

TACOMA SYMPHONY WINS \$10,000 GRANT

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This month, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Park Service announced \$1,067,500 in support of 50 grants in 27 states, including an award of \$10,000 to Tacoma Symphony to support the commission of a new symphonic poem written in homage to Mount Rainier by Puyallup native Daniel Ott. Imagine Your Parks is a grant initiative from the National Endowment for the Arts created in partnership with the National Park Service to support projects that use the arts to engage people with memorable places and landscapes of the National Park System. These awards are part of a larger National Endowment for the Arts announcement also made this month in which the agency will make 1,142 awards totaling \$80.9 million to organizations in all 50 states and five jurisdictions.

"As part of the NEA's 50th anniversary, this year we are celebrating the magnificence of America's national cultural treasures through art," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "The Imagine Your Parks grant program unites our mission with the National Park Service by connecting art projects with the natural, historic and cultural settings of the National Park System and will inspire a new generation to discover these special places and experience our great heritage."

"We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Arts for its support of next season's commissioning project in commemoration of Mount Rainier National Park," said Symphony Executive Director Andy Buelow. "Our hope for the 'Mountain and Sea' concert is to engage the community as a whole in music, art and environmental awareness simultaneously. The NEA's support will help to involve regional audiences young and old as participants, not just recipients."

Tacoma Symphony's project funded by the NEA is a highlight of the 16-17: the World Premiere of a new symphonic poem written in homage to Mount Rainier by Puyallup native Daniel Ott. A rising name in classical music, Ott grew up in Puyallup and now teaches at Fordham University and The Juilliard School. The work for chorus and orchestra is being commissioned by the Symphony as part of the National Park Service centennial and is part of the season's culminating concert on May 13, 2017.

Paired with Debussy's great impressionist opus "La Mer," the project celebrates the region's richness and sense of place, from mountain to sound and is intended to raise awareness of the plight of Mount Rainier's glaciers, which are melting at an increasing and alarming rate. Suite No. 1 from Grieg's "Peer Gynt," including the mysterious and fantastic "In the Hall of the Mountain King," opens the program.

The Museum of Glass (MOG) will create a piece of art inspired by mountain and glacier imagery. The glassblowing process will be captured on a video that will accompany the performance, juxtaposed with photography of the mountain.