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**CALENDAR ALERT**

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**AUBURN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S APRIL 2006 CONCERTS  
CELEBRATE BEETHOVEN'S NINTH AND SHOSTAKOVITCH'S CENTENNIAL**

**What:** "Beethoven's Ninth"  
Sponsored by Classical KING FM 98.1  
Shostakovich Chamber Symphony (String Quartet #8 in the symphonic version)  
Beethoven Symphony #9 The Choral  
with the Federal Way Chorale  
Vocal Soloists - Catherine Haight, Emily Lunde, Wesley Rogers, and Erich Parce

**Who:** Auburn Symphony Orchestra, a fully professional orchestra comprised of more than 60 musicians from the Pacific Northwest Ballet, Northwest Sinfonietta and other northwest orchestras.

As part of the Auburn Symphony Orchestra's mission to promote classical music among young people in South King County, two outstanding youth musicians have been selected to play at the April concerts. The students are Brooke Scholl, cello, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Stadium High School, Tacoma, and Graham Dart, clarinet, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Lindbergh High School, Renton. They participated in auditions in December last year conducted by music director Stewart Kershaw.

**When:** Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 30, at 2:30 p.m.  
Free pre-concert lectures with music director Stewart Kershaw start 45 minutes prior to performance. On April 29<sup>th</sup> Kershaw will be joined by Classical KING FM 98.1's Sean MacLean

**Where:** Auburn Performing Arts Center  
700 East Main Street  
Auburn, WA 98002  
Free parking is available

**Tickets:** Adults \$25 Students/Seniors (over 55) \$20  
Purchases of ten or more tickets get a 10% discount

For information visit [www.auburnsymphony.org](http://www.auburnsymphony.org). For ticket purchases with a VISA or MasterCard call the Symphony office at 253-939-8509 or send a check to Auburn Symphony, PO Box 2186, Auburn, WA 98071

## **ABOUT THE PROGRAM:**

At first glance, the pairing of these two extremely disparate works might seem a strange choice, but there are compelling reasons for hearing both of these works on the same program. Shostakovich wrote his Eighth String Quartet as a protest to the devastation of Dresden in 1945 by the Allies – his score bearing the dedication “To the Victims of War and Fascism”. Some 136 years earlier, Beethoven had himself cried out for peace in his monumental Ninth Symphony, which was later performed for the entire world shortly after the demolition of the infamous Berlin Wall in 1989. This year is also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shostakovich’s birth.

The concert opens with Shostakovich’s 8<sup>th</sup> String Quartet. It was written in three feverish days after a visit to Dresden in 1960, where the composer was appalled at the havoc wreaked on the city by Allied bombing in 1945. It was created in protest at the futility of war, its victims, and fascism in general. For added power, today’s performance comes in a version for complete string orchestra with timpani. As is the case with many of his works, the five movements are played without a pause, there being a seamless transition from one to the other.

This piece is followed by Beethoven’s monumental and much beloved Ninth Symphony. Viewed as extremely novel at its creation in 1824, it was the first time that vocal soloists and a chorus had been introduced into a *genre* that had previously been the sole purview of an instrumental ensemble. It appears that Beethoven had contemplated using Schiller’s Ode to Joy for sometime and that two further symphonies were in his mind. However, as it happened, all of these various ideas were happily compressed into one work of epic proportions - he had not used trombones since the mighty Fifth Symphony, and percussion was being added to his symphonic armory for the first time. And with it, as if struck by a bolt of lightning from the heavens, symphonic music was changed forever.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Auburn Symphony Orchestra (ASO), a 501C3 not-for-profit corporation, was founded in 1996, spearheaded by internationally recognized conductor Stewart Kershaw, music director of Seattle's Pacific Northwest Ballet (PNB), and Josie Emmons Turner, then cultural programs manager for the City of Auburn. Its purpose is to provide professional musicians from the PNB’s orchestra and related organizations an opportunity to give concerts on stage.

The ASO is a fully professional orchestra, now comprised of more than 60 musicians from PNB, Northwest Chamber Orchestra, Northwest Sinfonietta and other orchestras. It is conducted by 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\*. Performances are held at the Auburn Performing Arts Center and free educational lectures are provided pre-performance. Each year the ASO invites aspiring young musicians from local schools to audition to play with the orchestra. Free parking is available.

In January 2006, ASO launched a Chamber Ensemble with the intention of presenting at least two Chamber concerts a year. Performances are held at the Auburn Mountainview High School auditorium.

For further information visit [www.auburnsymphony.org](http://www.auburnsymphony.org).