



BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

**Press Release**

**Contact:** Jennifer L. Smith, Community Relations Manager  
716.885.0331 (x419), [jsmith@bpo.org](mailto:jsmith@bpo.org)

**First Niagara Presents: BPO Summer in the Parks**

June 1, 2010, Buffalo, N.Y. — **The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra** is excited to announce the **BPO Summer in the Parks** series presented by **First Niagara** led by **BPO Associate Conductor, Matthew Kraemer**. All concerts begin at **7pm** and are **FREE** and open to the entire Western New York community. “The BPO has a long-standing tradition of giving back to the community that supports us by providing free Summer in the Parks concerts,” said **BPO Executive Director Dan Hart**. “We are grateful for the support of First Niagara which allows us to reach out to as much the community as possible.”

The BPO Summer in the Parks kicks off with a return to **Delaware Park** in Buffalo, NY on **Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**. “We are so proud to again partner with the BPO to offer classical music in a classic park, two of the best of Buffalo’s classics in one place,” said **Thomas Herrera-Mishler, CEO and President of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy**. “Come and enjoy a relaxing evening performance for the whole family, open air music, free to all, set in Buffalo’s Olmsted Delaware Park meadow. “ **Delaware District Councilmember Michael LoCurto**, who helped underwrite the concert, added “I am excited the BPO is returning to Delaware Park, which is one of the crown jewels and most utilized parks in the Olmsted system. This free event is a shining example of the great cultural resources we have in Buffalo.”

On **Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>** the BPO will perform at **Chestnut Ridge Park** in Orchard Park, NY. "Chestnut Ridge is an absolutely beautiful park with an amazing view of the City of Buffalo," **said Erie County Parks Commissioner Jim Hornung.** " We've recently renovated the Casino in the park, along with many shelters. I can't think of a better, more picturesque setting for families to enjoy the wonderful music of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. We are very excited to have the opportunity to host this free concert."

The BPO returns to **Niagara Falls State Park (Goat Island), Niagara Falls, NY** on **Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>** to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the oldest state park in the nation, Niagara Falls State Park with a concert followed by a fireworks display. "When the park was first opened on July 15, 1885, the celebration was marked with wonderful music and 125 years later, we will celebrate in the same way," **said Mark W. Thomas, Director of the Western District of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.**

The final Summer in the Parks concert will be held on **Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>** at **Cheektowaga Town Park, Cheektowaga, NY.** "As a member of the New York State committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts, and Sports Development, I am thrilled to have this internationally renowned, Grammy Award winning orchestra perform for the community in my district. They are truly one of Western New York's finest cultural treasures," **said Assemblyman Dennis Gabryszak.**

For more information contact Jennifer L. Smith, Community Relations Manager  
**[www.bpo.org](http://www.bpo.org)** 885-0331 x 419.

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

### **Matthew Kraemer, Associate Conductor**

Recognized for his "musical sensitivity" and "energized sense of interpretation", conductor Matthew Kraemer was appointed Associate Conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in September 2009. He appears on each of the orchestra's major series including Classical, Pops, and Family concerts, in addition to education and community engagement programs. A committed advocate of music education, he has created numerous arts education programs and continues his work with young musicians as a clinician, guest conductor, and lecturer.

An Indiana native, Mr. Kraemer assisted former Cincinnati Symphony concertmaster Phillip Ruder at the University of Nevada, Reno, receiving a Master of Music in Orchestral Career Studies. An accomplished violinist in his own right, he was a member of the Nightingale String Quartet, quartet in residence at the University of Nevada, Reno. Fluent in German and French, he holds a degree in violin performance from Butler University with a minor in philosophy and his principal violin teachers include Phillip Ruder, Herbert Greenberg, and Larry Shapiro. When he is not performing, Mr. Kraemer enjoys cooking, running, and reading.