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## NEWS RELEASE

### Beaverton Orchestra Presents Beloved Saint-Saëns Symphony

BEAVERTON, Oregon – The **Beaverton Symphony Orchestra** offers a rare opportunity to experience the blockbuster *Organ Symphony No. 3* by Camille Saint Saëns on March 17 and 19. It is among the most popular of the works by the composer of *Carnival of the Animals* and *Danse Macabre*.

The spectacular orchestral work shows the BSO at its best: sometimes dance-like, sometimes intimate, and sometimes grandiose. To really appreciate the magnificence of this work, especially the final movement, it has to be heard live. The organ's thunderous bass line has notes that the human ear can just barely hear, creating a truly visceral experience for the audience.

The *Organ Symphony* has been popular since its premier in 1886. Perhaps the most well-known use is in the 1995 family film *Babe* and its 1998 sequel *Babe: Pig in the City*. The main theme has also been adapted and used in the 1997 pop-song "If I Had Words" by Scott Fitzgerald and Yvonne Keeley, and used in the soundtrack for the film "Impressions de France," which plays in the France pavilion at Epcot at the Walt Disney World Resort.

The organist is Jane Mendenhall. Ms. Mendenhall has performed at organ institutes in the United States and France. She has held various positions as organist, accompanist, teacher of keyboards, performer, and has served as organist at Sa Christ Church Episcopal Parish in Lake Oswego since 2011. She holds a Masters degree from Lewis and Clark College, and is an elementary music specialist in the Newburg Public Schools. Significant instructors have been Dr. Lee Garrett, organ; Dr. Edith Kilbuck, harpsichord; and Dr. István Nadás, piano.

Music Director Travis Hatton, sets up the audience for the glorious *Organ Symphony* with two delightful short works full of playfulness and imagination.

The rollicking *Carnival Overture* by Dvorak is pure fun for the orchestra and audience alike. From the opening bars, the *Overture* explodes with sound, featuring a clanging triangle and rattling tambourine, which captures the frenzied energy of a carnival. According to Music Director Travis Hatton, "the first note will part your hair!"

The *Children's Corner Suite*, by Claude Debussy, is a joyful and tender collection of six short pieces based on toys and events in his young daughter's life. This beloved work has wide

appeal, including a transcription for marimba by Leigh Howard Stevens, and a recording on the Banjo by Bela Fleck.

**Friday, March 17, 2017 at 7:30pm**

**Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 3:00pm**

**Prelude Conversation 30 minutes before each performance.**

**VBC Grand Auditorium**

**330 SW Murray Blvd, Beaverton OR 97005**

**Tickets are available at the door and at [beavertonsymphony.org](http://beavertonsymphony.org). \$10, \$5, \$20 Family**

*The Beaverton Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1984, is an enthusiastic and talented association of local musicians. The Symphony is committed to enriching the performing arts culture of Washington County and making classical music accessible to the broadest possible audience. The BSO performs five weekends seasonally in the heart of Beaverton, Oregon, for audiences with all levels of interest in classical music. For more information, please visit [www.beavertonsymphony.org](http://www.beavertonsymphony.org) or call 1-855-HEARBSO.*

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