

## Slovak Chamber Orchestra to Perform in Memorial Hall

"The Slovak Chamber Orchestra, a youthful and vivacious group showed that it can stand up to the world's better ensembles of its type." -- *The New York Times*

"...a full, rich chamber sound; beautiful, carefully articulated phrasing, near perfect intonation, and, as became increasingly evident, stylistic integrity."-- *The Washington Post*

"The Slovaks really combine the best of two styles of string playing, that of the Old World and the New. They have an abundant rhythmic vitality tempered by a softness of accentuation and attack that domestic groups do not achieve so naturally" -- *Chicago Tribune*

The Slovak Chamber Orchestra, one of the world's most distinguished and honored, has been a prominent representative of Czechoslovakian culture since 1966. Founded as an independent state ensemble, the orchestra was previously affiliated with the Slovak Philharmonic in Bratislava. The Slovak Chamber Orchestra has performed more than 2500 concerts throughout four continents and is a regular participant at the celebrated Prague Spring Festival. The 1990-91 season marks the ensemble's fifth North American tour.

Bohdan Warchal, Leader and Artistic Director of the Orchestra, is a graduate of the Janacek Academy of Fine Arts in Czechoslovakia, and is known throughout Europe not only as one of its finest conductors, but also as a violinist of superior accomplishments. Through his work as Concertmaster of the Slovak Philharmonic, the Slovak Chamber Orchestra was born. He has received his country's highest honors and awards and his dedication has placed the Orchestra at the vanguard of today's ensembles. Reflecting the success of his own career as an honored soloist in the capitals of Europe, his solo performances with the Slovak Chamber Orchestra add another dimension to its already superlative standing. For his merits and contribution to artistic success of the ensemble, in 1969 Warchal was awarded the title of "Artist of Merit."


The Slovak Chamber Orchestra is among the five orchestras, numerous chamber groups and folkdance ensembles that enhance the summer months in Czechoslovakia, particularly the Prague Spring Festival in early June. The chamber orchestra's sterling reputation has attracted some of the world's finest soloists.

One feature which sets the Slovak Chamber Orchestra apart from others is the fact that its musicians devote full time to this orchestra and do not play in any other ensembles, which is often the case with other chamber orchestra players who also perform in symphony orchestras. Due to its extraordinary reputation, the Slovak Chamber Orchestra is in such demand throughout the world that its members are busy the full season with performances.

Many critics have favorably commented on the visual presentation of the orchestra. Its members (except cellos) all stand in a semi-circle with its dynamic leader, Bohdan Warchal in the center. As every member of the orchestra is a virtuoso, the standing position offers a much freer playing position in order to realize the full dynamics of the music. This combination of the visual and aural add an extra dimension to their musical performances.

As there are several soloists in the orchestra, each program features one of them in a concerto— usually its leader, Bohdan Warchal.

Celebrate  
Dvořák's  
The Four Seasons



8 p.m.  
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### White Man's Religion?

Continued from p. 11

Acts 8:26 is the story of the Ethiopian eunuch. As we know, Ethiopia is in the Horn of Africa. The eunuch had been to Jerusalem and was on his way back to Africa when (while reading the book of Isaiah) God told Phillip to go up and talk to the eunuch to explain the gospel a little bit more clearly to him. The Ethiopian eunuch became a Christian and went on his way rejoicing. Very possibly he went back to Ethiopia where he began explaining the Word of God more clearly and more carefully. So, Africa had the gospel before there was an America. Christianity was introduced to Africa by traders from Southwest Asia long before its existence was indicated in literary and epigraphical sources. Christianity and Christian empires spread from Egypt as far as Ethiopia from the second century A.D. to the sixteenth century A.D. Christianity is most definitely not the white man's religion. -- Contributed by John Odoom

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