

MEDIA RELEASE**MAY 6, 2013**

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Michael Butterman Returns to Conduct the Cleveland Orchestra

Michael Butterman, known for his leadership in shaping a new model for today's conductors, returns to the Cleveland Orchestra this weekend for two performances in Severance Hall, one on Friday, May 9, at 1 p.m. and one on Sunday, May 12, at 2 p.m..

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with this fabulous orchestra again," said Butterman, "and to be part of its rich history and commitment to performances that reach out to families and young people."

Butterman, who is the music director of the Boulder Philharmonic and the Shreveport Symphony Orchestras, and the resident conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony, is also the principal conductor for education and outreach with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra—the first position of its kind in the United States, and a position he has held for 13 years.

The program, entitled "Fables, Fantasy & Folklore," is part of the orchestra's education and family concert series. "I designed the program to dovetail with the language arts skills that children develop during their elementary years," said Butterman. "We'll explore the ways in which composers develop a narrative, or a story, in their music. And we'll bring the audience into the creative process by helping them to create their own musical story featuring members of the orchestra. This is always a lot of fun and highly spontaneous. Kids seem to just love being involved in this way," said Butterman.

This highly interactive concert includes music from such classics as Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* (based on *Tales from the Arabian Nights*), Grieg's *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, Rossini's *William Tell Overture*, and Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*.

In demand as a guest conductor, Butterman's engagements include appearances with the Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, Hartford Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, Syracuse Symphony, New Mexico Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, Spokane Symphony, El Paso Symphony, Santa Fe Symphony, and many others. Summer appearances include Tanglewood, the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival in Colorado, and the Wintergreen Music Festival in Virginia.

"It's essential that our finest orchestras remain committed to concerts that engage our young people and spark their creativity," said Butterman. "These live concert experiences provide lasting memories and important foundations for our future musicians and audiences."

Founded in 1918, the Cleveland Orchestra enjoys a reputation as one of the world's best orchestras. With an extensive discography, and frequent national and international tours, it regularly collaborates with the leading soloists and conductors in the classical music world.

For ticket information for the Cleveland Orchestra's performances this weekend, visit www.clevelandorchestra.com. For additional information about Michael Butterman, visit www.michaelbutterman.com.

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