

Season opens Sunday with East Tennessee Symphony concert

BY MIKE O'NEAL
STAFF WRITER

The East Tennessee Symphony Orchestra opens its season Sunday at the Veterans Memorial Park in Collegedale.

"We are excited about our second season," said ETSO vice president Mathew Miller.

The first performance of this three-concert season is being billed as "One Suite Concert" and will include Ralph Vaughan Williams' "English Folk Song Suite," Edvard Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite" and Georges Bizet's "Carmen Suite," he said.

A full 74-piece symphony, the ETSO mission is to serve and enhance the community through musical and educational programs, according to president and musical director Richard Hickam.

The outdoor performances offer popular pieces, professionally performed in the family-friendly atmosphere of Veterans Park, he said.

Eventually the Collegedale-based symphony would like a permanent outdoor amphitheater for performances, symphony officials said.

There is a possibility that such a site could be incorporated into plans for a new Ham-

IF YOU GO

- **What:** East Tennessee Symphony Orchestra
- **Where:** Veterans Memorial Park off Apison Pike in Collegedale
- **When:** Sunday at 7 p.m. (rain date is Monday)
- **Cost:** Free
- **Extras:** It's recommended that you arrive early, dress comfortably and bring blankets, lawn chairs and picnic tables.
- **On the Web:** www.etsomusic.org

ilton County ballfield complex being developed on the former Summit Landfill, officials said.

"I am thrilled with the way things are going right now," Mr. Hickam said. "We have achieved nonprofit status and are developing a long-term mission."

The concert Sunday will be amplified for the audience and will have aural enhancement for the musicians, he said.

"We've got a brand new inflatable acoustic sound shell that comes highly recommended," Mr. Hickam said. "You will want to be outdoors Sunday night listening to a concert."

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