

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

BPO performs 'Sanctuary Road' by Buffalo-born composer, highlighting stories of Underground Railroad

Concerts led by Grand Island-native conductor feature Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus and acclaimed opera singers



On March 29 and 30, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra performs Sanctuary Road, a powerful work for orchestra and chorus by the Pulitzer Prize-winning team of Buffalo-born composer Paul Moravec and librettist Mark Campbell. This oratorio draws on the historic written accounts of abolitionist William Still, illuminating the courageous journeys of enslaved people who sought freedom along the Underground Railroad in the 1800s.

Grand Island-native conductor Malcolm J. Merriweather, who now serves as Director of the New York Philharmonic Chorus, returns to Western NY to lead these two performances featuring the BPO, Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, and a talented cast of five renowned opera singers: soprano Brittany Renee, mezzo-soprano Taylor Raven, tenor Norman Shankle, and baritones Sidney Outlaw and Benjamin Taylor. The concert program also includes *The Montgomery Variations* by Margaret Bonds, written during the height of the Civil Rights Movement and dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Before both performances, representatives from the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage

Center and the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor will be present in the Kleinhans Music Hall lobby, offering insight into Buffalo's history as a final stop along the Underground Railroad. Following the concert on March 29, BPO double-bassist Jonathan Borden will host a Musician's Nightcap on the lower level of Kleinhans, for BPO musicians and audience members to connect over complimentary refreshments.

Sanctuary Road performances are Saturday, March 29 at 7:30pm and Sunday, March 30 at 2:30pm at Kleinhans Music Hall. Tickets and more information are available online at bpo.org, at the Box Office in Kleinhans Music Hall, and by calling the Box Office at (716) 885-5000.

Find images [here](#). For additional information, interviews, photos, or video, contact Simone Viola at sviola@bpo.org.

About Us: To learn more about our 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