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# the Points Living

An Exclusive Newsletter for the Residents of The Points Communities • March 2019

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Photography By: Cecile Miller

# Don't Miss BELLEVUE YOUTH SYMPHONY at Meydenbauer Center

## A Treat for the Whole Family

The 545 talented musicians of Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra will perform their Winter Concert Series at Meydenbauer Center Theatre on March 10 and 11.

In celebration of *African American Music and Its Influences*, Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra (BYSO) will be collaborating with several African American composers, directors, and organizations including Seattle's Northwest African American Museum and the Dr. James and Janie Washington Foundation. The joint effort by these community members with BYSO will represent our region's diversity and dedication to music education. The outcome will be a series of truly unique and inspiring performances.



**Winter Masterworks Concert**  
Meydenbauer Center Theatre  
March 10, 7:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.  
Free pre-concert commentary by NW Radio Host, Steve Reeder from 6:45 p.m.–7:15 p.m.

Members of the University of Washington Gospel Choir and Mount Zion Baptist Church Choir will join Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra's top ensemble, the Youth Symphony, to perform Dr. Robert Ray's "He Never Failed Me Yet." Dr. Ray is a prominent African American choral director, teacher, and pianist. Music Director and Youth Symphony Conductor Dr. Teresa



Metzger-Howe are working closely with Phyllis Byrdwell to make this Bellevue's most memorable concert.

Phyllis Byrdwell, the conductor of the UW Gospel Choir and Minister of Music at Mount Zion Baptist Church, is a leader in gospel music in the Seattle area. Byrdwell was inducted into the Washington Music Educators Association's Hall of Fame in 2002 and currently serves on the Seattle Symphony Board of Directors as Lifetime Director.

The Youth Symphony will also perform George Bizet's "Carmen Suite No. 2," a powerful, moving, and recognizable piece. All attendees are invited to a free pre-concert commentary by classical music scholar and Northwest Public Radio host, Steve Reeder. Always fascinating, his insights and entertaining anecdotes will enrich the listening adventure of the Masterworks Concert attendees.



**Winter Showcase Concert**  
Meydenbauer Center Theatre  
March 10th, 4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra's Flute Orchestra and Flute Choir will be combining to perform Dr. Malcolm Solomon's world premiere of "North to Freedom." Dr. Solomon is a critically-acclaimed composer, writer, independent filmmaker, director, and faculty member at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. "North to Freedom," a response to an immigration story, was specifically composed for BYSO's flute ensembles directed by Sandra Saathoff and Dr. Merrie Siegel Parmley. Describing the mood of his piece, Dr. Solomon says a "gradual transition from an ominous austerity at the beginning ... to the life-assertion of the last section with a march to freedom."

The Winter Showcase Concert also features BYSO's Philharmonia and Percussion Ensemble. To highlight BYSO's season theme, *African Music and Its Influences*, conductor Joseph Kempisty has chosen a Scott Joplin Rag for Philharmonia. The Percussion Ensemble, conducted by Storm Benjamin, will be performing "Asante" by Brandon Dittgen, a piece based on traditional African percussion music.

With a wide range of ensemble groups – from flutes to percussion, to a full orchestra – this concert will have a wonderful variety for the listening ear.

**Winter Overture and Winter Highlight Concerts**  
Meydenbauer Center Theatre  
Overture: March 10, 2:00 p.m.–2:45 p.m.  
Highlight: March 11, 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra's Winter Overture and Winter Highlight Concerts feature some of

BYSO's younger musicians. Parents are especially encouraged to bring their young children to these concerts for them to better relate to the performers.

The Winter Overture Concert will be performed by Cadet String Orchestra and Debut String Orchestra. Both conductors — Andrew Kam and Mollie Ewing — are working closely with composer William Owens to showcase two of his pieces. William Owens, an African American composer and educator based in Texas, is a leader in the field of composing for young ensembles. Cadet String Orchestra will perform Owen's "Attila" and Debut will perform "Carpathia."

The following evening, March 11, BYSO's Winter Highlight Concert will be featuring Sinfonia and Premiere Orchestra. Sinfonia, conducted by Barney Blough, will play Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's "Danse Negre." Premiere Orchestra, conducted by David Drassal, will play an arrangement of "Wade in the Water" by Stacey N. Brown. These African American composers will be highlighted at the concert, along with some classic favorites.

The Northwest African American Museum and Dr. James and Janie Washington Foundation

are dedicated to supporting the histories, arts, and cultures of people of African descent. Both organizations will have informational displays in the lobby during the concerts.

### Tickets and Details

Tickets to all concerts listed above can be purchased at the door or through Brown Paper Tickets. \$18 Adults/\$12 Youth, Seniors, Alumni

For more information, visit BYSO's website at [www.byso.org](http://www.byso.org) or email [info@byso.org](mailto:info@byso.org).

Connect with BYSO on Facebook and Instagram @bellevueyouthsymphonyorchestra.



Founded in 1964, Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra is a non-profit organization in Bellevue dedicated to keeping music affordable and accessible to all youth. Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra enhances the lives of student musicians by providing dynamic musical experiences, fostering collaboration, confidence, and personal responsibility through the pursuit of artistic excellence.

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