



BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Press Release

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BPO Celebrates Service of Musicians

June 14, 2010: Buffalo, N.Y. –The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director JoAnn Falletta honored the following musicians for their service to the BPO at the Saturday, June 12th concert at Kleinhans Music Hall.

35 completed years of service to the BPO are two violinists hired during the tenure of Michael Tilson Thomas:

Richard Kay
Jeffrey Jones

Four violinists that have each served the BPO for an incredible 40 years, hired in during the tenure of Lukas Foss.

Diane Melillo
Karen Soffer
Donald McCrorey
Frances Kaye

The Grammy Award Winning Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra was founded in 1935. 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. As Buffalo's cultural ambassador, the BPO has toured widely across the United States and Canada including the recently completed Florida Friends Tour with JoAnn Falletta in March 2010, the first multi-city tour since the 1988 European tour and the first outside of the WNY area since Maestro Falletta led the ensemble at Carnegie Hall in 2004.

Currently, the Orchestra presents more than one hundred and twenty Classics, Pops and Youth Concerts each year and the award winning BPO Education programs reach over 35,000 students per year (K-12) from all eight counties of Western New York.

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 eleven 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.