



## BACKSTAGE

Newsletter of the  
**Lansing Symphony**  
**Orchestra**

- March 2009 -

### In this issue ...

... 2,500 students enjoy  
Young People's Concerts

... a concerto for two  
trumpets?

... musician spotlight on  
Concertmaster  
Seunghee Lee

... Ken Beachler joins the  
LSO staff

## 2,500 Students Enjoy Young People's Concerts

On Wednesday, February 18th, over 2,500 area students experienced the thrill of a live, orchestral performance at the Lansing Symphony's annual Young People's Concerts. The two concerts were offered free of charge and were attended by students from Lansing, East Lansing, Okemos, Grand Ledge, Waverly, Bath, Dewitt, Linden, Owosso, Webberville, Eaton Rapids, Charlotte, Mason and Ovid-Elsie school districts.



Music Director [Timothy Muffitt](#) gave the students an introduction to the orchestra through samples from Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumblebee" and Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*. The featured work on the program was Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, which included dancers from the [Greater Lansing Ballet Company](#) and narration by Ken Beachler.

**Click [here](#) to view pictures from the concert.** (Courtesy J.D. Small, [J.D. Small Studios](#).)

To prepare students for the performance, teaching artists from [BoarsHead Theater](#) provided teachers with study guides, as well as classroom docent visits which instructed students on elements of music, dance and theatre.

For many of our local students, the LSO's Young People's Concerts are their only exposure to live, orchestral music. **Can you help us to continue to offer these concerts at no cost to our schools?**

### **SHOW YOUR SUPPORT - MAKE A DONATION TODAY**

Make a secure, online donation to the Lansing Symphony. Your gift is tax-deductible and will support the fine artistic and educational programming we offer. Click [here](#) to make a donation now.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MasterWorks 5:  
A Celtic Muse  
March 6, 2009  
8:00 p.m.

Wharton Center's Great Hall

**Timothy Muffitt**

Conductor

*Smart Office Systems Chair*

**Vincent DiMartino**

Trumpet

**Rex Richardson** Trumpet

Symphony No. 3 "Scottish"  
ROSSINI - Overture to *Semiramide*  
PAULUS - Concerto for Two  
Trumpets & Orchestra

[Purchase Tickets](#)

Big Band 2  
March 22, 2009  
3:00 p.m.

(new location!)  
Pattengill Middle School  
626 Marshall St.  
Lansing, MI 48912

**Jeff Kressler**  
Guest Director

Swing to all your favorite  
tunes of the '30s and '40s!

[Purchase Tickets](#)



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### **A Concerto for Two Trumpets? Interview with Composer Stephen Paulus**

On Friday, March 6th, the Lansing Symphony will perform the Concerto for Two Trumpets & Orchestra by American contemporary composer [Stephen Paulus](#). We had a chance to speak with Paulus, and he had this to say of his concerto:

"The Concerto for Two Trumpets & Orchestra is one that always gets an amazing reaction from the audience, something that, as a composer, you're not always guaranteed. The first movement is highly charged and kinetic and really keeps moving with lots of percussion and intensity in the trumpets. In the second movement, 'Elegy,' I attempt to create something that is lyrical and melodic and that comes from the heart. The third movement has often been referred to as 'populist.' It's here that the concerto allows the trumpets to really go off on their own and improv, revealing some of the influence of American jazz in this piece. I love that each performance is a truly unique experience."

The Concerto for Two Trumpets & Orchestra work was commissioned in 2003 by the [Minnesota Orchestra](#) and was written for [Doc Severinson](#) and [Manny Laureano](#). It has received rave reviews everywhere it's been performed:

"... sometimes raucous and rowdy, sometimes brooding beautiful, like America, whose eclectic musical idioms the composer skillfully appropriates and transforms through dynamic and colorful orchestration." (Laurie Robertson-Lorant, *Standard-Times* correspondent)

"A tour de force for trumpets brought Orchestra Hall to its feet rejoicing ... " (Joan Oliver Goldsmith, *St. Paul Pioneer Press* on the concerto's premiere)

MasterWorks 5: A Celtic Muse is this Friday, March 6th at 8:00pm.

[GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!](#)

### **MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT: Concertmaster Seunghye Lee**

In September 2008, you returned to your position as Concertmaster of the Lansing Symphony after a one-year leave of absence, during which you spent time in your native Korea. **How did you spend your trip and what have you enjoyed about being back in the states?**

My leave was granted for me to teach in [Kyungwon University](#). I also gave recitals and performed with several orchestras. It was wonderful to spend more time with family and friends. The best experiences I had were listening to my childhood friends' performances. Their music tells me where their lives have been, and that is best way of catching up with each other. Being





### Questions? Comments?

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Our administrative offices  
have moved:

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Credit Union building  
Corner of Lenawee and Capitol

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back home is always a great feeling, though the best parts of my return have to be Brahms Violin Concerto with David Kim and Beethoven's Symphony No. 4. It may sound strange, but my life in the States is extremely simple compared to life in Korea.

### What made you choose to play the violin? (Or was the choice made for you?)

It was my parents and my height that made the choice when I was in second grade. All three girls in my family played the piano from an early age, and my parents thought that having a family piano trio was a great idea. They also thought that music would be a good career for women in my generation. Thanks to them, my sisters and I talk about how lucky we are to have luxury of having music in our lives and careers. We all got married to musicians as well, which was - of course - not part of my parents' plan.

### If you could switch places with any other section of the orchestra, which would it be?

Anywhere in the first violin section is where I love to be. I still have a habit of looking at the wind and brass sections while I am playing, which began when I joined the Youth Symphony Orchestra in the fourth grade and fell in love with that sound. We played a Haydn symphony, and I remember mimicking breaths when the flute and oboe had solos. Of course, then I'd forget to play my part! I feel I have one of the best seats in the hall where I can enjoy every instrument of the orchestra.

### What fuels you as a musician?

It may sound like a textbook answer, but there is nothing but the music that motivates me. I must confess that I don't love practicing and I don't like the tiring lifestyle of musician: driving in the dark, low income, and the constant guilt of not practicing enough. But the honor of being part of the music is an extraordinary feeling and that keeps me going. As I was leaving rehearsal last night, I was thinking how happy and gratified I am to be part of Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony. [*Catch Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony at [MasterWorks 5: A Celtic Muse](#) on Friday, March 6th.*]



### Ken Beachler Joins LSO Staff

The Lansing Symphony welcomes Ken Beachler as Interim Executive Director. In February, Executive Director David Gross announced his plans to leave the LSO for a position with the [West Virginia Symphony Orchestra](#).

"I have enjoyed working with the Board, staff and musicians of the LSO very much," explains Gross. "I will always think of my time in Lansing very fondly for I leave with many friendships from

this fine organization. I especially have great memories of working with [Timothy Muffitt](#), an outstanding conductor, leader and friend. I am confident that under Timothy's guidance and Ken Beachler's leadership, the Lansing Symphony will move forward to great things."

Ken Beachler will serve as Interim Executive Director for three to four months while a national search is conducted for a permanent replacement. Ken Beachler is active in many of Michigan's regional, community and educational theaters as an actor and director. Patrons may recognize him from recent productions with

[Riverwalk](#) and [BoarsHead](#) Theaters, as well as TV promotions for the [YMCA](#). Ken served as the first Executive Director of the [Wharton Center](#), presenting such artists and ensembles as Vladimir Horowitz, Isaac Stern, Itzhak Perlman, Beverly Sills, Van Cliburn, Leontyne Price, Daniel Barenboim, Duke Ellington, Rudolf Nureyev, Sarah Vaughan, Yo Yo Ma, dozens of dance companies and the orchestras of Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, London, Moscow and Vienna. He completed a seven-year appointment as Vice-Chair of the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs and currently serves on the MSU alumni boards of the Honors College and U.S. Armed Forces.

*Header photos courtesy J.D. Small, J.D. Small Studios.  
Photo of Stephen Paulus courtesy Sharolyn Hagen Photography.*



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