



BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Press Release

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

BPO WEST SIDE CONNECTION with the Buffalo Public Schools

January 22, 2010, Buffalo, N.Y- The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra is excited to announce a unique collaboration with eleven Buffalo Public Schools called the West Side Connection, an educational experience featuring guest artist visits from internationally renowned Puerto Rican composer, Roberto Sierra; award-winning high school cellist, Khari Joyner and Joseph Young, League of American Orchestras Conducting Fellow.

"On behalf of the Buffalo Public Schools, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for celebrating the diversity in our community" said Dr. James A. Williams, Superintendent of the Buffalo Public Schools. "This is a tremendous opportunity for our students to be able to collaborate with the world renowned BPO as well as internationally recognized artists."

A special concert will be held on February 11th at 10:15 AM at Kleinhans Music Hall for the students involved in the West Side Connection. "I look forward to this outreach opportunity and to meet the many students in the Buffalo Public School system" said conductor Joseph Young. "I hope my visits can help make a meaningful connection between the students and classical music." BPO Associate Conductor, Matthew Kraemer will also be conducting several pieces on the program.

The following Buffalo Public Schools are taking part in the BPO West Side Connection and will be visited by guest artists in the days preceding the concert.

2/8/10 Lafayette H.S. 9:00 a.m. Joseph Young
2/8/10 Hutch Tech 11:00 a.m. Joseph Young
2/8/10 McKinley H.S. 1:00 p.m. Joseph Young
2/9/10 City Honors H.S. 9:00 a.m. Khari Joyner
2/9/10 International Prep 11:00 a.m. Khari Joyner
2/9/10 Davinci H.S. (@ Int. Prep) 11:00 a.m. Khari Joyner
2/9/10 Antonia Pantoja #18 2:00 p.m. Joseph Young
2/10/10 International School #45 9:00 a.m. Khari Joyner
2/10/10 Herman Badillo #76 9:00 a.m. Roberto Sierra
2/10/10 D'Youville-Porter #3 11:00 a.m. Roberto Sierra
2/10/10 Frank Sedita #30 2:00 p.m. Roberto Sierra

2/11/10 All 11 Schools, 10:15 AM, West Side Connection Concert, Kleinhans Music Hall

The world-renowned 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. During the tenure of current music director JoAnn Falletta, the Buffalo Philharmonic 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.

Joseph Young, League of American Orchestras Conducting Fellow

Joseph Young joined the BPO this season as a member of the American Conducting Fellows Program, a prestigious conductor training program developed and managed by the League of the American Orchestras, in cooperation with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. The program supports the musical and leadership development of exceptionally talented conductors in the early stages of their professional careers. Joseph is the first graduate of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra/Peabody Conducting Fellowship where he worked under Music Director Marin Alsop.

Since arriving in Buffalo, Joseph has conducted the Buffalo Philharmonic in many concerts from the Education, Family, Classics, and Holiday series as well as special programs. He regularly covers for music director, JoAnn Falletta and associate conductor, Matthew Kraemer. While in Baltimore, he covered concerts led by music director Marin Alsop and guest conductors John Adams, H.K. Gruber, Arild Remmereit and Thomas Ades. In January of 2008, he made his professional debut

with the Baltimore Symphony performing Mozart's Magic Flute Overture as the opening work on one of Maestra Alsop's programs.

In February 2006, Mr. Young was a participant in the League of American Orchestras Donald Thulean Conducting Workshop in Los Angeles, where his mentors were Michael Morgan and Daniel Lewis. In the summer of 2006, he participated in the Cabrillo Music Festival Conductor Workshop where he first met Marin Alsop and once again worked with mentor Daniel Lewis.

Joseph is the 2008 recipient of the Sir Georg Solti Foundation Career Grant for young conductors. Joseph Young received a bachelor's of music degree with emphasis in music education from the University of South Carolina. He finished his graduate studies at the Peabody Conservatory and earned an artist's diploma in 2009. His primary conducting teachers are Marin Alsop, Gustav Meier and Mark and Thakar. Joseph assists with school and community outreach in addition to his conducting engagements at the BPO.

Roberto Sierra, Composer

“Because I am Puerto Rican, my music is Puerto Rican. Always. The wealth of images I have in mind refers to that place where I grew up, to the sounds, the colors, the sunshine, the Puerto Rican sky. Even the more abstract music has an accent that points to where I was born. Then again, Puerto Rico is part of the world and, like the rest of the world it eventually merges into something larger. There may be other sources of inspiration for me, of course, but the integral part would still be Puerto Rico.”-Roberto Sierra*

Roberto Sierra was born in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, in 1953. He graduated from the University of Puerto Rico in 1976, and traveled to Europe where he continued his studies in London at the Royal College of Music and at the University of London; at the Institute of Sonology in Utrecht, Holland; and with Gyorgy Ligeti at the Hamburg Hochschule fur Musik. In 1983 he became assistant and in 1985 director of the Cultural Activities Department at the University of Puerto Rico, then dean of studies and chancellor at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music; in 1989 he became composer-in-residence of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra - a position he held for three years.

In the autumn of 1992, Sierra joined the composition faculty at Cornell University. In recent years, Roberto Sierra's colorful and rhythmic music has attracted a growing audience both in North America and Europe. Acclaimed as one of Latin America's most active contemporary composers, Sierra came to prominence in 1987 when his first major orchestral composition, *Júbilo*, premiered at Carnegie Hall with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Since then, his works have been performed by the orchestras of San Francisco, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Detroit, San Antonio, and Phoenix, by the American Composers Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Kronos Quartet, Continuum, England's BBC Symphony, and at Wolf Trap, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Festival Casals, France's Festival de Lille, the Schleswig-Holstein Festival, and Germany's Neue Musik Bonn.

Khari Joyner, Winner of the 2009 Junior Division Sphinx Competition

Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra Principal Cello Khari Joyner has been a member of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO) for four years, and a member of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Talent Development Program for seven years. He began playing cello at the age of eight, and has studied with Suzuki teacher Bonnie Bull and renowned cellist Martha Gerschefski. He has also been a member of the Metropolitan Youth Concert Orchestra and served as Principal Cello in the Georgia All-State Orchestra and Lakeside High School Orchestra for several years.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Joyner was recently named the 2009 First Place Junior Division Laureate in the 12th Annual Sphinx Competition. He was also semi-finalist in the 2007 Sphinx Competition. He was also a winner of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition and a featured performer in the Emory University Upcoming Young Artist Series. Mr. Joyner performed with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra at the 2008 National Black Arts Festival, the 2008 Casual Classics Concert Series in Jasper, Georgia and at The 2008 Maya Angelou Birthday Celebration. Khari was recently featured on NPR National Public Radio "News and Notes", WGCL CBS Better Mornings and WSB TV People to People.

Mr. Joyner has been awarded numerous scholarships from the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Heifetz International Music Institute, Surdna Foundation, National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, Indiana String Academy, and The International Music Festival. He was the recipient of the 2004 Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation Grant and the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Foundation Scholarship, and was selected to perform at the 2005 Annual Trumpet Awards Breakfast. He was also featured National Public Radio performing the Elgar Cello Concerto.

A 12th grader and a 4.06 GPA student at Atlanta's Lakeside High School, Mr. Joyner performs with his brothers, Amyr and Jarin, in the KAJ Trio. In November 2002, the trio opened for Bruce Hornsby at the YMCA Y-Stars Benefit. In January 2003, the KAJ Trio performed for Coretta Scott King at the kickoff reception for Martin Luther King, Jr. Week in Atlanta, Georgia.