CLASSICS SEASON

Thursday, September 15th at Kleinhans Music Hall

September 26, 2011: Buffalo, NY- Music Director JoAnn Falletta kicks off the [Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra's](#) 2011-2012 M&T Bank Classics Series performing Carl Orff's powerful [Carmina Burana](#), one of the most recognizable choral masterpieces of all time, this Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 8pm at Kleinhans Music Hall.

The [Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus](#), [Buffalo Niagara Youth Chorus](#) and soloists Nicholas Phan, Amy Van Roekel and Richard Zeller join the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra for this one-night-only performance featuring the well-known "O Fortuna" which frames the piece at beginning and end.

[Carmina Burana](#) covers a wide range of topics, as familiar in the 13th century as they are in the 21st century: the fickleness of fortune and wealth, the nature of life, the joy of the return of spring, and the pleasures and perils of drinking, gluttony, gambling and lust. Composer Orff creates draws inspiration from folk music, jazz, Gregorian chant and Stravinsky-like rhythms. Excerpts have been widely used in movie trailers and television commercials throughout the world.

Tickets range from \$30 to \$75 and are available at www.bpo.org or by phone at 716-885-5000.

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As Buffalo's cultural ambassador, the Grammy Award-winning Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra under the leadership of music director JoAnn Falletta presents more than 120 Classics, Pops and Youth Concerts each year and reaches over 40,000 students per year (K-12) across all eight counties of Western New York. Since 1940, the orchestra's permanent home has been Kleinhans Music Hall, a National Historic Site with an international reputation as one of the finest concert halls in the United States.

The BPO has toured widely across the United States and Canada including the recent Florida Friends Tour with JoAnn Falletta in March 2010, the first multi-city tour since the 1988 European tour. The BPO has been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall as a participant in the prestigious Spring for Music festival in 2013. This will be the orchestra's 24th appearance at Carnegie Hall and its first since Music Director JoAnn Falletta led the orchestra in a much heralded appearance there in June 2004.

During the tenure of current music director JoAnn Falletta, the BPO has rekindled its distinguished history of NPR broadcasts and recordings, including the release of 18 new CDs of a highly diverse repertoire on the NAXOS and Beau Fleuve labels. The Philharmonic's Naxos recording of composer John Corigliano's "Mr. Tambourine Man: Seven Poems of Bob Dylan," featuring soprano Hila Plitmann, won Grammys in two categories of the three for which it was nominated: Classical Vocal Performance and Classical Contemporary Composition.

For more information about the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra visit www.bpo.org

Amy van Roekel, soprano

Praised by the Washington Post as a "lovely singer and accomplished actress" with "limpid tone and agile high notes," soprano Amy van Roekel has established herself as a vibrant and captivating artist with opera companies and orchestras across the country. She has developed a reputation for combining her beautiful, clear voice with a powerful dramatic presence and sensitive musicianship to create unique and compelling portrayals on the stage.

She has received many awards and honors that include being a 1st Place winner of the National Symphony Orchestra's Concerto Competition, a Regional Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and a two-time award winner in the Washington International Competition for Singers. Ms. van Roekel is also an accomplished pianist and holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of Maryland.

Nicholas Phan, tenor

American tenor Nicholas Phan recently made his debut at the BBC Proms, and this season returned to the San Francisco Symphony for both Bach's Mass in B Minor and Carmina Burana, to Carnegie Hall for Mendelssohn's Elijah with the Oratorio Society of New York, and to the Music of Baroque for performances of selections by Purcell.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Mr. Phan also studied at the Manhattan School of Music and the Aspen Music Festival and School, and is an alumnus of the Houston Grand Opera Studio and the Glimmerglass Opera Young American Artists Program. He was the recipient of a 2006 Sullivan Foundation Award and 2004 Richard F. Gold Career Grant from the Shoshana Foundation.

Richard Zeller, baritone

One of America's foremost baritones, Richard Zeller is internationally acclaimed for both his concert and opera roles. He is known for his sonorous dramatic voice, a compelling stage presence and outstanding musicianship.

Zeller's full 2011/12 season include Carmina Buranas with the Buffalo Philharmonic and Huntsville Symphony, as well as a Missa Solemnis with the Charlotte Symphony, Bach's Magnificat with Winter Park Bach Festival and a Beethoven Ninth with the San Diego Symphony.

Richard Zeller's recordings include the critically acclaimed Merry Mount by Howard Hanson for Naxos, Deems Taylor's Peter Ibbetson with Naxos, and the world premiere of Henri Lazarof's Fifth Symphony on Centaur Records - all recorded with Gerard Schwartz and the Seattle Symphony. He has recorded Dvorak's Te Deum with Zdenec Macal and the New Jersey Symphony for Delos, and David Schiff's Gimpel the Fool for Naxos, as well as Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 for Centaur Records, and Virgil Thompson's Lord Byron and Aaron Copland's The Tender Land for Koch International.