

# LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## LANSING SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES WINNER OF YOUNG COMPOSERS CONTEST

**Lansing, MI – February 19, 2010** – The Lansing Symphony announces the winner of its annual Young Composers Contest. Okemos High School student **Chris Newman** won this year’s contest with his orchestral composition “Prelude to *Anthem*.” Newman is the son of MSU Professor of Composition Ron Newman and MSU Assistant Professor of Vocal Jazz Sunny Wilkinson.

Newman’s composition was inspired by the novella *Anthem* by Ayn Rand. He is an avid reader.

“The mood of this piece was spawned from the almost heroic feeling I got from reading *Anthem*,” Newman explained. The five-minute work for orchestra took Newman about two weeks to complete, from first thoughts to finished product. He writes music every day, recently completing an entire album of piano miniatures. Currently, he is working on three different compositions at once.

“I am so happy and thankful that the LSO holds this competition,” said Newman. “There are so few opportunities to have new music performed. I am thrilled to hear this work live with orchestra.”

Newman’s composition will be performed by the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Timothy Muffitt, at the LSO’s **Young People’s Concerts** on **Wednesday, March 31, 2010** at Wharton Center.

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra was established in 1929 and is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Symphony’s highly acclaimed education programs reach students in kindergarten through 12th grades. For more information, visit [www.LansingSymphony.org](http://www.LansingSymphony.org) or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

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