

## Pianist Leon Bates performs Ravel and Ellington for Masterworks finale

Written by Jared Johnson

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Davenport, IA-The final Masterworks concert of the 2008-09 season features Leon Bates performing music from Maurice Ravel and Duke Ellington. This sixth Masterworks concert will also feature Roman-themed music from Berlioz and Respighi. These concerts will be performed on April 4 and 5, and sponsored in memory of Stanley and Bernice Harris, by Mrs. Isador Katz. Saturday evening's concert will be at the Adler Theatre in Davenport at 8 p.m. and followed on Sunday afternoon at Centennial Hall in Rock Island at 2 p.m.

Before the concerts begin, the QCSO is inviting their audience to stop by the office at 327 Brady Street in Davenport for "Super Subscriber Saturday" from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, April 4. Those renewing their season tickets and those purchasing them for the first time are welcome to stop in, meet with the QCSO staff, chat with Music Director Mark Russell Smith about next year's repertoire, and enjoy coffee and donuts. One lucky subscriber will be randomly selected by a drawing at the morning's end to win a package of QCSO tickets that includes all of the non-Masterworks events and is valued at over \$300.

On Thursday night, before each Masterworks concert, Quad Citians are regularly invited to go "inside the music" with conductor Mark Russell Smith at the Figge Art Museum. Inside the Music begins with wine and cheese at 5 p.m., followed by the presentation at 5:30. Expert and novice alike are sure to enjoy this casual musical conversation. Thanks to generous sponsorship from U.S. Bank, this event is free to the public.

Music Director Mark Russell Smith and pianist Leon Bates will also be available at Concert Conversations

, hosted by Kai Swanson an hour before each of the weekend's concerts. At Concert Conversations

, audience members will be given a quick tour of highlights of the program they are about to experience. This look into the background of the concert's repertoire, sponsored by Rich James of Wachovia Securities, is in its tenth year and has become an audience favorite.

The season culminates with pianist Leon Bates performing Ravel's Piano Concerto in G and an

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arrangement of Duke Ellington's music titled  
New World A-Comin'

. Since winning the Philadelphia Orchestra Senior Auditions as a student over 20 years ago, Leon Bates has emerged as one of America's leading pianists. He has warranted critical and audience accolades in Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center, Philadelphia's Academy of Music, the Hollywood Bowl, and the Masonic Hall in San Francisco. He appeared in Naples, Italy, in two recitals and took part in the filming of the "Music in the 20th Century" telecast on PBS. His sheer mastery of his instrument has led to performances with many major symphonies in the U.S. and abroad.

Tickets for these concerts start at \$10 for Saturday night and \$20 for Sunday afternoon and can be purchased in person at the QCSO Box Office, 327 Brady Street in Davenport, by phone at 800.982.2787 or online at [www.QCSymphony.com](http://www.QCSymphony.com) .

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