

# Orchestra's music gives nod to summer, nature

Waukegan Symphony Orchestra will perform a concert Sunday titled 'In Nature's Realm'

BY **SHERYL DEVORE**  
News-Sun

Director of the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra for nearly 16 years and grateful for the support of Waukegan Park District, Stephen Blackwelder will conduct a concert Sunday titled "In Nature's Realm."

"What inspired me was Bowen

Park and the park district, which has been so generous to the orchestra," said Blackwelder, who also directs DePaul University Community Chorus.

"This concert is an homage to the theme of Bowen Park (in Waukegan)," he said.

"One thing the Waukegan Park District does is make it easy for people who live in Lake County —

to see it and be in it and help sponsor the orchestra to make music about it."

He also programs a concert about an hour long that is widely accessible to the general public, he said.

One piece, "In Nature's Realm," was composed by Antonin Dvorak, who many recognize as the composer of "The New World Symphony," he said.

"In Nature's Realm' is lesser known and not commonly performed, but people are starting to

pay attention to it again. People get intrigued by the title. It's a wonderful, evocative slice of nature.

"The music is so accessible — you'll hear birds, you'll hear the wind, you'll hear some darker stormy weather, and then things clear," he said of the piece.

One other short piece known as "Fingal's Cave" or "The Hebrides Overture" by Felix Mendelssohn evokes images from a place the composer loved — a cavern within an island in the

Hebrides archipelago off the west coast of Scotland.

"It's a dramatic piece. You get a sense of the Scottish sky and rolling clouds," Blackwelder said.

He also chose a piece by Frederick Delius, a composer who many don't know, called "Summer Evening." Blackwelder said the piece might instill a bit of nostalgia for summer now that autumn is here.

Howard Green, principal clari-

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netist with the symphony, will perform Carl Maria von Weber's "Concertino for Clarinet."

"Howard Green is a very fine musician and conducts the Buffalo Grove Symphonic Band. Often we hire guest artists, but Howard is getting a well-deserved solo," he said.

The final piece has nothing to do with nature, but Blackwelder said he's sure the audience will enjoy it.

It's written by Georges Bizet, who most people know as the composer of the opera, "Carmen," he said. The orchestra will play Bizet's "Symphony in C," which Blackwelder said "has beautiful

### Waukegan Symphony Orchestra: In Nature's Realm

**When:** 4 p.m. Saturday  
**Where:** Waukegan High School Trapp Auditorium, 2325 Brookside Ave., Waukegan  
**Tickets:** \$7-\$15; Students 18 and under are free  
**Information:** 847-360-4740;  
[www.waukegansymphony.org](http://www.waukegansymphony.org)

tunes and a lot of vigorous rhythm. It's a very upbeat way to end an orchestra concert."

*Sheryl DeVore is a freelance reporter for the News-Sun.*



Stephen Blackwelder directs the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra.

WAUKEGAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA