

# LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## LANSING SYMPHONY TO PRESENT ROCKET MAN: THE MUSIC OF ELTON JOHN IN 2009/2010 POPS SERIES

**Lansing, MI – May 26, 2009** – In recent months, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra has been called “a cultural gem,” “masterful,” and “extraordinary.” Now, more than ever – in what *City Pulse’s* Lawrence Cosentino has called the “**golden age of the Lansing Symphony**” and the “**miraculous Muffitt era**” – the Lansing Symphony invites mid-Michigan to grab a seat and “**Escape the Everyday**” in its **2009/2010** season.

The fourth season of the **Lansing Symphony Pops Series**, sponsored by Auto-Owners Insurance, offers the lighter side of orchestral music, with something for every age and budget. Along with the traditional Holiday Pops concert, the 2009/2010 Pops Series will include a second take on the Night at the Movies concert that was a hit in the 2007/2008 season, as well as an orchestra-rock collaboration on the music of Elton John.

**Rocket Man: The Music of Elton John** will close out the Pops Series on **Friday, April 16, 2010** at 8:00pm at the Wharton Center’s Great Hall. This concert will feature a live band of guitar, bass, vocals, piano and drums, combined with the power of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. The show will feature favorite Elton John classics including: “Bennie and the Jets,” “Your Song,” “Philadelphia Freedom,” “I’m Still Standing,” “Rocket Man,” “Tiny Dancer,” “Saturday Night’s All Right” and much more!

Arranger Peter Brennan’s group **Jeans ‘n Classics** combines rock musicians and headlining stars with symphony orchestras throughout the world to bring a new audience of classic rock fans to the symphony. They have been called “fabulous performers who engage the audience, entertain and elevate their art to new levels.”

(Michael Wall, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra) Singer Jean Meilleur is in his eleventh year as Jeans ‘n Classics headliner and has been praised for his coverage of Elton John’s vocal range. Pianist John Regan has performed with over 20 symphony orchestras throughout North America. He covers the piano and backup vocals, and brings with him an easy stage presence and quick wit for an entertaining and well-rounded stage show. Guest Conductor Jeff Christmas will bring the rock and orchestral elements together for a performance that will be truly unique.

“Audiences across the country have been singing the praises of Jeans ‘n Classics, and we are thrilled to bring their show to Lansing,” explains Director of Communications Catherine Guarino. “This is somewhat of a departure for the LSO, but we hope that it will bring new audiences into the performance hall to experience the thrill of a live orchestral performance. For some, Beethoven’s Fifth will inspire them. For others, it will be an Elton John tribute. We’re happy to provide both opportunities.”

**Three-concert subscriptions to the Pop Series range from \$33 to \$93. Single tickets range from \$12 to \$35, with student prices available.**

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Subscriptions can be purchased online at [www.LansingSymphony.org](http://www.LansingSymphony.org) or by calling (517) 487-5001. **First-time subscribers are eligible for a 25% discount on their subscription** – must order by phone to receive discount. Single tickets go on sale Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra was established in 1929 and will celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> season this year. More than 20,000 people attend LSO performances each year, and more than 50,000 listeners are able to hear broadcasts of the LSO’s performances 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. For more information, visit [www.LansingSymphony.org](http://www.LansingSymphony.org).

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