



LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HAPPENDANCE AND LANSING SYMPHONY PRESENT “CONNECT” PERFORMANCE OF LIVE DANCE AND MUSIC

LANSING, Mich. – January 27, 2011 – In celebration of its 35 years as a professional dance company, **Happendance** presents **CONNECT: Happendance & Lansing Symphony**, a powerful collaboration of modern dance and live music. Also a part of the Lansing Symphony’s Chamber Series, two performances will be held **Saturday, February 19, 2011** at 8pm and **Sunday, February 20, 2011** at 3pm at Dart Auditorium on the campus of Lansing Community College.



CONNECT offers a dynamic collection of dances created by co-directors **Missy Lilje** and **Matt Bebermeyer**, as well as original work from guest choreographers **Cristina Perera**, of Cirque du Soleil’s *Alegria* in Brazil, and **Bill DeYoung**, University of Michigan Dance Faculty. Company dancers are Lilje, Bebermeyer, **Andrew Amos**, **Tracy Holtzer** and **Patty Villanueva**. Junior company, Happendance 2, joins the final dance.

An ensemble of Lansing Symphony musicians will provide live performances of Samuel Barber’s *Adagio for Strings*, Arvo Pärt’s *Fratres*, Aaron Copland’s *Movement for String Quartet*, Coldplay’s *Viva La Vida*, J.S. Bach’s *Suite for Cello #1*, and more. Musicians will include violinist **Carlotta Amargos-Rubio**, violinist **Yoonah Na**, violist **Johnathan McNurlen**, cellist **Carrie Pierce** and pianist **A Ram Lee**.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students, available online at www.lansingsymphony.org or by calling (517) 487-5001. Friday is Preview Night, at 8 pm, with a suggested donation at the door.

“Happendance and the Lansing Symphony are local gems that have brought first-class art to the Lansing area for decades,” commented Lilje. “To connect dance with live music is magical for the performers and audience members alike. It moves one’s spirit in a visceral way that rarely happens in everyday life.”

“The Lansing Symphony is proud to partner with Happendance for this collaborative event,” said **Richard Sherman**, Artistic Director of the Lansing Symphony Chamber Series. “Combining the talents of Lansing’s professional artists provides unique opportunities for artistic growth, audience development and outreach to our community.”

An **Afterglow** hosted by Happendance will be held immediately following the Saturday performance at the Michigan State Bar atrium at 306 Townsend Street in Lansing. Desserts, wine, punch and coffee, as well as an opportunity for conversation with the artists, will close out the evening. Tickets are available for \$15, in advance at www.happendance.org or at the door.

Happendance received funding for the concert from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Capital Region Community Foundation, Ingham County Hotel-Motel Tax Fund, and City of Lansing Art & Cultural Grant Program through the Lansing Economic Development Corporation with help from the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, Inc. For information on other Happendance events and education programs for all ages, visit www.Happendance.org.

Under the guidance of Music Director **Timothy Muffitt** and Artistic Director **Richard Sherman**, the Lansing Symphony Chamber Series is designed to showcase a variety of small ensemble repertoire in an intimate setting and to introduce audiences to some of mid-Michigan’s most talented artists and ensembles. The 2010/2011 Chamber Series is generously sponsored by Bruce & Virginia Allen, the Wilbur & Ruth Wright Charitable Fund and Church Wyble, PC.

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra was established in 1929. More than 20,000 people attend Lansing Symphony concerts each year, and more than 250,000 listeners are able to hear broadcasts of the orchestra’s performances by NPR affiliate WKAR-FM Radio. The Symphony’s education programs reach students in kindergarten through 12th grades. For more information, visit www.LansingSymphony.org.

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