

Ben Folds with the Minnesota Orchestra

Ben Folds, vocals and piano • **Sarah Hicks**, conductor

Special Presentation

Saturday, October 31, 2009, 8 pm | Orchestra Hall

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.
There will be no intermission.

Ben Folds' musical versatility, razor-sharp wit and energetic stage presence have earned him a legion of devoted fans of all ages. Equally active as a singer, songwriter and pianist, he is celebrated for crafting a sound that bridges the worlds of pop music, jazz and power rock. He has released three bestselling solo studio albums, most recently 2008's *Way to Normal*, and he has performed with such varied collaborators as Tori Amos, "Weird Al" Yankovic, William Shatner and the Boston Pops.

Folds began his musical career as a drummer, then came to national prominence in the 1990s as frontman and pianist of the rock trio Ben Folds Five.

In recent years he has enjoyed success as a solo artist, touring worldwide and reaching new audiences by writing music for the animated film *Over the Hedge* and working with a cappella groups from colleges throughout the U.S. on the 2009 album *Ben Folds Presents: University A Cappella!*

An avid proponent of new technologies, Folds was among the first musicians to participate in the internet-based virtual world Second Life, and in 2006 he became the first artist to webcast a live performance on MySpace. In 2008 he reunited with the Ben Folds Five for a special one-night concert in his home state of North Carolina. He is now writing music for a forthcoming album with lyrics by English novelist Nick Hornby. More: benfolds.com.

Sarah Hicks' profile appears on page 63.

