

Each season the ASO auditions aspiring young musicians from local schools to play with the orchestra. At this concert Margaret Shelton (16), a junior at Bellarmine Prep, Tacoma, was selected to join the Harp section.

Next symphony performances are February 18 & 19 and April 29 & 30, 2006 at the Auburn Performing Arts Center. Further information is available at www.auburnsymphony.org. On January 21, ASO's new Chamber Ensemble will play its first concert for strings with pieces from Beethoven, Debussy, and Schumann at the Auburn Mountainview High School auditorium. Its second chamber concert will be on May 21.

###

BACKGROUND:

Auburn Symphony Orchestra (www.auburnsymphony.org) was born in 1996 on a cocktail napkin conceptualized by Stewart Kershaw, music director of Seattle's Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra (PNB), and Josie Emmons Turner, then cultural director for the City of Auburn. Its purpose was to provide professional musicians from the PNB's orchestra and related organizations an opportunity to perform on stage. It is a fully professional orchestra, now comprised of more than 60 musicians from the PNB, Northwest Chamber Orchestra, Northwest Sinfonietta and Seattle Opera. It is conducted by co-founder Stewart Kershaw and is managed by a Board of committed music lovers. The ASO currently presents three programs a season, two in collaboration with the City of Auburn's Arts Commission's Bravo! Series, and with sponsorship support from Boeing. Performances are held at the Auburn Performing Arts Center and free educational lectures are provided pre-performance. In January 2006, ASO will launch a Chamber Ensemble with the intention of presenting at least two Chamber concerts a year.