

## Theatre

## Bobby McFerrin to conduct Oregon Symphony

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FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Vocal virtuoso Bobby McFerrin will conduct the Oregon Symphony in a program of Mozart and Tchaikovsky and perform a capella selections on Tuesday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. Media support for this Special Event concert is provided by KINK fm 102.

"Classical musicians are so impressed with McFerrin because of his ability to create counterpoint, with his sense of pitch. He hears so well. And he's got so much energy, it's hard to believe he's human," said Leslie Shank, assistant concertmaster of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (The Washington Post, Nov. 1996). McFerrin will lend his infectious enthusiasm and ear for counterpoint to two Mozart works, the Overture to "The Magic Flute" and Symphony No. 29 in A Major, as well as to Tchaikovsky's rich Serenade for Strings. In between the Mozart and Tchaikovsky portions of the program, McFerrin will excuse the orchestra to give a solo set featuring his trademark vocal stylings.

One of the music world's most widely talented performing artists, Bobby McFerrin has maintained a highly successful career while continuing to explore a broad range of musical styles and forms. He has won great recognition for his incomparable solo vocal appearances and best-selling recordings, as well as for his many collaborations with today's leading jazz artists. His most recent activities include extensive touring both as a solo performer and with his own jazz and vocal ensembles. The current focus of his musical endeavors, however, has been on symphonic conducting, to which he devotes considerable time each season. He has studied extensively with Gustav Meier, one of America's foremost conducting teachers, and in 1990 made his debut with the San Francisco Symphony to celebrate his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. He has since returned to San Francisco many times and has gone on to lead nearly every major American orchestra as well as many



McFerrin of the chart-topping single and video of "Don't Worry, Be Happy," will be performing with the Oregon Symphony on Tuesday, May 16 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

prestigious international ensembles. He is also part of the artistic leadership of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, which he joined in April of 1994 as Creative Chair. His conducting activities with that orchestra include subscription series, educational and outreach programs, tours and other special

concerts. Tickets range in price from \$18.75 to \$75 and may be purchased at the Oregon Symphony Ticket Office Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by phone at 228-1353 or 800/228-7343 or via the Symphony's web site at [www.orsymphony.org](http://www.orsymphony.org). Bobby

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