

## A Tour in the Mountains

By Jaap van Zweden, Music Director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra

The Bravo! Vail festival is very important to me and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. The concerts we perform put a cap on the season just ended and look ahead to a new season next fall. The festival's location here in Vail, surrounded by the beauty of nature and the majesty of the Rocky Mountains, provides a fresh perspective and allows us to focus intensely on the music.

In this way the Bravo! Vail festival feels for us a bit like a tour. We are together as an orchestra, working in rehearsals and presenting concerts almost every day we are here. You can feel the camaraderie, the bond of music-making – all for the results we look to achieve for our audiences at the Ford Amphitheater.

The Dallas Symphony has been returning to Bravo! Vail summer after summer since 1999, and the relationship we have with the community and its people is only growing stronger. I have great admiration for pianist Anne-Marie McDermott, the festival music director, and I am happy to present her and Alessio Bax on Monday, July 6, performing the Concerto in D minor for Two Pianos by Poulenc. Both Anne-Marie and Alessio are frequent guest artists with us in Dallas, and Anne-Marie will perform with us again next year.

I am also very glad to collaborate for the first time with the violinist Pinchas Zukerman here at Bravo! Vail, performing Beethoven's Violin Concerto on Wednesday to begin our residency. Pinchas will come again to Dallas to play the same concerto on our annual AT&T Gala in September, and I believe Wednesday's performance here will be very special.

And Mozart in the mountains! All of us are very happy to be presenting an evening of Mozart on Friday, July 3 – including the Requiem, the final music he put to paper. This music is so moving and majestic, and it allows me to work with the fine Colorado Symphony Chorus and its director, Duain Wolfe.

We are also happy every year to present the Patriotic Concert on the Fourth of July, this year conducted by my colleague, Dallas Symphony Principal Pops Conductor Jeff Tyzik. At this concert we share the music of America and celebrate the nation with you, our Colorado family and friends.

Bravo! Vail would not happen without our audiences. The people's appreciation of our performances is the reason the festival is such a meaningful conclusion to our concert year. I invite you to join us at the Ford Amphitheater, to find a concert with

your favorite music or composer, or perhaps experience for the first time a work that is unfamiliar to you.

There is something special about making music at Bravo! Vail. The natural beauty inspires us, our friends and audiences encourage us, and the focus and attention we give to our music-making over only one week's time brings out the best of our orchestra.

Bravo to Bravo! Vail! The Dallas Symphony is very happy to return.