

## American Heritage Veterans Day concert features Peter Breinholt

**Barbara Christiansen - Daily Herald | Posted: Sunday, November 6, 2011 12:04 am**

The Lyceum Philharmonic at American Heritage School is keeping some traditions and breaking others. The orchestra is known for its patriotic Veterans Day programs, but this year it has a twist.

"We do a lot of Bach, Brahms and Beethoven but this is our first Breinholt," Lyceum Philharmonic director and conductor Kayson Brown said. That's Peter Breinholt, popular Utah singer and songwriter. He will join the group in two concerts, Friday and Saturday. U.S. Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, will be on hand as narrator for the Saturday concert.

Breinholt said he was pleased to be invited to perform with the group.

"I had heard about the Lyceum Philharmonic -- about how they have won Best of State three years in a row -- but when I rehearsed with them for the first time I was amazed," he said. "These musicians and arrangements are breathing new life into my songs."

Brown explained how the two styles came together for the concert.

"We took six or seven of his pieces and had them fully orchestrated by Greg Hansen," he said. "It gives Peter a chance to express his music alongside these students. Some of these familiar tunes that people know and love will sound different. They will be energized by these students."

Unlike other school musical groups, the Lyceum Philharmonic is an audition-only ensemble, Brown said.

"We really do have a phenomenal group of young musicians here," he said. "We put together an hour or longer program with five rehearsals. The students are all at a level they can do that and sound great. Last year the orchestra performed for 20,000 people live."

They are not all students at American Heritage but come from different schools to participate in the music program, which the school hosts. They have performed with The 5 Browns, Jenny Oaks Baker, Michael Ballam, Dallyn Vail Bayles, Jordan Bluth, Steven Sharp Nelson and Alex Boyé.

The group recently released its debut CD, titled "Hearts & Minds." Many of its pieces will be featured on Classical 89 FM and have been on other stations.

"It's not your normal student group," Brown said. "They're young professional musicians." He said they look forward to performing with Breinholt.

"We're performing with a world class folk artist," he said. "Peter Breinholt is really king of the genre."



American Heritage Head of School Grant Beckwith said the focus of the music is on heritage.

"One of the most important words in all of human language is 'remember,'" he said. "The importance of this concept cannot be overstated in education and is deeply embedded in the curriculum and methodologies that we use at American Heritage, including in our music programs. Once we truly acknowledge that we all stand on the shoulders of giants -- that we are nothing without the work of those who rest in our graveyards and battlefields -- only then can we become like those whom we honor through memory."

One way the school helps its students and others remember is having large-scale Veterans Day programs.

"They were very popular concerts," Brown said. "We wanted to continue on, to commemorate a holiday that in my opinion doesn't get near enough recognition from the community."

He suggested a change in the style of the music.

"Peter Breinholt's brand of folk music was something we felt was really in line with that message," he said. "We've all heard Sousa marches and love them but we wanted a change. This is a fun and exciting way to give something back to the community."

It's different for the school, and for Breinholt too. "He does a lot of concerts, but doesn't get a lot of opportunities to perform with an orchestra," Brown said.

Proceeds from the concerts directly benefit American Heritage Orchestra programs. Additional donations in support of the school and students can be sent to American Heritage, 736 N. 1100 East, American Fork, Utah 84003, by calling (801) 642-0055, or by donating online at [www.American-Heritage.org/Home/Give](http://www.American-Heritage.org/Home/Give).

More information on the independent, non-profit school is available at [www.American-Heritage.org](http://www.American-Heritage.org).

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Friday and Saturday, Nov. 11 and 12

7:30 p.m.

American Heritage School

736 N. 1100 East, American Fork

Tickets: \$10 at the door, \$8 in advance, \$6 for students or veterans

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