

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Simone Viola, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
sviola@bpo.org, (716) 242-7814

BPO, JoAnn Falletta release new album celebrating orchestra's 90th anniversary and spirit of Buffalo

Live recording of Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' and world premiere of Daron Hagen's 'City of Light' released as musical gift to Western NY this holiday season



The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director JoAnn Falletta are thrilled to announce the release of their latest album, **Beethoven: Symphony No. 9 – Daron Hagen: City of Light**. Recorded live in May and September of 2024, Falletta and the orchestra created this album to celebrate both the BPO's 90th anniversary and the city of Buffalo, with music to capture the history, community spirit, and positivity that defines Western New York.

In this recording of Beethoven's ninth symphony – which includes the famously celebratory "Ode to Joy" – Falletta and the BPO are joined by the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus and the SUNY Fredonia Beethoven 9 Chorus under the direction of Adam Luebke, with renowned opera soloists

Jaclyn Grossman, Hannah Shea, John Tiranno, and Lester Lynch. This special collaboration unites and highlights the talents of over 200 musicians from across Western NY, performing one of the most highly regarded pieces of music in history.

As a leading recording artist for the prominent classical music label, Naxos, Falletta is known to champion lesser-known music in her discography, bringing hidden gems to the forefront. This makes the recording of Beethoven's popular Symphony No. 9 particularly meaningful, as a piece Falletta especially wanted to share with Western NY this year. Falletta comments, "Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' sings of the brotherhood of the world. This holiday season is a perfect time to celebrate the fellowship of all people, and also to recognize the special bond of the citizens of our own beloved city."

Complementing Beethoven's 1824 symphony is *City of Light*, an orchestral work composed 200 years later by Daron Hagen. Commissioned through the generous support of Scott Bieler to honor Falletta's 25th anniversary as BPO Music Director, the piece pays tribute to Buffalo's history as the first American city to have widespread electric lighting, powered by Niagara Falls. Evoking the energy and pride of Buffalo, *City of Light* received its world premiere during the opening night of the BPO's 90th anniversary concert season on September 28. This album features the live recording from that milestone evening.

Falletta shares this album's significance, having released over 60 albums with the BPO during her tenure so far: "Our 25-year recording journey has helped to build an orchestra of strength, imagination, and exuberance. The personalities of our musicians shine through especially in our live recordings, and their performances of both Beethoven and Daron Hagen glow with character and joy as we celebrate the orchestra's 90th anniversary."

Beethoven: Symphony No. 9 – Daron Hagen: City of Light CDs are available to purchase online at bpo.org/recordings and at the Kleinhans Music Hall Box Office.

Visit bpo.org/recordings to view the orchestra's discography. Find images [here](#). For additional information and interviews, contact Simone Viola at sviola@bpo.org.

About the BPO's recording history:

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra takes pride in its rich history of musical exploration and innovation. Its partnership with Naxos Records stands as a testament to a shared dedication to bringing lesser-known works to the forefront. Guided by the wisdom and encouragement of Klaus Heymann, the orchestra has delved deep into the symphonies of artists such as Vítězslav Novák, Joseph Suk, Marcel Tyberg, Reinhold Glière, Zoltán Kodály, and many other talented composers.

In their commitment to diversifying offerings and reaching a broader audience, the BPO established the Beau Fleuve Records label in 1999. Drawing its name from the moniker given to the Western NY region by early French missionaries, it celebrates the beauty and majesty of Niagara and its cascading falls. This homegrown label has enabled the BPO to curate a varied selection of musical narratives, from pieces commissioned by the orchestra, solo endeavors by principal players, recollections of tours, to the melodies that have resonated deeply with audiences. The Beau Fleuve label has become a platform to showcase the best performances

from JoAnn Falletta's International Guitar Concerto Competition, to embrace classical compositions, to honor living American composers, and to feature soloists who have shared a special bond with the BPO.

To learn more about the BPO's storied history, [distinguished conductors and world-class musicians](#), and commitment to [IDEA](#), visit the [Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra](#).



###

786 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY 14209 | (716) 885-5000 | bpo.org