

# LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### LANSING SYMPHONY AND MSU COLLEGE OF MUSIC TO PRESENT **AN EVENING OF SACRED MUSIC** AT ST. MARY CATHEDRAL

**Lansing, MI – March 2, 2009** – This Palm Sunday (**April 5, 2009 at 7:00pm**), the Lansing Symphony Orchestra and the MSU College of Music will present **An Evening of Sacred Music** at downtown Lansing's beautiful **St. Mary Cathedral**. **David Rayl** and **Sandra Snow** will conduct the **MSU Chorale** and **Women's Chamber Ensemble**, along with a 17-piece Baroque-sized orchestra composed of members of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. The program will feature three sacred works for chorus and orchestra: *Dixit Dominus* by Baldassarre Galuppi (1706-1785), Cantata 131: Aus der Tiefen rufe ich (Out of the deep have I called) by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) and *Dixit Dominus*, a tour de force setting of Psalm 110 by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759).

**Tickets for An Evening of Sacred Music are \$15 for adults and \$7 for students. Tickets are available online at [www.LansingSymphony.org](http://www.LansingSymphony.org) or by calling (517) 487-5001.**

Last year at a similar Palm Sunday event, the LSO and MSU College of Music presented Bach's *Saint John Passion* to a sold-out, standing room only audience at St. Mary Cathedral.

David Rayl is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Michigan State University, where he conducts the MSU Chorale and Choral Union, directs the graduate program in choral conducting and serves as Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in Music. Previously, David Rayl was Director of Choral Activities at the University of Missouri-Columbia and Music Director of the Quad City Mozart

Festival. David Rayl has appeared as a guest conductor with the Missouri Chamber Orchestra, the Jefferson City Symphony and the orchestra of the Carlos Gomes Conservatory in Belem, Brazil. He has prepared choruses for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Kansas City Symphony and has led the LSO in performances of Haydn's *Creation*, Brahms's *Schicksalslied* and Mozart's *Grand Mass in C-Minor*.

Sandra Snow is Associate Professor of Music Education and Choral Conducting at the Michigan State University College of Music, where she conducts the Women's Chamber Ensemble. Prior to joining the MSU faculty, she served on the faculties of the University of Michigan and Northern Illinois University, and as Music Director of the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus. She is a nationally known choral clinician, conductor, and music educator. She is frequently engaged as principal conductor and keynoter for state and national music educator association conferences and festivals, including American Choral Director Association National Conferences.

The University Chorale is the university's premiere choral ensemble, comprised of the best graduate and upper-level undergraduate singers in the College of Music. The Chorale sang for the 2002 National Meeting of the College Music Society and the 2007 American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) National Convention. It also appeared at the 1983 and 1989 ACDA National Conventions under the baton of Charles Smith. In recent years, the Chorale has performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in performances of Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Mass in B-Minor* and Mozart's *Requiem*.

The Women's Chamber Ensemble is a 32-voice auditioned choir, providing women opportunities to sing outstanding repertoire with a special emphasis on contemporary writing. Only in its 5<sup>th</sup> year of existence, the ensemble has performed at the 2008 Central Division Convention and the 2009 National Convention of the ACDA.

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra was established in 1929. More than 20,000 people attend LSO concerts each year, and more than 50,000 listeners are able to hear broadcasts of the Orchestra's concerts by NPR affiliate WKAR-FM Radio. The Symphony's highly acclaimed education programs reach 15,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grades in five counties.

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