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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AUBURN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA CONCERTS, OCT. 14 & 15**

**Celebrate three of the world's greatest composers**

- WHAT:** The Auburn Symphony Orchestra (ASO) to perform:  
Wagner Overture to Die Meistersinger  
Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E Minor (soloist, Caitlin Kelley)  
Mahler Symphony No. 5
- WHEN:** Saturday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, Oct. 15, 2:30 p.m.  
Free pre-concert discussion 45 minutes prior to each performance.
- WHERE:** Auburn Performing Arts Center, 700 E. Main St., Auburn, WA 98071  
Free parking available.
- TICKETS:** \$15 - \$20. Purchase tickets online at [www.auburnsymphony.org](http://www.auburnsymphony.org) or call either Auburn Symphony at 253-939-8509 or Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation at 253-931-3043

**Auburn, WA, September 13, 2006:** Auburn's own fully professional symphony orchestra opens its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season with a gala concert on October 14 & 15, presenting celebratory orchestral works from three of the world's greatest composers. The concert is part of the City of Auburn Arts Commission 2006/2007 BRAVO series.

Richard Wagner's (1813-1883) epic, yet comic opera, *Die Meistersinger von Nuremberg*, or *The Mastersingers of Nuremberg*, was first performed in 1868. Wagner began the opera 20 years earlier, but put the project aside when he became otherwise engaged in writing *Tristan and Isolde* and *The Ring*. The overture, or prelude, has been described as full of exuberant joy and impressive solemnity, also suffused with emotion and tenderness. It is considered a cornerstone of the world's most popular symphonic literature.

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), as several composers before him, died in the prime of his life at age 38. The *Violin Concerto in E Minor*, composed just two years before his death, is considered one of his masterpieces. Three movements highlight melody and dramatic sequences along with moments of quiet reflection that drive headlong into one of the most exciting conclusions in the repertoire of Violin Concertos.

Caitlin Kelley, 18 year-old violin soloist, returns to play with the ASO from Los Angeles where she is studying at the Colburn School with the famed Robert Lipsett. Caitlin, a Seattle-native, has received many awards at various national and international competitions, and served as Concertmaster of the Seattle Youth Symphony in recognition of her extraordinary talent. She first appeared with the ASO in February 2005 in two remarkable performances of the Samuel Barber Violin Concerto.

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Gustav Mahler's (1860-1911) Symphony No. 5 is one of his more well-known works. A somewhat dark, emotionally dramatic work in five movements ends on a substantially higher plane that affirms a great sense of optimism. It is said to be an autobiographical reflection of some of his more frightening and sad moments in life followed by some of his happiest. Structurally, the piece is generally regarded as Mahler's most conventional symphony up to that point. However, from such an unconventional composer it still had many peculiarities, such as the *Funeral March* that opens the piece, and the *Adagietto* for harp and strings that interrupt the booming score.

#### **ABOUT THE AUBURN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The Auburn Symphony Orchestra was founded in May 1996. A fully professional orchestra comprising over 60 musicians, the ASO is led by co-founder Stewart Kershaw, internationally renowned conductor and music director of the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra. The ASO's mission is to foster the joy of music in the region through performances of unsurpassed quality. For more information and to purchase tickets online, please visit [www.auburnsymphony.org](http://www.auburnsymphony.org) or call 253-939-8509.

Information about this concert and other BRAVO performances can also be obtained by calling Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation at 253-931-3043 or by visiting the web at [www.auburnwa.gov](http://www.auburnwa.gov).

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