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Conductor Michael Butterman to Make Cleveland Orchestra Debut

Michael Butterman, known for his leadership in shaping a new model for today's conductors, makes his debut appearance leading the famed Cleveland Orchestra on Sunday, May 6, at 2 p.m., in Severance Hall. He will lead the orchestra in a performance of *Beethoven Lives Upstairs*, part of the orchestra's family concert series.

"It is a distinct privilege to have the opportunity to work with one of the greatest orchestras in the world," said Butterman. "In addition to its long history of outstanding concerts and recordings, the Cleveland Orchestra has sustained a 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 12 years.

In demand as a guest conductor, Mr. Butterman's recent 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, Mobile Symphony, Peoria Symphony, Pensacola Opera, and Asheville Lyric Opera. Summer appearances include Tanglewood, the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival in Colorado, and the Wintergreen Music Festival in Virginia.

"It is so important that our finest orchestras continue to program concerts specifically for young people," said Butterman. "There is no replacement for the experience of hearing live orchestral music and engaging the creative senses of our future musicians and audiences."

Beethoven Lives Upstairs, written by Barbara Nichol, tells the story of young Christoph's experience as he develops a friendship with Ludwig van Beethoven, the new tenant who has moved in upstairs. The performance includes excerpts from more than 20 of the Beethoven's most popular works and serves as a vehicle for understanding the magic and the madness of this legendary genius.

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 performance, May 6, 2012, visit www.clevelandorchestra.com. For additional information about Michael Butterman, visit www.michaelbutterman.com.

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