

bravo!

Philadelphia Orchestra performs 'Carmina Burana' for closing night

Daily staff report

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VAIL — Tonight, more than 200 musicians will take the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater stage to perform Carl Orff's most popular work, "Carmina Burana."

The Philadelphia Orchestra, led by conductor Giancarlo Guerrero, will be joined by the New Mexico Symphonic Chorus as well as the Colorado Children's Chorale tonight. This is the closing night concert of The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2011 summer residency in Vail.

The first half of tonight's program will be Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 in C major, as part of Bravo!'s Beethoven: Architect of Humanity series. This symphony is more restrained than the composer's later works and it marks the true beginning of the Romantic era, according to music historians.

After intermission, the audience will be swept away by the centerpiece of tonight's program, Orff's "Carmina Burana."

"Carmina Burana is a popular piece among audiences worldwide," said Bravo!'s artistic administrator Jacqueline Taylor. "The sound is what really draws people in. There is an accessibility found in the melodies that captures people's attention. The audience will walk away humming the tunes."

Based on a collection of medieval poems, Carmina is structured in three sections that are framed by the signature chorus, Fortuna (Fortune). In addition to the sym-



SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Two hundred musicians will gather on stage at the Ford Amphitheater tonight to perform "Carmina Burana."

phonic chorus and children's chorale, three vocal soloists are featured tonight — soprano Heidi Grant Murphy, countertenor Brian Asawa and baritone Hugh Russell.

Orff has been known for his rather unorthodox use of vocal resources in this work. The composer's use of blending the orchestra with chorus and vocal soloists has made the work captivating, according to music historians.

Tickets start at \$24 for lawn seats and \$63 to \$85 for covered pavilion seats. Children 12 and under receive free lawn admission. To purchase tickets, call 877-812-5700 or visit www.vailmusic.org.