“One expects – and sometimes hears – great Mahler from the likes of the Vienna Philharmonic or the Chicago Symphony, but this Third [Symphony] comes from a student orchestra at a school… I’m talking about the Brigham Young University Philharmonic Orchestra in Utah. Right from the opening fanfare… you could have convinced me this was a fully professional orchestra. The musicians play with supreme confidence and a sense of total abandon. One senses that they feel totally relaxed under their conductor, Kory Katseanes, whose contribution to the cause is equally commendable. The music rarely lacks for momentum, notes are fully sustained, phrases beautifully molded, the architecture masterfully shaped… all things considered, it is a shining tribute to the excellence of America’s music schools.”

Robert Markow, Fanfare Magazine

“I would like to thank Brigham Young University for sending its orchestra to Othello. You cannot fully understand the value of this event for our community, culturally speaking… Let me stress to you just how deeply grateful I am for the ensemble’s moving performance last week. Please pass my sentiments on to the Maestro and to the fine musicians.”

Wayne Math Brown, Director of Bands, Othello, Washington

“Thanks for a job well-done. I’ve heard nothing but good things about the concert.”

Melvin Epstein, Festival Arts Association of Bay City, Texas

“The concert we attended was a feast of dedicated talent, displayed in such a way that you felt their very warmth and feeling they had for their music. We have always been impressed with the quality of their [BYU performing ensembles’] performances, and they have always left behind them a spirit of goodwill and friendship. May they continue to bless us with their performances for years to come.”

R. Whiteley, West Yorkshire, England

“. . . [BYU Philharmonic Orchestra] proved to be one of the most polished, pleasing events of the year.”

Gerry Crabb, Helena Daily World, Helena, Arkansas

“You probably don’t realize the impact that your group has on the audiences which you honor by your appearances and performances. First, the sheer professionalism and energy couple with the consistent quality… is a joy to experience. Second, the personalities of the performers… are such that an immediate rapport is established between the group and the audience.”

Ronnie Bray, Yorkshire, England

“The visit of these young people was both entertaining and uplifting. … Anybody who was even in the same room as these young people could not help but feel the spirit they had with them. Their obvious dedication and love for their music… shone out as bright as a beacon.”

Steven Leonard, Dudley Hill, England
Philharmonic Orchestra originates in the School of Music of the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.