

BILLINGS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORALE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 19, 2019

The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale Presents their 2019-2020 Season, Live at the Lincoln Center



BILLINGS MT- Join us for a historical year with the Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale (BSO&C) at the Lincoln Center for their 2019-2020 season, while the Alberta Bair Theater closes for renovations! The Lincoln Center is located at 415 30th Street, in downtown Billings.

In the words of Maestra Anne Harrigan, “The 2019-2020 Season will be one of the most exciting seasons in the history of the BSO&C as we start the ramp-up to the reopening of the Alberta Bair theatre. From

Gershwin to Stravinsky, and from Celtic to West Side Story, we have programs that will capture the imagination of our diverse audiences. I can’t wait for opening night!”

The BSO&C’s 2019-2020 season features an array of special guests ranging from American composer and pianist Conrad Tao, returning favorite Celtic Fiddler Jeremy Kittel, and for the first time in Montana, a quartet of Broadway stars for West Side Story in concert! This season highlights Montana Association of Symphony Orchestra’s (MASO) Youth Competition winners Tanner Jordan, piano, and former BSO&C intern Rosie Weiss, violin. The BSO&C will continue their community engagement program, Explore Music!, providing over 90 community outreaches each season.

2019-2020 Season Concert Line-Up (programming subject to change):

A 1920’s Evening: Sat 9/21/19 | 7:30 pm

Spend a jazz-inspired opening night with Gershwin’s *An American in Paris* and Ravel’s *Piano Concerto in G Major*, featuring American composer and pianist, Conrad Tao. *This event is part of NxNW, a collective collaboration of local arts and culture Sept 12-22.*



Conrad Tao

Conrad Tao performed his first concert at the age of 4 and has since grown into a musician of “probing intellect and open-hearted vision” (New York Times). Tao has appeared worldwide, performing for such establishments as the New York Philharmonic, Swedish Radio Symphony, and the Pacific Symphony. As a composer, his works—heralded as “shapely and powerful”—have been commissioned by the New York Philharmonic and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. He has received

numerous awards and accolades, including the Gilmore Young Artist Award and the Avery Fisher Career Grant; and was named a 2018 Lincoln Center Emerging Artist.

An American in Paris

In the spring of 1928 George Gershwin took his fifth trip to Europe. Before departing, he made sketches for an orchestral piece requested by conductor Walter Damrosch for the fledgling New York Philharmonic. (This was his second Damrosch commission; the first having been the 1925 Piano

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Concerto in F). During Gershwin's travels, the sketches developed into what would become one of his most popular works—the amiable tone poem, *An American in Paris*. Gershwin actually was an American in Paris for part of that time, and his brother Ira reported that the entire “blues” section of the piece was composed in the Hotel Majestic in that city.

Gershwin's interpretation of Paris in the 1920s was heavily influenced by the sounds of the city. He was so taken with the sounds of Parisian taxi horns; he brought some back with him and gave them a prominent position in his new piece. Gershwin completed *An American in Paris* just four weeks before its scheduled December 13, 1928 premiere at Carnegie Hall. While the audience loved it, Gershwin wasn't completely satisfied with Damrosch's interpretation, thinking his tempos were sluggish and dragging. Some critics, despite finding it better crafted than the Concerto in F, didn't believe it belonged on a classical program. Gershwin responded to the critics, “It's not a Beethoven Symphony, you know... It's a humorous piece, nothing solemn about it. It's not intended to draw tears. If it pleases symphony audiences as a light, jolly piece, a series of expressions musically expressed, it succeeds.”

Maurice Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major

Ravel began formulating a plan for what would become his **Piano Concerto in G Major** in 1906 while he was traveling Europe and the United States. Due to other projects he had going at the time, he couldn't continue working on it until 1929. He was surprised that few Americans were influenced by the jazzy sounds prevalent in Paris at the time.

His original plan was to perform the piece himself upon completion. Unfortunately, his declining health prevented him from doing so. He reached out to French pianist, teacher, and friend, Marguerite Long, to play in his stead. She eagerly agreed. Soon after the premier in January 1932, with the Orchestre Lamoureux, Ravel and Long embarked on a lengthy tour across Europe where they and the piano concerto were well received. Ravel would later dedicate his **Piano Concerto in G Major** to Long. The American premiere took place in two locations simultaneously on April 22, 1932 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

A Tribute to Ballets Russes: Sat 11/2/19 | 7:30 pm

Celebrate the famous Ballets Russes with Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and Debussy's *Prelude to “The Afternoon of a Faun”*, featuring the return of former BSO&C intern violinist and MASO winner, Rosie Weiss.



Rosie Weiss

Rosie Weiss is a violinist and fiddler who grew up near Billings, Montana. Fluent in multiple musical genres, she strives to break down barriers between musical traditions. Her training began with Suzuki violin at the age of 3, with teachers Laura Dalbey and Vikki Payne. Randy Tracy, concertmaster of the Billings Symphony, later became her primary teacher and mentor. Angela Ahn (of the Ahn Trio), cellist John Kirk, Peter Zazofsky (of the Muir String Quartet), and pianists Amanda Olson, Lee Hancock, and Ann Tappan also played significant roles in her pre-college education.

Rosie received a full scholarship to attend University of Miami's Frost School of Music, where she is currently pursuing a violin performance degree with Scott Flavin. At Frost, she performs with two orchestras, including the highly acclaimed Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra, and a wide variety of small ensembles; and has been a finalist in the school-wide concerto and ensemble competitions. Recently, Rosie recorded on the Grammy Award-winning album, “American Dreamers: Voices of Hope, Music of

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Freedom” by the John Daversa Big Band. She recently won the 15th Biennial MASO Young Artist Competition, college division.



Krista Leigh Pasini (choreographer and dancer)

Krista Leigh Pasini is a classically trained dance artist and postmodern choreographer working with somatically informed performative inquiries, historiography, and movement ontology research. Her research weds an extensive technical training with poetic gestural patterning, which she integrates into her role as educator and choreographic collaborator. As co-director of HaltForce Art Collective LLC—currently based in Eastern Montana—Krista facilitates and produces performance-driven artist residencies and education. Pasini's creative versatility blends dance, performance art, theater into site-specific events and immersive installations. Krista is a University Honors Scholar with a BFA in History from Montana State University–Billings, and presently an MFA candidate at Goddard College pursuing a master's in fine arts in Interdisciplinary Art.



Erica Gionfriddo (dancer)

Erica Gionfriddo is a dance artist, educator, and somatic researcher who believes in the intelligent body each of us occupies. She is co-founder of ARCOS Dance, whose ongoing inquiry probes the intersection of technology and humanity through rigorous interdisciplinary experimentation. Erica's extensive experience as a GYROKINESIS® and GYROTONIC® trainer guides her pedagogical methodology, which she brings in her capacity as lecturer in dance at the University of Texas at Austin and as a national teaching artist. Erica holds a BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from Shenandoah Conservatory and is currently an MFA candidate at Hollins University.

Ballets Russes

The Ballets Russes, founded by impresario Sergei Diaghilev, was the premier ballet company in Paris from 1909 to his death in 1929. Diaghilev's revolutionary collaborations promoted young artists, choreographers, dancers and composers. The works commissioned by Ballets Russes have procured some of the most memorable and awe-inspiring art of the time. Artists and composers commissioned by Diaghilev include: Coco Chanel, Pablo Picasso, Igor Stravinsky, and Claude Debussy.

Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*

Stravinsky's third full-ballet commission for the Ballets Russes (*The Firebird Suite*, 1910, and *Petruska*, 1911), ***The Rite of Spring*** tells the pagan tale of the advent of spring and the sacrifice of a young girl who dances herself to death.

Its premiere, at the Théâtre de Champs-Élysées on May 29, 1913, caused a scandal. It was not *just* Stravinsky's primordial, elemental music, nor Vaslav's Nijinsky's exotic choreography, nor Nicholas Roerich's bizarre settings that prompted a near riot that ensued in the theatre. There were anti-Russian, anti-Diaghilev and anti-Nijinsky factions at work in Paris, determined to disrupt proceedings before a note of music had been heard.

When first performed at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées on May 29, 1913, the avant-garde nature of the Stravinsky's score and Vaslav Nijinsky's choreography caused a sensation (by now-disputed claims, a riot). Although designed as a work for the stage, Stravinsky's music achieved equal, if not greater, recognition as a concert piece, and is widely considered to be one of the most influential musical works of the 20th century.

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Claude Debussy's Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun

Claude Debussy's 1894 symphonic poem was inspired by Stéphane Mallarmé's poem *L'après-midi d'un faune*, which tells the story of a faun trying to recall whether his memory of two beautiful nymphs is real or a dream.

French composer Pierre Boulez considered *Prelude* as the beginning of modern music and a turning point in the history of music. Nearly two decades later, as part of the Ballets Russes' 1912 Paris season, Vaslav Nijinsky translated Mallarmé's poem to dance, using Debussy's symphonic poem for the music. The more common version known today was choreographed by Jerome Robbins in 1958.

Celtic Christmas: Sat 12/21/19 | 7:30 pm

Back by popular demand, award-winning Jeremy Kittel, Billings' favorite fiddler, violinist and Celtic-influenced composer, is bringing some friends to celebrate the Holiday season.



Jeremy Kittel

An American violinist/fiddler, Jeremy Kittel just received a Grammy nomination for best arrangement/composition. He has been placed in the community alongside many prevalent composers such as Alan Silvestri and John Williams. Fluent in multiple music genres, Kittel composes original music that draws from traditional roots, jazz, Celtic, classical, electronic and more.

Kittel performs with his group, Kittel & Co., as a soloist with orchestras, and in collaborative and supporting roles with many of today's leading artists. He has worked with Abigail Washburn and Bela Fleck, My Morning Jacket, Aoife O'Donovan, Jars of Clay, and Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble. He was also a part of the Grammy Award-winning Turtle Island Quartet for 5 years. This is Jeremy Kittel's second appearance with the Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale, having performed in December 2015's *Celtic Christmas*.



Quinn Bachand

Kittel & Co.'s guitarist Quinn Bachand began performing the acoustic guitar around the world at age 11. By 17 he played over a dozen different instruments, recording and producing albums with his sister Qristina. The duo quickly rose to the top of the international Celtic music world, and together they have won two Irish Music Awards: 2010 Top Traditional Group and 2011 Top Duo. With diverse musical talents and a bottomless pool of creativity, Bachand has been dubbed the "Young Lion" of the Celtic guitar (Daniel Lapp) and "Canada's top Celtic guitarist" (Ashley MacIsaac). His contemporary edge to traditional Celtic music has sparked worldwide attention. An in-demand sideman, Bachand has toured nationally and internationally. He is also the front man of gypsy jazz band Brishen, singing and playing lead guitar, violin, and tenor banjo.



Cillian Vallely

Cillian Vallely is the uilleann pipes and low whistle player of the renowned Irish band Lúnasa, described as "the hottest Celtic band on the planet" (Irish Voice). In recent years, he has played and recorded with Bruce Springsteen, Natalie Merchant, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Tim O'Brien, and Riverdance, in addition to recording as a guest on over 50 albums. With Lúnasa, he has performed at the Hollywood Bowl, Glastonbury Festival, WOMADelaide, Edmonton Folk Festival, as

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well as multiple tours of Asia, Australia, US and Europe. “Vallely, whose family has played a seminal role in piping and Irish music in the north of Ireland for years, shows why he is one of the most respected pipers playing today” (Irish Voice).



Elizabeth (“Zee”) Ní Bhraonáin, TCRG

Elizabeth (“Zee”) Ní Bhraonáin is a registered Irish dance teacher, certified by the Irish Dancing Commission (Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelacha). She grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and started her dancing career at the age of six, learning her first steps from Annie McBride, an internationally-known San Francisco dancing master. Zee has performed with artists such as the Black Brothers, Tempest, and Ari Dro, and has competitively danced at the highest local, regional and national

levels. She taught as an assistant teacher with the McBride school from 2007-2013; receiving her teaching credential in December 2012. In 2013, she put down roots for her Irish dancing school in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and, since then, has choreographed dancing for events with the Grand Rapids Symphony, Frederick Meijer Gardens and the Dogwood Performing Arts Center. Zee’s competitive success continues with her students, who include top-ten regional champions and the reigning Mid-America Regional Under-10 Mixed Ceili Champions.

A Celebration of Mozart, an In-Memoriam Concert: Sat 2/15/20 | 7:30 pm

This concert, everyone plays a role. We will celebrate the names of your families and friends while The Billings Symphony Chorale joins the orchestra to pay homage to one of the classical music’s greatest composers, with *Mozart’s Requiem* and *Symphony No. 35*. If you want someone you love recognized at the concert, you can make a small donation in their name by contacting the Billings Symphony office.

Mozart’s Requiem

The *Requiem* was secretly commissioned by Count Franz von Walsegg to commemorate the passing of his wife. Once Mozart received the first half of his commission—paid by messenger—he began writing, never knowing who he was writing for. Incredibly ill at the time, Mozart is said to have been convinced he was writing the *Requiem* for his own funeral. Indeed, he passed away on December 5, 1791 at the age of 35, leaving the work unfinished. Mozart’s wife recruited his student, Franz Xaver Süssmayr, to complete the *Requiem* in secrecy, and 100 days after Mozart’s death, it was delivered to Count Franz von Walsegg. Many believe von Walsegg tried to pass it off as his own work, as he was known to do. However, Mozart’s wife was very vocal about the commissioned project and was able to quash his claim.

Mozart’s Symphony No. 35

Also known as the *Haffner Symphony*, *Symphony No. 35* was Mozart’s second work commissioned by the Haffner family of Salzburg, Austria. After the success of his *Haffner Serenade* for the wedding of Marie Elizabeth Haffner, the family again sought Mozart to commemorate the ennoblement of Sigmund Haffner the Younger. This second Haffner serenade was later reworked by Mozart into a full symphony, making its debut performance as *Symphony No. 35* on March 23, 1783 at Vienna’s Burg Theatre.

West Side Story in Concert: Sat 3/14/20 | 7:30 pm

First time in Montana! Witness the forbidden love, feuding families, and rival gangs come in this modern-day retelling of Shakespeare’s *Romeo & Juliet*. Featuring Jerome Robbins’ award-winning adaptation with music from Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and book by Arthur Laurents with a cast of Broadway professionals.

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Jessica Soza (Maria)

Jessica Soza has had the pleasure of singing in 10 cities and 7 countries all over Europe. Her most notable credits involve playing Maria with the international tour of *West Side Story* in 152 performances. She graduated from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in Los Angeles, and obtained her BA from CSU, San Bernardino. Upon graduation, she moved to New York, during which she left to tour Europe with *West Side Story*. She returned to the United States after the tour closed and is now pursuing her MFA in Acting and Pedagogical Performance at CSU, Long Beach.



Michael Winslow (Riff)

Michael “Mikey” Winslow hails from Grand Rapids and is thrilled to be performing in *West Side Story* again. Broadway credits include: *West Side Story*, *American Idiot*, *On the Town*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Hamilton*. Guest appearances with symphonies include the Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony, and the Battle Creek Symphony. He has performed the role of almost every Jet in *West Side Story* and will be assisting with stage direction in this production.



Clyde Alves (Tony)

Clyde Alves is an actor, singer, dancer and songwriter who has starred as Ozzie in the Broadway revival of *On the Town* (Astaire Award Nomination). Other Broadway credits include: *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Anything Goes*, *Wicked*, *Hairspray*, *Oklahoma!*, and as Tommy Djilias in *The Music Man* (2000 Astaire Award Winner). He has performed Off Broadway in *Altar Boyz* (Juan). At New York City Center Encores, Clyde was seen in *Follies*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, and *Bells Are Ringing*. In National Tours, he performed in *A Chorus Line* (Mike). Symphony performances include *On the Town* with the San Francisco Symphony and *West Side Story* with the Battle Creek Symphony. Clyde resides in NYC with his wife and son. “*I have never felt so alive as when performing West Side Story to students whose lives may mirror those of the characters. I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to present these outreaches and this performance in Billings, especially at the Montana Women’s Prison.*”



Aline Mayagoitia (Anita)

An award-winning actress, Aline Mayagoitia attended the prestigious Musical Theatre program at the University of Michigan. In her college years she discovered a love for writing and directing, as well as working extensively in the film department. In her four years, she performed/produced/wrote/directed/choreographed over 20 live shows and screen projects, and also served as creative director of the MOSAIC: Intercultural Performance Ensemble, a student-led organization dedicated to increasing diversity and representation in the theatre community. Aline toured Costa Rica with a bilingual version of *Evita*, doing community engagement activities and serving as the main translator for the project.

Rachmaninoff: Sat 4/18/20 | 7:30 pm

The symphony season ends with one of the finest pianists of his generation and the last great Russian composer, Sergei Rachmaninoff. Featuring the return of MASO winner, Tanner Jordan playing Rachmaninoff’s *Piano Concerto No. 2*, with special side-by-side performance with the Billings Youth Orchestra.

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Tanner Jorden

16-year-old Tanner Jorden's current teacher, Dorothea Cromley, is the former Professor of Piano at Montana State University–Billings. In 2015, the Billings native began participating in—and winning—competitions locally and internationally. He competed in the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition in November 2016.

Tanner won the state Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) competition in 2016, 2017 and 2018, receiving honorable mentions in the Junior and Senior divisions at Northwest regionals. In January 2019, he won the Northwest regional competition and competed in the National MTNA competition in March 2019. In January 2017, he received first place in the Junior division of the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras (MASO) Concerto Competition, and in April of that year performed a debut recital at MSU–B as a Connections student. Tanner made his orchestral debut with the Great Falls Symphony in February 2017, and has since performed with the Billings, Helena, Glacier and Northwest College (Powell, WY) Symphonies. In January 2019, Tanner again received first place in the 15th biennial MASO Young Artist Competition, this time in the Senior division.

Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2

Rachmaninoff's second piano concerto was the first piece he composed after his long bout of depression and writer's block. It was his great comeback that became a smash hit, bringing Rachmaninoff back to his former self. Dedicated with gratitude to Dr. Dahl, the **Piano Concerto No. 2** premiered on November 9, 1901, with Rachmaninoff performing and his cousin, Alexander Siloti, conducting, and is considered by many to be the greatest piano concerto ever written.

Rachmaninoff's Symphony No 2. In E Minor

After the disaster of his first symphony, Rachmaninoff was hesitant to begin composing again. The success of his Piano Concerto No. 2, however, instilled him with confidence, but not so much that he was ready to let the world know he was back at it. He wrote the **Symphony No. 2** in secrecy for about a year, when word of his newest composition leaked out in the press. He confessed to a friend: "I have composed a symphony. It's true! ... I finished it a month ago and immediately put it aside. It was a severe worry to me and I'm not going to think about it anymore." But think about it he did, and the hard work and turmoil paid off. A year later, Rachmaninoff conducted the premiere in Saint Petersburg in January 1908, with great, reassuring success.

Along with the 2019-2020 season concerts, the BSO&C will also feature several special events. These concerts and events are not included in the season concert series. Single tickets will be available for purchase on August 15, 2019

2019-2020 Special Events Line-up (programming subject to change):



Whiskey & Wine: Thurs 9/12/19 | 6 pm-9 pm

Whiskey, Bourbon, Malbec, or Riesling: What's your preference? We have something for every taste. Enjoy samples from the top Whiskey and Wine distributors in Montana, while listening to performances from BSO&C members. Join us Thursday evening, September 12, 2019 at the nostalgic Henry's Garage from 6-9 p.m. Discover a new favorite! Tickets are \$40 and are available starting August 15th – All proceeds benefit the BSO&C.

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An American Landscape: A Chorale Concert: Sat 11/16/19 @ 7:30 pm | Sun 11/17/19 @ 3:00 pm

Join the Billings Symphony Chorale and listen as their powerful voices fill the beautiful St. Patrick

Co-Cathedral under the direction of Dr. Stephen Hart. Tickets cost \$17 for general seating, 27 for reserved seating. The program includes traditional shaker and spiritual melodies, and Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*. The Massachusetts town of

Amherst commissioned Thompson to write a piece commemorating its bicentennial in 1959. Amherst, known for its association with Robert Frost, suggested using poems written by Frost. Frost and Thompson knew each other for some time and admired each other's artistry. It was decided that *Frostiana* would be a setting of Frost's poetry, chosen by Thompson for the occasion.



The Nutcracker: Sat 11/30/19 @ 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm | Sun 12/1/19 @ 2:00 pm

Join us for this Billings Symphony Thanksgiving weekend tradition! Tickets cost between \$10 and \$52 and are available at the Billings Symphony Box Office—Call 252-3610 or visit us at billingsymphony.org. *The Nutcracker* is performed by the San Diego Ballet under the artistic direction of Robin Morgan. More than 100 local child singers and dancers take the stage for this charming Thanksgiving weekend tradition. With its signature theatrics and beloved choreography, the San Diego

Ballet delivers a light-hearted interpretation of this holiday classic that is expressive and dramatic.

Principal dancers are seasoned professionals who bring strong brilliant technique, expressive artistry and high energy to this well-loved ballet. Audiences easily connect with their inspired performances to Peter Tchaikovsky's beloved score performed live by the Billings Symphony Orchestra in the pit below the stage.



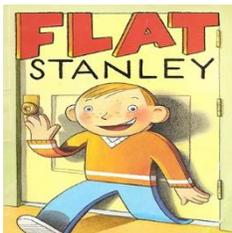
Holiday Tour of Homes: Sat 12/7/19 | 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Celebrate the spirit of the Holidays with our 15th annual *Holiday Tour of Homes*.

Local families open their beautifully decorated homes for this self-guided tour.

Tickets are \$25. The tour features festively decorated locations throughout Billings.

All stops will feature music provided by the Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale members and students of Billings Youth Orchestra. All proceeds benefit the Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale.



Family Concert: Flat Stanley: Sat 1/25/20 | 12:00 pm

Flat Stanley travels the globe with the orchestra! Discover the cultures of the world through musical stories, instruments and songs, featuring the return of Tim Marrone. Where we feature music from all parts of the world! Selections include classics: Glière's *Russian Sailor's Dance*, Brahms' *Hungarian Dance No. 5*, Offenbach's *Can-Can*, and Copland's famous "Hoe-Down" from *Rodeo*. Tickets are \$5 for general seating.

First published in the 1960s, *Flat Stanley* is a classic, fun tale of a boy with a difference. The story is timeless and still just as relevant – with its messages of acceptance, jealousy and good versus evil – in the modern world. As Arthur learns to understand his brother's situation and the family adapts to this new version of Stanley, children see that being different or standing out from the crowd is not always easy.



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Tim Marrone received his training at the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre in New York City and has appeared on stage throughout the Northeast, most recently in the Baltimore/Washington DC area. For ten years, Tim served as a founding member of the Maryland-based clown/theatre troupe Theatricks. He has appeared as a silent comic character for the Washington National Opera, The Maryland Lyric Opera, The Summer Opera Series at Catholic University, and has toured as a clown with the George Carden Circus. Tim has co-written and performed productions with: The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; The Baltimore Chamber Orchestra; The Lafayette Symphony Orchestra; The Billings Symphony Orchestra; The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra; The Lincoln Symphony Orchestra; The Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra.

The BSO&C Spring Fundraiser: Sat 5/2/20 | 6:00 pm - 12:00 am

Join us for our annual spring fundraiser at the Northern Hotel! This year's fundraiser is Cinco de Mayo themed, featuring musical guests Pan Blanco. If you care about our community, you NEED to be there!

Symphony in the Park: Sun 6/21/20 | 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Bring your blanket or lawn chair and join us at Pioneer Park for an evening of FREE music under the big Montana sky.

Explore Music! Community Outreaches and Engagement:

Explore Music! is the music education and community engagement program of the Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale created to assist in cultivation a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts. This program reaches tens of thousands of children, youth, adults, and seniors each year. By eliminating price and taking the programs to each audience, the BSO&C reaches beyond the stage at the Alberta Bair Theatre and into the communities in the greater Billings area. Some highlights of our Explore Music! programs include:

- Guitar lessons at the Montana Women's Prison
- Drum circles at Canyon Creek Memory Care
- Healing Harmonies
- Musicians-in-schools and Conductor in the schools, where our BSO&C members teach students of all ages what it takes to be a professional musician
- Adventures in Music Day, where we bring a musician from each instrument family to a public school or the Billings Public Library, and teach students about symphonic instruments
- Rural Rhythms, our free community chamber concert series
- Instrument Petting Zoos, where students have the opportunity to try every instrument
- Concert Cues before each concert, which are discussions that relates to the program that evening
- Master Classes with our guest artist, where students get to perform and receive feedback from touring musicians
- Our annual family concert with a full performance in Red Lodge, where all area schools are invited to join.

These are just a few of the ways we bring symphonic music to our surround communities!



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2019-2020 BSO&C Extras:

“Weird Al” Yankovich, “Strings Attached”: Sun 8/25/19 | 7:30 pm

Come down to the First Interstate Arena at MetraPark to see singer-songwriter, comedian, and parody artist, “Weird Al” Yankovich while on his 2019 tour “Strings Attached” featuring the BSO&C! Tickets are available at metrapark.com.

Symphony Sneak Peak: Wed 9/18/19 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Join Maestra Anne Harrigan and members of the BSO&C at the Pub Station for a sneak peak of the BSO&C’s 2019-2020 Symphony Season *Live at the Lincoln Center*. Maestra Harrigan will focus on the jazz inspired opening night, including stories and histories of Gershwin and Ravel. This is an opportunity to learn about what the symphony has to offer beyond the concert hall this upcoming season. Food and drink provided.

Executive director of the BSO&C, Ignacio Barron Viela, believes, “This season brings an incredible opportunity to expand BSO&C’s musical offering, performances and outreach programs in the Billings area. The symphony will continue the commitment to develop stronger connections within the Billings community across all economic and social groups. We plan to step boldly into the Lincoln Center with diverse, enriching, and exhilarating programs that focus on the issues and ideas of human relevance, which bring our community together.”

There are two types of season subscriptions available for purchase: The Full Season Package and the Pick Four Package. The Full Season Package includes one ticket to each of the six season concerts for each package purchased. The Pick 4 Package includes one ticket to four concerts of the subscriber’s choosing. Pick Four subscribers must select the concerts they want to attend at the time of purchase. The new Under 30 Package subscriptions are also available and have taken place of the Student Subscriptions of the past.

Under 30 Packages and Under 30 single tickets are not available online. Please call 252-3610 or visit the BSO&C office at 2721 2nd Avenue North in downtown Billings to enroll. Adult Packages are available online. Single Tickets for all events go on sale August 15, 2019 and range from \$10 to \$52. For more information on the 2019-2020 season please visit billingsssymphony.org

The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale’s 2019-2020 season is proudly sponsored by The Oakland Companies. The 2019-2020 Host Hotel is The Northern Hotel, and the media sponsor is KTVQ-2.

The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale (BSO&C) is the largest professional orchestra in Montana. Established in 1951, the BSO&C strives to enrich lives through music. Consisting of over 135 musicians, the BSO&C serves a regional population of 400,000 people located throughout South Central and Eastern Montana, and Northeastern Wyoming by introducing music to children, youth, adults and seniors through Explore Music! the BSO&C’s community engagement program. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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