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# Saddle up the symphony

**Maria Dias** RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

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If you think the Reno Philharmonic, the Reno Rodeo and MiG Fighter Jets have nothing in common, then you don't know Rhythm and Rawhide.

The event is "purely Nevada," said Francine Burge, marketing director for the Reno Philharmonic.

"You don't normally think of symphony and rodeo people together," she said.

The fund-raising event, now in its third year, combines the orchestral sounds of the Reno Philharmonic with the Western culture of the Reno Rodeo for an evening of music, cowboy poetry, food and a live auction, including the chance to bid

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auction, including the chance to bid on a personal ride in a Soviet MiG-15 Fighter Jet.

Other items up for bid include a slot on the four-and-a-half day long cattle drive that kicks off the 2006 Rodeo, and having Reno Mayor Bob Cashell shovel the first snowfall of the winter from the winner's home.

"Every year we try to outdo ourselves," Burge said.

The evening also features cowboy poet Pal Zarzyski, a former bronc rider who has performed during Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering and on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion."

Canadian folk singer Ian Tyson will perform Western classics with the philharmonic, including songs from the films "Silverado," "Lonesome Dove" and "Dances with Wolves." This is one of only six U.S. performances for Tyson this year, Burge said, and the first time he will be performing with an orchestra in the United States.

The money generated by Rhythm and Rawhide benefits the Reno Philharmonic and the Reno Rodeo, with the rodeo donating a portion of this year's funds to the Kids Kottage, a center that serves local children. Last year, about 900 people attended the fund-raiser, Burge said, bringing in roughly \$180,000. This year, organizers are expecting 1,200 guests, with some flying in from as far away as Virginia and Oklahoma for the event, she said.

What's on the menu?

"Of course we'll have steak," Burge said, as well as fish, salads and decadent desserts.

And dust off that Stetson. Attire at the event is a mix of tuxedos and cocktail dresses and formal Western attire, Burge said.

"You won't see a lot of ties," she said.



Marilyn Newton/RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Reno Philharmonic conductor Barry Jekowsky, in Levi's and chaps during last year's "Rhythm & Rawhide" concert at the Reno Hilton, is ready to ride again.

Reno Hilton Theatre, with a VIP cocktail hour at 5 p.m.

**Cost:** \$150 for dinner and concert. Tables of 10 are available for \$2,500 and include invitation for 10 to the VIP Backstage Celebrity Roundup and special gifts.

**Details:** 323-2810.

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Rhythm and Rawhide is at 6 p.m. May 21 in the

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