



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Bellingham Festival of Music Awarded NEA Grant for Second Consecutive Year**

*Bellingham, WA – April 23, 2010* For the second consecutive year the Bellingham Festival of Music has been awarded a \$10,000 grant by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Last year was the first NEA grant that the Festival had received in its 16-year history.

The Bellingham Festival of Music joins such august organizations as the Seattle Symphony and Pacific Northwest Ballet as one of the 44 Washington State arts organizations to receive NEA funding for 2010.

“This grant is a recognition of the continuing quality of the Festival and an endorsement of our mission to bring the highest caliber classical musical performances to Bellingham,” said Mary Pat Thuma, Chairman of the Festival's Board of Directors. Earlier this month the Festival had been given the Mayor's Arts Award for its contribution to the arts in Bellingham.

The award will support the 2010 season, which runs from July 1 to 18. Concerts are held at the Performing Arts Center at Western Washington University, the Bellingham Cruise Terminal, and the Whatcom Museum.

Highlights of this season include performances by Metropolitan Opera Star Soprano, and Bellingham native, Heidi Grant Murphy, and superstar cellist Joshua Roman.

Season tickets for 2010 Festival are now available at WWU Performing Arts Center box office 360.650.6146 or online at [www.tickets.wwu.edu](http://www.tickets.wwu.edu).

To learn more Bellingham Festival of Music visit [www.BellinghamFestival.org](http://www.BellinghamFestival.org).

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