



Mukilteo Community Orchestra Press Release
For Immediate Release

The Mukilteo Community Orchestra will present “Musical Reflections” as its final concert of the celebratory 25th season on Sunday, May 21 at 2 pm at the Rosehill Community Center in Mukilteo.

The free concert includes *Finlandia, Op. 26* by Jean Sibelius, *Lincoln Portrait* by Aaron Copland and *Symphony No. 2, Op. 16* by Carl Nielsen. The concert will be preceded at 1:30 pm by a stage-side performance by the Quintessential Quartet. They will perform Mozart’s Quartet in C Major, K. 285 for Flute, Violin, Viola, and Cello.

The concert opens with *Finlandia, Op. 26* by Jean Sibelius (1865 – 1957). The orchestra recently performed *Spring Song* by Sibelius at its March concert and is excited to offer the dramatic *Finlandia* at this concert. The importance of Jean Sibelius to the national identity of Finland cannot be overstated. His birthday is now their day for celebrating Finnish music and his image long adorned their currency. None of his compositions is more associated with his country’s struggle for independence from Russia than *Finlandia*. In those turbulent times, it was often performed under pseudonyms in order to avoid the ire of Russian authorities. *Finlandia* is the musical embodiment of *Sisu*, the unique Finnish concept combining strength of will, perseverance, unity, and rational action in the face of adversity. The ending *Finlandia Hymn* has long been considered for Finland’s national anthem.

The second piece will be *Lincoln Portrait* by Aaron Copland (1900 – 1990). With World War II raging and Pearl Harbor a recent memory, Aaron Copland was commissioned to create a patriotic tribute to an “eminent American.” Copland’s *Lincoln Portrait* starts somber and stately, mirroring the image of Lincoln in the collective mind of Americans. The *Portrait* then becomes more animated, reflecting the turbulent times of Lincoln. There are glimpses of familiar tunes, such as *Camptown Races*, which was adapted for Lincoln’s 1860 presidential campaign. Classical compositions are so often instrumental-only that we often forget that some beyond opera include voices, and not all are singing. Copland’s work concludes with a section containing several quotes from Lincoln, some recognizable and others more obscure, with the oration by MCO friend and Master of Ceremonies Ron Johanson.

Following intermission, the concert will conclude with *Symphony No. 2, Op. 16 “The Four Temperaments”*, by Carl Nielsen (1865 – 1931). It is the second symphony by the Danish composer, written in 1901–1902. It was first performed in December 1902 for the Danish Concert Association, with Nielsen himself conducting. Each of its four movements is a musical sketch of a humor of four temperaments. For the concert, the orchestra will perform the third and fourth movements. The third movement is the earth-based Melancholic movement,

expressing pensive sadness while the fourth Sanguine movement symbolized by air and evokes someone overly positive and optimistic.

“We are excited to share a program that is colorful and full of passion for the community,” said Shaun Day, conductor. He went on to say, "The musicians continue to raise the bar bringing this music to life, and we are looking forward to close our 25th season with friends and family!"

More information about the concert can be found at www.mukilteoorchestra.org.

###