

The Pittsburgh Philharmonic Orchestra Set to Perform With Pàs

By Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

October 2011 – The Pittsburgh Area Folk Ensemble (PÀS) will be performing two community concerts with the Pittsburgh Philharmonic Orchestra. The two appearances will take place in both the cities of Butler and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The concerts are part of the Pittsburgh Philharmonic's program theme of "Going Abroad" during its 2011-2012 regular season. The "first stop" on the tour will take the audience to experience the cultures of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which included the area of present-day Slovakia.

The concert will open with Béla Bartók's *Hungarian Sketches*. Bartók is noted for his depictions of Slovak, Magyar and Romanian folk cultures. Next, the program will feature a rendition of Czech composer Antonín Dvořák's "exciting (and scary!)" *Noon Witch*. The night will conclude with Dvořák's optimistic *Symphony No. 8*.

For a brief preview of some of the music, one may go to YouTube:

Hungarian Sketches - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r16nQQbOEQo>

Noon Witch - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-Ndl7kjbGk>

Symphony No. 8 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6f1-11wyoG4>

PÀS dancers will perform to the music of Moravian folklorist/composer, Leoš Janáček.



PAS will perform two community concerts with the Pittsburgh Philharmonic Orchestra in October.

For over 30 years, the Pittsburgh Philharmonic, a 60-member symphony orchestra, has presented very unique performances in community settings. The orchestra performs between 10 and 15 concerts each year,



including both its regular classical season and a summer pops series. The orchestra also "promotes music education through its Young Artist Concerto Competition, Music Exploration Workshops for elementary students, and a summer student mentoring program."

"The Pittsburgh Philharmonic rehearses and performs in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. The Philharmonic will perform four concerts at North Hills Junior High during its 2011-2012 Season "Going Abroad!" As part of their continuing community outreach, the Philharmonic will repeat these performances at the Butler County Community College's subscription series at the Succop Theatre" (www.pghphil.org).

The first concert will take place at 8 pm on Friday, October 28, at the Butler County Community College. The second performance will be at North Hills Junior High School on October 29, at 7 pm.

For information on purchasing tickets, please visit the Pittsburgh Philharmonic website, www.pghphil.org and click on the performance entitled "Czech & Hungary." One may also buy tickets by telephoning Pro Arts at (412) 394-3353. Advanced purchase tickets are \$12 for Adults, \$8 for Seniors, and \$5 for Students.

To learn more about PÀS visit www.PAS-Folkensemble.com.



Fall 2011 PÀS Performance Schedule

Pittsburgh Philharmonic Symphony ... 8:00 p.m. October 28th, Butler County Community College, Butler, PA & 7:00 p.m. October 29th, North Hills Junior High School, Ross Township, PA.

21st Annual Slovak Heritage Festival ... 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. November 6th University of Pittsburgh, Cathedral of Learning, Commons Room, Pittsburgh, PA

The Fourth Annual Heritage Holidays Weekend at the Heinz History Center ... November 12th, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. & November 13th, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Saints Cyril & Methodius Roman Catholic Church Slovak Vigil ... 6:00 PM, December 9th 50 N. Morgantown Street, Fairchance, PA 15436, RSVP to: Jean Thompson, (724) 564-2641 blossom1961@atlanticbb.net.

Crossroads Journey to Bethlehem ... December 10th Crossroads Presbyterian Church, 2310 Haymaker Road, Monroeville, PA.

If you would like more information about this topic, or wish to schedule an interview with Angie or a representative of the Philharmonic Orchestra, please call Melanie Kopanic-Feighner at 814/934-5323 or e-mail Melanie at mink1281@yahoo.com.

Defender of the Faith: Bishop Rudolf Baláž (1940 - 2011)

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To this day, the achievements of Bishop Rudolf Baláž have contributed to creating a more stable relationship between church and state in the Slovak Republic. Long after his passing, Slovakia's citizens will be able to look back and remember with pride that Bishop Baláž possessed the moral courage to take a stand in defense of liberty, religious freedom, and moral integrity.

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