



BACKSTAGE

Newsletter of the
Lansing Symphony
Orchestra

- November 2008 -

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Give a Gift Certificate for tickets.

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INSIGHTS: An Interview with Music Director Timothy Muffitt

First, let's talk a little bit about our 2008/2009 Season - "Begin Your Journey." By mid-November, the LSO was already half way through its season, having produced three full-scale MasterWorks concerts, a Latin Rhythms Pops concert, a Halloween Spooktacular! Family Concert, a Big Band concert and two Chamber concerts. Can you give us some of your reflections on the first half of the season?

I'm very pleased with what we've accomplished so far this season. I am thrilled with the way the audience has responded to what we've offered. We take great pride in the diversity of the programming we offer, and this fall has been a great example of that.

A new program for us was the Halloween Spooktacular! Family Concert, which was so well received. I would love to see that program become an annual tradition because it's such a wonderful opportunity for families to come together and enjoy an orchestral event as a whole. It's a program that's as enjoyable for the parents as it is for the children, which can be hard to find these days.

I'm very excited about the artistic progress the orchestra is continuing to make from one concert to the next. With such a full season, we've had many opportunities for growth. With each program, we continue to refine ourselves and create an even greater polish to the product we're providing our community.

[Click here to read the full interview.](#)

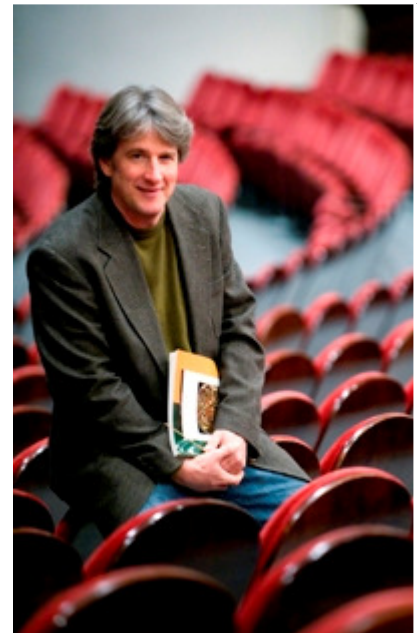


Photo: David Trumple

in the name of a
friend or
family member.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Pops
December 21, 2008
3:00 p.m.

Wharton Center's Great Hall

Timothy Muffitt

Conductor

Smart Office Systems Chair

Diane Penning

Soprano

Bring your family to
Lansing's holiday
tradition!

Listen to a Preview
(mp3 will launch)

Purchase Tickets

MasterWorks 4:
Song of Norway
January 24, 2009
8:00 p.m.

Wharton Center's Great Hall

Timothy Muffitt

Conductor

Smart Office Systems Chair

Adam Golka Piano

TCHAIKOVSKY -
Capriccio Italien
GRIEG - Piano Concerto
BARTOK - Concerto for
Orchestra

Purchase Tickets



Become a Fan

Win a Trip to Hawaii: LSO's Annual Raffle

Tickets: \$20 each or 6 for \$100

Grand Prize - Trip for two to Waikoloa, Hawaii, including seven nights at the Paniola Greens Resort, generously donated

by Edward and Peggy Snell; round trip airfare from Detroit to Kona, HI; all taxes on airfare; \$500 cash; and car rental for six nights. (Winner must book the trip a minimum of 30 days in advance of departure, travel between January 31, 2009 and December 31, 2009, and is based on availability.)

2nd Prize – Three skin tightening treatments at [American Laser Centers](#) in Okemos.

3rd Prize – A Luxury Suite at [Oldsmobile Park](#) for you and 19 friends for a game during the 2009 season; food and drinks not included.

4th Prize – One of [Ananda Soup](#)'s exclusive Silk Giclées by photographer Michael McPeak; custom limited edited printed on a silk-like fabric.

5th Prize – Three microdermabrasion treatments at [American Laser Centers](#) in Okemos.

6th Prize – Tickets for two to a [Detroit Symphony Orchestra](#) performance and an overnight stay in Detroit.

7th Prize – Gourmet, private dinner for four with wine at the [State Room](#) at the Kellogg Center, East Lansing.

Drawing to be held at Intermission of the [Holiday Pops](#) concert on Sunday, December 21st at 3:00pm. Raffle tickets available until that time. Need not be present to win.

Call **(517) 487-5001** to order your tickets today!

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MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT: Ava Ordman, Principal Trombone

Your extensive career has stretched throughout Michigan and the United States, including being the Principal Trombonist with the Grand Rapids Symphony for 24 years. What brought your journey to Lansing?

While living in Grand Rapids and playing in the Symphony, I decided to go back to school (Western Michigan University) to get a degree in psychology. I wanted to stretch my mind, explore interests other than music, maybe even change careers. And that's exactly what happened. I played my final concert as Principal Trombone with the [Grand Rapids Symphony](#) in May 1997, moved to Royal Oak, did my internship at Wyandotte Hospital, graduated in May 2008 with an MA in Counseling Psychology, became a fellow at the Bar-Levav Educational Association and got a job at The Guidance Center in Southgate, MI. However, the salary of a beginning therapist would not pay all of the bills or support the lifestyle that I wanted for myself at age 45-ish. So, I couldn't put the horn away. I was able to play pretty regularly with the [Detroit Symphony Orchestra](#), especially during the first couple of years, and I also did some subbing with [Michigan Opera Theatre](#) and [Detroit Chamber Winds](#). I then joined the faculty of Oakland University as their Instructor of Trombone.



Today!

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and everyone can join!

[LSO Facebook Page](#)



Questions? Comments?

Contact
Catherine Guarino,
Director of
Communications

Email or call
(517) 487-5001 ext. 10



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As the story goes, I would get home from work at 10pm and then get the horn out and play long tones while watching *ER*. Yes, if one wants to continue to play, one has to practice. So, when Phil Sinder (LSO Principal Tuba) called to ask if I might be interested in applying for the trombone professor position at MSU, I said, "what the heck" and here I am!

[Click here to read the full interview.](#)

LSO Offices Move to New Location

After many years as a tenant of the Michigan Dental Association building at 230 N. Washington Square, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra staff will be moving to their new home in December.

The new location of the Lansing Symphony offices will be on the fourth floor of the [NuUnion Credit Union](#) building at 501 S. Capitol Ave. We are happy to have a new home in downtown Lansing, and anticipate several advantages to the new location, including free parking for visitors.

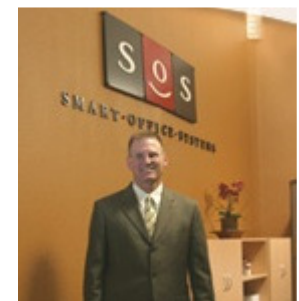
Our new address, effective December 15th:

Lansing Symphony Orchestra
501 S. Capitol Ave., Suite 400
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 487-5001



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: Smart Office Systems

The Lansing Symphony would like to thank Paul Covert, President of [Smart Office Systems](#) in Lansing, for a donation of over \$64,000 worth of furnishings for our new offices. Smart Office Systems (SOS) is a leader in remanufactured furniture, and provided the LSO with environmentally responsible office furniture.



Paul is no stranger to charitable giving, making it a part of his company's Mission to focus on charities that serve the youth of mid-Michigan. This summer, SOS was part of a new effort called "Camp Lansing" which took 125 inner-city kids on a free week-long camping trip in northern Michigan. In addition, SOS has helped local non-profits by furnishing offices for the [March of Dimes](#), [Ele's Place](#) and [Girl Scouts](#).

"We like to help our community with what we do: office furniture," says Paul. "The Lansing Symphony is an important part of the vibrant culture of our community, and I believe they should have an office that demonstrates that."

Muffitt interview photo courtesy David Trumpie, [Trumpie Photography](#).



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