

BILLINGS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORALE

The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale Presents the Annual Family Concert:
Pirates & Princesses

BILLINGS MT- The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale (BSO&C) presents ***Pirates & Princesses***, for our annual family concert Saturday, January 20 at 12 p.m. at the Alberta Bair Theater (ABT.) The Concert is general seating, Admission is \$6.50 per person.

Come dressed as your favorite pirate or princess and enjoy performances by Billings AlternaCirque. ***Pirates & Princesses*** features songs from *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and more. The concert also features a performance by two BSO&C violin interns, Ana Strong and Beckett Koch. They will be playing Pablo De Sarasate's *Navarra*.



Ana Strong has been playing the violin for twelve years. She has studied with BSO&C concertmaster, Randy Tracy and BSO&C assistant concertmaster, Kathy Griffin. She has played in the Marrowstone Music Festival in Bellingham WA, the World Youth Orchestra at Interlochen Arts Camp, and the Honors ensemble at the Red Lodge Music Festival. Ana is a founding member of the string quartet, Magic City Strings. They have performed and recorded at Tippet Rise Arts Center, once with Christopher O'Riely. Ana is a senior at Senior High School where she is Concertmaster of the Philharmonic Orchestra. She played in the All-Northwest-Orchestra in 2016 and has been in the All-State Orchestra all four years, including Concertmaster in 2017. Ana has soloed multiple times with the Billings Youth Orchestra and has been an intern with the BSO&C for four years. She loves the violin and looks forward to continue playing in college.



Violinist Beckett Koch began his studies through his school orchestra program in the fifth grade, and is currently a senior at Billings West High School. A member of the Billings Youth Orchestra from 2014-2016, he is now in his third season with the Billings Symphony Orchestra. He has played with other ensembles such as the Helena Symphony Orchestra, Montana All-State Orchestra and the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra. Beckett attended Interlochen Arts Camp in 2016, where he served as concertmaster of the Interlochen Philharmonic. Beckett's violin teachers have included Amy Letson, Hajnal Pivnick, Annette Meisner, and currently studies with BSO&C'S concertmaster, Randy Tracy. Next year, Beckett plans to continue his musical studies in college as a violin performance major.



BILLINGS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORALE

Billings AlternaCirque is a non-profit troupe of aerialists and flow artists who share their talent and love of these unique arts with the Billings Community. They have performed all over Billings with such organizations as the Montana Steampunk Fair and Expo, The Yellowstone Art Museum's annual Masquerade Party. The troupe performs for festivals, corporate events, charities, and parties. They perform on a wide variety of apparatus including silks, hammocks, nets, chains; ropes, straps, and Lyras (hoops). They have performed at the BSO&C's **Adventures in Music Day** in 2015.

YungBen Yelvington performs on lyra/hoops, rope, silks and acrobatic yoga. He teaches yoga, aerial yoga, acrobatic/partner yoga and Bungee Fitness.

Laci Pohlman is currently the troupe's youngest member. She performs on the static trapeze and has recently added the cloud swing to her aerial repertoire. She is a freshman at Skyview High School and also enjoys playing violin in the orchestra.

Amy Truax performs primarily on silks, hammock, and practices contortion. She teaches aerial yoga, yoga, flexibility, and aerial fitness.

The fun begins early in the day with **Adventures in Music Day** (AiM Day) at the Billings Public Library from 9 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. AiM Day is free to the public. Children, parents and grandparents are invited to play and learn about instruments of all kinds. Visit String Street, Brass Boulevard, Percussion Plaza, and Woodwind Way. Don't forget to get your passports stamped for free entry into the Yellowstone Art Museum from 1-5 p.m. Extra passports are available at billingsymphony.org/pirates-princesses/.

Pirates & Princesses is one of 15 music education and community engagement programs of the BSO&C's Explore Music! program. Explore Music! assists in sharing symphonic music with as many people as possible and in cultivating a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts. The BSO&C's annual family concert has evolved from a one day event to a culmination of ongoing outreach efforts to the schools and after school sites to inspire children to learn through classical music.

Through grants from the Sample Foundation, the Dennis & Phillis Washington Foundation, and the Homer & Mildred Scott Foundation, the BSO&C will send musicians to 15 area schools, all the Boys and Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County, and the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch.

As part of the Tippet Rise fund of the Sidney E. Frank Foundation, the BSO&C will present **Pirates & Princesses** in Red Lodge, performing for 14 schools in Carbon and Stillwater counties. This performance is free of charge.



BILLINGS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORALE

Anyone with specific accessibility needs for the **Pirates & Princesses** at the Alberta Bair Theater is encouraged to call Candy Holzer, BSO&C's Education Director, at 252.3610 at least 7 days prior to the concert.

This year's family concert is generously sponsored by the Billings Gazette, Sibayne Stillwater, EBMS and KTVQ-2. Additional support for AiM Day is provided by, the Montana Arts Council, the Montana Cultural Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts, The McDonald Family Foundation, The Charles M. Bair Family Trust, The Billings Community Foundation, and our 2017-2018 season sponsor, The Oakland Companies.

For more information about the BSO&C's family concert, or any of the community engagement activities related to the concert, call 252-36 10 or visit billingsymphony.org.

Tickets for **Pirates & Princesses** are available by calling 252-3610, visiting billingsymphony.org and at the library during Adventures in Music Day from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

For more information:

<http://www.billingsymphony.org/pirates-princesses/>

Michelle Dawson

Manager of Marketing and Public Relations

406-294-3712

michelle@billingsymphony.org