

**Disaster Relief Symphony Orchestra  
to present benefit concert November 19**

by Mike Telin



On Sunday, November 19 at 3:00 pm at the Rocky River United Methodist Church, the Disaster Relief Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Mark Perlman, will present a benefit concert to raise money for hurricane relief and recovery and to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

The ad hoc ensemble will perform Otto Nicolai's *Ein Feste Burg Overture*, J.S. Bach's *Violin Concerto in E* with Ken Johnston as soloist, and Felix Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 5*, "Reformation." A freewill offering to support domestic disaster relief will be taken at the concert. Donations to the United Methodist Committee on Relief can be made online [here](#).

"There are so many people who need assistance right now because of all the hurricanes, we thought we should do something to help," bassist and concert organizer Ann Gilbert said during a telephone conversation. Gilbert said she is grateful that so many musicians are willing to donate their time. "We started asking people, and the orchestra came together quickly."

Gilbert said that enlisting Mark Perlman to conduct the concert has reunited her with a person she first knew when she was a student at the Cleveland Institute of Music. "I was studying with Dave Perlman, who was the principal bass of the Cleveland Orchestra at that time, and his son Mark was in still in high school."

In addition to his positions as Music Director of the Willamette Falls Symphony, the Tualatin Valley Symphony, and founder and conductor of the Oregon Mahler Festival, Mark Perlman is Professor of Philosophy at Western Oregon University, where he teaches classes in Philosophy of Music and Philosophy of Art.

"I played at Mark's wedding but then we lost touch," Gilbert said, "then a couple of

years ago he contacted me through Facebook. When we finally did get together, he told me he was interested in doing some conducting in Cleveland because his mother still lives here.”



Gilbert said that a friend of hers, Jim Parry, originally suggested planning a concert to commemorate the Protestant Reformation, but last summer when she Jim and Mark got together for lunch they decided they needed to create an event that would also benefit people in need. “Then the hurricanes began to happen,” Gilbert said. “Everything has come together so organically — it’s really quite amazing.”

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