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Spaceman Invades Symphony! UFO sighted!
—Annual Family Concert to be Out of this World on January 27—

Missoula, Montana –The Missoula Symphony Orchestra’s **Family Concert** returns to the University Theatre on Friday, January 27 at 7 p.m. This year’s show, with an out-of-this-world spaceman theme, provides a unique opportunity for kids to learn about instruments, musicians and music. Lest a *War of the Worlds*-type panic ensues, rest assured, the spaceman is friendly.

According to Symphony Music Director Darko Butorac, this year’s focus is on the styles and eras of music. “The kids will be learning about tempo, articulations, dynamics, instrumentation, but in such a fun way, they won’t even realize they’re learning.” He adds that providing an interactive experience that fully engages kids really amps up their level of understanding. “We obviously want this to be fun as well as educational, and I think we’ve got both covered in a major way.”

Joining Butorac and the musicians-in-the-making on this alien adventure is singer and performer Creighton James. Those who attended last year’s Wild West Family Concert may recall James as the funny but nefarious “Bad Bart.” This year, he dons an alien suit and controls the orchestra with a remote. “Who wouldn’t want to be able to fast forward to a favorite part, or have a universal mute button?” asks Butorac. “Creighton adds such an entertaining element to the show, and kids love him. It’s going to be a fantastic evening.”

To get kids excited about the concert, the Symphony is also sponsoring a space-themed coloring contest, with the winners to be announced at the concert. Artwork can be viewed the month of January at Bernice’s Bakery, 190 South 3rd Street West, which is selling spaceman cookies in honor of the show.

The **Family Concert** runs about one hour – perfect for young attention spans. This year’s repertoire includes excerpts from well-known pieces such as Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* and *Blue Danube Waltz* by Johann Strauss, as well as a couple space-age favorites recognizable to any self respecting space adventurer.

Tickets sell out fast, so purchase now online at missoulasympphony.org, by phone at 721-3194, or in person at the Symphony office at 320 East Main Street. All tickets \$8 each.

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