

The COLUMBIA  
Orchestra  
*Your Community's Music*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Columbia Orchestra Presents “American Inspirations”***

The Columbia Orchestra presents its third Classical Concert of the season on Saturday, February 4, 2012, at 7:30 PM at the Jim Rouse Theatre at Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Road, in Columbia, Maryland. Music Director Jason Love has selected repertoire inspired by the history and landscape of America.

Aaron Copland’s *Appalachian Spring*, winner of the 1945 Pulitzer Prize for Music, was conceived as a ballet for noted choreographer Martha Graham. The expanded orchestral suite is recognized as the most famous and enduring piece of American classical music. The evocative musical portrait of rural America with the Shaker tune *Simple Gifts* has served as an inviting entry point to symphonic music for generations of concertgoers.

Christopher Weiss’s *Voice of the Unknown Soldier* is the winner of the Columbia Orchestra’s 2011 American Composer Competition. Selected from more than 100 entries, the work was inspired by the composer’s family history of military service and the bestselling book *One Bullet Away* by Nathaniel Fick, a Marine Corps officer who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. Weiss will be discussing his composition at the Prelude pre-concert discussion and will be acknowledged at the performance.

National Symphony cellist Rachel Young joins the orchestra for Antonín Dvořák’s *Cello Concerto in E minor, Op. 104*. Inspired by Dvořák’s travels to the United States during his tenure as Director of the National Conservatory of Music of America, the work caused Johannes Brahms to exclaim, “If I had known it was possible to compose such a concerto for the cello, I would have tried it myself!” Ms. Young, born and raised in Washington, DC, studied at the New England Conservatory of Music and the Peabody Conservatory, and was principal cellist of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra before joining the National Symphony Orchestra in 1998.

Maestro Love will open the program with N. Cameron Britt’s *Inledning* (Swedish for “Introduction”), a frenetic work crammed into a single minute of music!

Prior to the concert, Howard Community College faculty member Bill Scanlan Murphy leads a fascinating pre-concert exploration of the evening’s program with guest composer Christopher Weiss. The “Prelude” discussion begins at 6:30 P.M. and allows the audience to gain insight into the composers’ lives and their musical contributions. Check out the YouTube video preview with Bill Scanlan Murphy at [www.columbiaorchestra.org](http://www.columbiaorchestra.org).

**Ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$16 for seniors over 60, and \$10 for full-time students.** In appreciation for their service to our country, **active duty military will be admitted free of charge.** Tickets are available online at [www.columbiaorchestra.org](http://www.columbiaorchestra.org) or may be purchased at Music & Arts in Ellicott City, Arundel Mills, and Laurel, or the Columbia Association on Wincopin Circle. Tickets may also be purchased at the door with cash, check, or credit card. For further information, group rates, or directions, call (410) 465-8777 or visit the orchestra’s website.

**Photographs, biographies, and program notes are available at [www.columbiaorchestra.org/press\\_room](http://www.columbiaorchestra.org/press_room).**

Media inquiries regarding photographs and interviews should be directed to Executive Director Tedd Griepentrog at (410) 507-1284 or by E-mail to [ExecDir@columbiaorchestra.org](mailto:ExecDir@columbiaorchestra.org).

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