



Nurturing the Future of Music

NATIONAL REPERTORY ORCHESTRA

CARL TOPILOW-MUSIC DIRECTOR | BRECKENRIDGE, COLORADO

National Repertory Orchestra celebrates 52nd season in Colorado

The National Repertory Orchestra (NRO), a non-profit organization, is a preeminent intensive fellowship that equips musicians for orchestral music careers while providing the highest-level of musical experience. Alumni currently play in virtually every major and regional orchestra in the U. S. and in orchestras worldwide. The NRO performs two full orchestra concerts each week in Breckenridge's Riverwalk Center between mid June and early-August. In addition, members of the NRO take part in smaller chamber concerts during the festival, and the full orchestra plays at several other locations in the state including Vail, Dillon, Keystone, Copper, Silverthorne, Frisco, Evergreen and Denver.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Founded in 1960 by Walter Charles as the Blue Jeans Symphony in Estes Park, CO, the orchestra moved to Evergreen, CO in 1966 and changed its name to the Colorado Philharmonic. In 1986, the orchestra relocated to Keystone Resort and changed its name to the National Repertory Orchestra in an effort to better recognize the national and international make-up of its musicians. In 1993, the Town of Breckenridge invited the orchestra to perform in the new Riverwalk Center, now NRO's summer residence. The NRO legacy is the 4000 musicians who have experienced a priceless career formative summer in Colorado while making beautiful music for its listeners.

THE MUSIC EXPERIENCE

During his 33 years with the National Repertory Orchestra, Maestro Carl Topilow has led the orchestra to the forefront of summer music festival programs. Every winter, Maestro Topilow and distinguished NRO alumni audition more than 800 young musicians from leading conservatories and music schools in the US and Canada. The finest 88 musicians are chosen for an eight-week, intensive, orchestral fellowship and summer residency in Breckenridge, Colorado. The pre-eminent career-preparatory experience for these musicians is the rigorous rehearsal and performance schedule, during which an entire orchestral season - 29 concerts - is compressed into eight weeks of demanding repertoire. Not only must these musicians play with a whole complement of new colleagues, but they must also perform a wide range of material with only a few rehearsals for each performance. At the end of the summer, they have developed strong skills under pressure and have brought their musicianship to new heights.

BEYOND GREAT MUSIC

During their summer fellowship, National Repertory Orchestra musicians also take part in the NRO's Education and Community Engagement Outreach Programs, which prepares the musicians for an active role in the communities they will be serving. For symphony orchestras to survive and thrive, musicians need to be advocates for classical music in all aspects of life. The NRO provides such skills and experience through a summer education track. Career development classes such as mock auditions, contract negotiations, finance for musicians, and training in music therapy and early childhood interaction, address the often neglected extra-musical aspects of being a professional orchestra musician.

NRO musicians also take part in community engagement events throughout the summer including performances at area preschools and hospice centers. They receive training in interpersonal skills for community engagement events, networking, and speaking with the media. The NRO believes the sustainability of the modern orchestra is dependent on the active participation of its musicians beyond their extraordinary musical abilities. This past season, the National Repertory Orchestra partnered with St. Anthony Summit Medical Center to raise awareness surrounding the healing impacts of music therapy. With training by renowned music therapist Dr. Deforia Lane, NRO musicians conducted weekly music therapy sessions at the Frisco hospital.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The NRO Summer program provides opportunities for members of the local community to be actively involved in the organization. Through Community Link, NRO musicians and interns are matched with local families and offered weekly activities such as hiking, rafting trips, picnics, and sports events. Community members also volunteer during the summer music festival in administration, at concerts and fundraising events.