

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

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LANSING SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 2010/2011 SEASON

Lansing, MI – April 18, 2010 – The **Lansing Symphony Orchestra** announces its **2010/2011 Season**, featuring inspiring performances, world-class guest artists, exciting new Pops concerts and a celebration of Lansing's own. In Music Director **Timothy Muffitt's** fifth season with the orchestra, the Lansing Symphony builds on the strength of community support and increased ticket sales to present an extraordinary season, with something for everyone.

The **Lansing Symphony MasterWorks Series** will feature many powerhouses of the orchestral repertoire, including **Beethoven's Triple Concerto**, **Brahms Symphony No. 2**, **Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1**, **Respighi's Pines of Rome**, **Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto**, and **Gershwin's *An American in Paris***. Guest artists for the MasterWorks Series include pianist **Michael Gurt**, whom the *New York Times* proclaimed "displayed an almost superhuman command of the keyboard," **Yolanda Kondonassis**, one of the most in-demand harpists in the world today, called "powerful" by the *New York Times* and "dazzling" by the *Detroit Free Press*, pianist **Anton Nel**, whom the *Chicago Sun Times* calls "an exceptional performer" and the *New York Times* described as "an uncommonly elegant pianist," as well as Lansing's own **Melissa White**, a young violinist whose career has seen new heights as a member of the critically-acclaimed Harlem String Quartet.

The **Lansing Symphony Pops Series**, presented by Auto-Owners Insurance, welcomes two new programs in addition to its annual **Holiday Pops**. In October, **Cirque de la Symphonie** will combine the magic of cirque with the power of the Lansing Symphony in a program that presents amazing acrobatic and aerial feats

choreographed to the “greatest hits” of the orchestra repertoire. In February, **Spectrum: The Music of Motown** will celebrate the iconic music of groups like The Four Tops, Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson and The Temptations, complete with costumes, choreography and fantastic orchestrations.

The **Lansing Symphony Chamber Series** will present four concerts featuring small ensembles and exciting programs, including Artistic Director **Richard Sherman’s Icarus** trio, a program centered around Principal Bassoon **Michael Kroth** called “**A Bundle of Sticks,**” Concertmaster **Seunghee Lee’s Arcos Trio** and **CONNECT:** a collaboration between the **Lansing Symphony and Lansing’s Happendance Contemporary Dance Co.** in celebration of Happendance’s 35th anniversary.

The Lansing Symphony will also present two **Big Band** concerts at Lansing Community College’s Dart Auditorium, a Sacred concert featuring **Haydn’s Lord Nelson Mass** at St. Mary Cathedral in collaboration with the MSU College of Music, and a **Behind the Scenes** event that will allow patrons to experience the rehearsal process of a MasterWorks concert first hand.

Following is a lineup of the 2010/2011 Season:

2010/2011 MASTERWORKS SERIES – all concerts at Wharton Center for Performing Arts

MasterWorks 1: Beethoven’s Triple – Saturday, September 10, 2010 – 8pm - **Timothy Muffitt**, Conductor

The Lansing Symphony’s 81st season opens with the festive **Overture to Donna Diana**. Joining the orchestra for **Beethoven’s Triple Concerto** is **Trio Terzetto**, featuring Okemos native **Tanya Ell**. The young trio has received enormous acclaim for their abilities and passion. They bring their youthful energy to Beethoven’s Triple, a masterpiece for piano trio and orchestra. The evening concludes with **Brahms’s Symphony No. 2**, a cornerstone of the Romantic repertoire. Combining deep, soulful moments with abrupt explosions of sheer joy, the symphony ends triumphantly as we launch our 2010/2011 season.

MasterWorks 2: Tchaikovsky & Sibelius – Friday, October 1, 2010 – 8pm - **Timothy Muffitt**, Conductor

Celebrate the music of England, Russia and Finland with three pieces that represent their homelands with pride.

Vaughan Williams’s Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis opens the concert with a strikingly original blend of ancient themes and English Pastoral Romanticism. The phenomenal **Michael Gurt** will join the orchestra for the strength and passion of **Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1**. The *New York Times* proclaims, “Mr. Gurt displayed an almost superhuman command of the keyboard.” Don’t miss his super powers on this favorite of the piano repertoire. End the evening with a trip through the majestic mountains and fjords of Finland in **Sibelius’s Symphony No. 5**.

MasterWorks 3: Songs of Winter – Saturday, December 4, 2010 – 8pm - **David Rayl**, Guest Conductor

Join us for a celebration of the winter season, an evening that will set the tone for one of the holiest times of year, no matter how you celebrate. “Winter” from **Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons*** evokes swirling snow and icy rain, brought to life by Concertmaster **Seunghye Lee**. **Rutter’s *When Icicles Hang*** showcases the chorus in a cycle of songs celebrating winter. And finally, **Bloch’s *Sacred Service*** invokes the spirit of a synagogue service with its use of chorus and cantor, delivered by powerful and dramatic Baritone **David Small**. With its rich, harmonic language, Bloch’s *Sacred Service* has the power to rejuvenate any winter evening.

MasterWorks 4: Exotic Sketches – Saturday, January 8, 2011 – 8pm - **Timothy Muffitt**, Conductor

Called “powerful” by the *New York Times* and “dazzling” by the *Detroit News*, **Yolanda Kondonassis** brings her exquisite artistry to Lansing for **Ginastera’s Concerto for Harp and Orchestra**, a thrilling force that combines vibrant Argentinean flavors with dramatic and virtuosic solo harp. The theme of colorful far away places begins with **Rossini’s Overture to *La Gazza Ladra***, continues with **Debussy’s** exotic work for harp and orchestra ***Dances Sacrée et Profane*** and concludes with **Respighi’s** epic ***Pines of Rome***.

MasterWorks 5: Passion & Fury – Saturday, March 26, 2011 – 8pm - **Timothy Muffitt**, Conductor

The LSO welcomes Lansing’s own **Melissa White** home for one of the most beloved concertos of all time – **Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto**. A member of the critically-acclaimed Harlem String Quartet, Melissa brings momentum from her exciting young career back to her home town. Next, enjoy **Haydn’s Symphony No. 49 “La Passione,”** and its beautifully melancholy melodies. Finish the evening with selections from **Wagner’s *Ring Cycle***, including “Ride of the Valkyries” and other epic moments.

MasterWorks 6: Exploring Gershwin & Ravel – Saturday, April 16, 2011 – 8pm - **Timothy Muffitt**, Conductor

The 2010/2011 season concludes with a look at jazz from both sides of the Atlantic. **Gershwin’s *Cuban Overture*** starts the night off with thrilling Latin rhythms and rich, exciting orchestration. When **Ravel** was traveling in the United States, he was highly impressed by the jazz movement and incorporated much of what he was hearing into his **Piano Concerto** and **Piano Concerto for the Left Hand**, which will feature pianist **Anton Nel**. Nel has been heralded by the *New York Times* as “an uncommonly elegant pianist” and “an exceptional performer” by the *Chicago Sun Times*. The night concludes with one of Gershwin’s most well-known and energizing works: ***An American in Paris***.

Six-concert subscriptions to the MasterWorks Series range from \$66 to \$252. Four-concert Sampler subscriptions range from \$44 to \$164. Single tickets start at \$12.

2009/2010 POPS SERIES – all concerts at *Wharton Center for Performing Arts*

Cirque de la Symphonie – Friday, October 15, 2010 – 8pm

The magic of cirque combines with the power of the Lansing Symphony. This program of brilliant music and spectacular performance features **Cirque de la Symphonie** performers on and above the stage, presenting a feast for

your eyes and ears. Don't miss amazing acrobatic feats and thrilling aerial tricks accompanied by the "greatest hits" of the orchestral repertoire.

Holiday Pops – Sunday, December 12, 2010 – 3pm - **Timothy Muffitt**, Conductor

Celebrate the season with the Lansing Symphony's Holiday Pops. Join us for all of your holiday favorites, featuring East Lansing native **Glenn Seven Allen**, who takes a break from his exciting Broadway career to celebrate the holidays with us. Make Holiday Pops a part of your family's holiday tradition!

Spectrum: The Music of Motown – Friday, February 24, 2011 – 8pm - **Timothy Muffitt**, Conductor

After spending six years recreating the sound and style of the Four Tops in Las Vegas, **Spectrum** has developed the versatility to cover music of Motown's greatest names. Celebrate the music of Motown, with hits from artist like Smokey Robinson, the Temptation, Marvin Gaye and the Four Tops, all enhanced by the Lansing Symphony, warm harmonies and smooth choreography.

Three-concert subscriptions to the Pop Series range from \$33 to \$108. Single tickets start at \$12.

2010/2011 CHAMBER SERIES

Icarus - Sunday, September 19, 2010 – 3pm – *Plymouth Congregational Church*

Richard Sherman, Flute - **Robert DeMaine**, Cello - **James Wilhelmsen**, Piano

Join Richard Sherman, Principal Flute of the LSO and Artistic Director of the Chamber Series, and his trio Icarus for their return engagement to the Chamber Series, featuring works by Leibermann, Rorem and Dello Joio.

"A Bundle of Sticks" - Sunday, November 7, 2010 – 3pm – *Plymouth Congregational Church*

Michael Kroth, Bassoon

Fagotti, the Italian word for bassoon, literally means "a bundle of sticks." Join us for a program featuring LSO Principal Bassoon Michael Kroth and guests from the orchestra performing a variety of works for woodwinds and bassoon.

CONNECT: Lansing Symphony & Happendance – *Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College*

Saturday, February 12, 2011 – 8pm and Sunday, February 13, 2011 – 3pm

In celebration of Happendance Contemporary Dance Company's 35th anniversary, this collaborative concert of live dance and intimate chamber music will be a treat for all art lovers!

Arcos Trio - Sunday, March 13, 2011 – 3pm – *Plymouth Congregational Church*

Seunghye Lee, Violin - **Carl Donakowski**, Cello - **Anthony Padilla**, Piano

Enjoy an afternoon with LSO Concertmaster Seunghye Lee and her Arcos Trio. Program includes Schumann's Piano Trio No. 1, Piazzolla's *Four Seasons* and Villa Lobos' Piano Trio No. 3.

Four-concert subscriptions to the Chamber Series are \$56 for adults and \$28 for students. Single tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.

2009/2010 BIG BAND CONCERTS – *Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College*

The **Lansing Symphony Big Band** celebrates the music of America's "Greatest Generation" with swing hits from the '30s, '40s and on. Enjoy two afternoons with all your favorite standards from Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Count Basie, Glen Miller and more, led by Director **John Dale Smith**. Two concerts will be held at Lansing Community College's Dart Auditorium on **Sunday, October 10, 2010** and **Sunday, March 6, 2011** at 3:00pm. **Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.**

HAYDN'S LORD NELSON MASS – *St. Mary Cathedral, Lansing*

The Lansing Symphony and MSU College of Music will present a performance of **Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass** on **Sunday, April 10, 2010** at 7:00pm. **David Rayl** will conduct the **MSU University Chorale** and members of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra in a sacred program that will also include works by Michael Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in the majestic setting of St. Mary Cathedral. **Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.**

LANSING SYMPHONY: BEHIND THE SCENES – *Wharton Center for Performing Arts*

Join us **Thursday, March 24, 2011** at 6:00pm for an entertaining and informational evening with the leaders of the Lansing Symphony, including Music Director **Timothy Muffitt**, Executive Director **Courtney Millbrook**, Board members and musicians. Enjoy dinner during a panel discussion of the Lansing Symphony's operations and mission. Then **take your place on stage** with the orchestra for rehearsal of a MasterWorks concert.

TICKET INFORMATION

Subscriptions can be purchased beginning **Monday, April 19th** by calling **(517) 487-5001**. **First-time subscribers are eligible for a 25% discount on their subscription.** Subscription renewals are available by phone or mail. Single tickets go on sale July 1, 2010 by phone or at **www.LansingSymphony.org**.

In addition to subscription packages, ticket buyers also have the option to become VIP members with the VIP Concert Package, which includes every concert the LSO offers. For \$500 per person, VIP members will receive:

- A six-concert MasterWorks Series subscription in the seating zone of their choice
- A three-concert Pops Series subscription in the seating zone of their choice
- A four-concert Chamber Series subscription
- One ticket to each LSO Big Band concert
- One ticket to Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass
- One Parking Pass for all LSO concerts at Wharton Center during the 2010/2011 season

The 2010/2011 season will be Music Director Timothy Muffitt's fifth season with the Lansing Symphony. Muffitt will also be in his 12th season as Music Director & Conductor of the Baton Rouge Symphony. In the summer, he also serves as Music Director of the Chautauqua Institution's Music School Festival Orchestra, one of the country's premier orchestral training ensembles. Previously, Muffitt served as the Associate Conductor of the Austin Symphony and as Artistic Director of the Louisiana Philharmonic's Casual Classics Series, for which he was awarded a Certificate of Meritorious Service from the American Federation of Musicians. Muffitt has appeared with leading orchestras throughout the country and is recognized as a strong proponent of community arts education. He also has appeared with the San Francisco Symphony, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Long Beach Symphony, Columbus Ohio's Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Virginia Symphony, the Grant Park Music Festival Orchestra in Chicago, and the Symphonies of Houston, Phoenix, Edmonton, Harrisburg, and Spokane. He has worked with many prominent performers, including Renee Fleming, Yo Yo Ma, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Andre Watts, Alicia de Larrocha, Pinchas Zukerman, Van Cliburn, Lynn Harrell, and Itzhak Perlman; and many prominent composers, including John Cage, Joseph Schwantner, Ellen Taffe Zwilich, John Harbison, Joan Tower, and Bernard Rands. Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Timothy Muffitt studied at the Eastman School of Music, where he earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

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 LSO's performances by NPR affiliate WKAR-FM Radio. The Symphony's highly acclaimed education programs reach students in kindergarten through 12th grades in five counties. For more information, visit www.LansingSymphony.org or find us on Twitter and Facebook.

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