

the colorado symphony



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH BOWFIRE AND THE COLORADO SYMPHONY

Bowfire joins Colorado Symphony for St. Patrick's Day violin and fiddle showcase!

Artists: Colorado Symphony Orchestra
Scott O'Neil, *resident conductor*

Bowfire

Linsey Beckett, *violin*
April Verch, *violin*
Shane Cook, *violin*
Bogdan Djukic, *violin*
Ray Legere, *violin*
Lenny Solomon, *violin*
Kelli Trottier, *violin and vocals*
Bill Bridges, *guitar*
Roger Travassos, *drums and percussion*
Lew Mele, *bass*
Bernie Senensky, *piano and synthesizer*
Wendy Solomon, *cello*

Performances: **ONE NIGHT ONLY!** 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 17
Tickets now on sale!

DENVER – February 18, 2011 – This St. Patrick's Day, celebrate with a violin and fiddle extravaganza as Bowfire – the iconic Canadian violin group – joins the Colorado Symphony for a night when “everyone is Irish” on Thursday, March 17! Hailed as “enormously entertaining” (*The Washington Post*) and “high-energy entertainment” (*The Globe and Mail*), Bowfire features a line-up of critically-acclaimed violinists and fiddlers whose expertise encompasses styles as diverse as classical, jazz, country, rock, old-time, Texas-style, bluegrass, gypsy, eclectic, Celtic and electric. In addition, Bowfire reflects the roots of its members, including the moving Canadian styles of Ottawa Valley and Cape Breton.

Bowfire, which is showcased on Bravo!, in PBS specials and in packed concert halls around the world, will feature such iconic songs as *Fiddler In The Hood*, *Mist Covered Mountains*, *Goin' To Chicago*, *Sally Goodin*, *Orange Blossom Special* and *Tennessee Waltz*. This amazing showcase with the Colorado Symphony also features incredible step-dancing and the beautiful voice of Kelly Trottier.

Composed of the leading names in each genre of modern violin playing, Bowfire was founded by jazz violinist Lenny Solomon, who composes and arranges many of the group's selections. The high level of talent and the diverse range of material presented in Bowfire's performances serve not only as a testament to the virtuosity of these musicians, but also as a loving tribute to this amazingly versatile, complex and lyrically romantic instrument. For their concert with the Colorado Symphony, Solomon will be joined on stage by:

- Bluegrass fiddler Ray Legere, whose many awards include five-time winner of the Eastern and Central Division Bluegrass Awards in the categories of Mandolin and Fiddle; winner of two Open Mandolin Championships; and finalist in the Canadian and Nashville's Grand Masters Fiddle Championships. His extensive tour schedule includes backing artists such as Michelle Shocked, Tony Rice, John McDermott, Alison Brown, Rita McNeil and finding time to be "house fiddler" for a popular French Canadian music TV series. He has recorded for hundreds of sessions and graced historic stages such as Carnegie Hall and the Grand Ole Opry.
- Shane Cook, who has distinguished himself as a master of an array of fiddle styles ranging from Irish and Scottish to French-Canadian, Texan and Bluegrass. Cook is one of Canada's most highly awarded Canadian Old-Time fiddlers; a three-time Canadian Open National Fiddle Champion; a three-time Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Champion; a Grand North American Fiddle Champion; and is the only Canadian to have ever won the U.S. Grand National Fiddle Championship. In concert, Cook captivates audiences with his danceable playing that is as adventurous as it is technically thrilling. He has toured North America, Germany, England, China and Taiwan. Cook is a member of The Brian Pickell Band – a collection of Canadian virtuosos of traditional music – and also leads his own band.
- Linsey Beckett, who awes audiences with her toe-tapping fiddle styles, energetic step-dancing and contagious smile. The tradition of fiddling has been passed down through many generations in Beckett's family. She regularly performs with her family band, The Beckett Family, known for their traditional country music style ranging from Western Swing to Bluegrass, and their Canadian Old Tyme fiddle sound. Beckett started touring with the Don Messer Jubilee Tribute show at the age of 13, performing more than 200 shows across Canada. She performed as the guest fiddler and step-dancer, and in her last year with the production, was featured in the lead role. She continues to play with a variety of traditional fiddle, country and contemporary acts. Currently, Beckett is balancing her performance career with her studies in geography and music at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University.
- April Verch, who is celebrated for her soulful voice, the finely detailed elegance of her fiddle phrasing and the depth of a repertoire that ranges from traditional roots tunes, bluegrass melodies, jazz-influenced compositions and country-tinged vocals. Verch studied music at Berklee College of Music in Boston and has released seven recordings to date (one being nominated for a JUNO Award by the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences). She is the first and only woman to win both the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Champion and the Canadian Open Fiddle Champion titles. She also tours around the world with The April Verch Band.

- Bogdan Djukic, who was born and raised in Yugoslavia and studied at the Music Academy of Belgrade, where he won first prize in three national violin championships. After receiving a grant to study music in Canada, Djukic moved there permanently in 1999. He studied classical violin performance on scholarship at the Royal Conservatory of Music. Djukic has extensive performance experience in classical music, Klezmer, Latin and Eastern European folk music. He has also appeared with Beyond the Pale, a Toronto based folk/fusion group.
- Kelli Trottier, who displays a mastery of Scottish/Celtic fiddle tunes and the French Canadian art of step-dancing. Trottier started step-dancing at age five and playing fiddle at age nine. She has performed as a soloist on various Canadian military tours and was the female lead in the musical *Swingstep* at the Ford Centre in Toronto. Trottier is featured on six independent recordings that include both fiddle and vocal selections, and has been nominated three times for fiddle player of the year by Canadian Country Music Association. Trottier is the beautiful voice on both songs Bowfire performs, *The Line* and *Mist Covered Mountains*.

Over three decades and on five continents, Solomon – who is also Bowfire’s artistic director – has built a strong reputation as one of the world’s most skilled and innovative jazz violinists. Hailed as a “pleasure to discover” by *LA Jazz Scene*, his performances are “packed full of swing, polish and enthusiasm.” His three jazz violin CD releases, *After You’ve Gone*, *The Gershwin Sessions* and *Transparency* have received critical acclaim. He has toured extensively in North America, Canada and Japan with The Lenny Solomon Trio and is a three-time winner of the annual Violinist of the Year Award presented by The National Jazz Awards. He has also appeared as featured guest jazz soloist with many prestigious orchestras.

Praise for Bowfire

“Bowfire blurred individual traditions in the fast-paced onslaught of top-flight playing... Everything I heard was slick, well-produced and well-played. Nothing was overdone. There was enough razzle-dazzle and variety to keep the audience entertained...” – *Houston Chronicle*

“The Heritage Theatre was a-smokin’ in one of the most interesting and innovative programs it has ever seen, a class act from start to finish... Bowfire is new on the scene. We suspect it will go on to make musical history.” – *The Saginaw News*

“Bowfire demonstrates what the violin and fiddle can do in the hands of masters... an evening of show stopping hits strung together in glorious sequence... awesome!” – *The Record*

Tickets: Remaining tickets start from \$32. Tickets are on sale now at www.coloradosymphony.org, the Colorado Symphony Box Office: (303) 623-7876 or (877) 292-7979 or in-person in the lobby of Boettcher Concert Hall in the Denver Performing Arts Complex. Hours are Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

About the Colorado Symphony

The region’s only full-time professional orchestra, the Colorado Symphony embraces a tradition of musical excellence by presenting a wide variety of symphonic performances. Established in 1989 as the successor to the Denver Symphony, the Colorado Symphony is Colorado’s only resident orchestra

composed of professional musicians employed to play symphonic music on a full-time basis. From classical repertoire to innovative new forms, the Symphony performs in Boettcher Concert Hall and throughout the Front Range presenting outstanding education and outreach programs, and free summer parks concerts in addition to season-long Masterworks, Pops, Holiday, Family and *Inside the Score* series. Presenting music that is timeless and performing in ways that are forever new—the Colorado Symphony exists to bring music to life. Full of energetic new programs, exciting guest artists and a brand new roster of guest conductors from around the globe, the 2010/11 season offers something for everyone. For more information about the Colorado Symphony, visit www.coloradosymphony.org.

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