

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LANSING SYMPHONY CHAMBER SERIES TO FEATURE PRINCIPAL BASSOON MICHAEL KROTH

LANSING, Mich. – October 29, 2010 – The Lansing Symphony Orchestra Chamber Series will present the second of its four concerts on **Sunday, November 7, 2010** at 3:00pm at **Plymouth Congregational Church** in Lansing. The concert, called **“Bundle of Sticks,”** will present works featuring the bassoon, which in Italian is *fagotti*, literally translated to “bundle of sticks.” Lansing Symphony Principal Bassoon **Michael Kroth** will be joined by other members of the Lansing Symphony, including Principal Flute **Richard Sherman** and Second Flute **Bryan Guarnuccio**, violinist **Yoonah Na** and violist **Mikhail Bugaev**. Cellist **Matthew Nix** and pianist **A Ram Lee** will also join the ensemble.



The program will open with Noël Gallon’s (1891-1966) *Recit et Allegro*, written for bassoon and piano. Gallon was an instructor at the Paris Conservatory, and although he was primarily a composer of orchestral music, the *Recit et Allegro* is one of the gems of the bassoon repertoire. The next piece, *Arabesque “Carignane”* by Gallon’s contemporary Jacques Ibert (1890-1962), will also feature bassoon and piano. The *Arabesque* in musical terms is a short piece with repeating elements, and *Carignane* is one of the most widely planted grapes in the world for wine making. Ibert’s *Arabesque “Carignane”* is a beautiful selection featuring a cascading piano line and a simple yet poignant bassoon melody. George Philipp Telemann’s (1681-1767) *Tafel-musik II in D Minor* will feature Kroth, Sherman and Guarnuccio in a high-energy and virtuosic setting.

Tafelmusik, or “table music,” was written to be performed at banquets and is somewhat light in character, but provides musicians with opportunities to demonstrate their talents as virtuosos.

The second half of the program features works written for bassoon by bassoonists, opening with a quartet written by one of the 20th century's greatest bassoonists, Bernard H. Garfield (b. 1924). The Quartet for Bassoon, Violin, Viola and Cello is confident, assertive and exciting. There are influences of Barber and Shostakovich, but the piece is absolutely Garfield's, demonstrating his formidable skills and energetic personality. Garfield was known for his incredible facility on the bassoon, so while the piece is extremely challenging, every note lies perfectly on the instrument. The program will close with a quartet by Francois Devienne (1759-1803), an 18th-century bassoonist who wrote several pieces to show off his lyric and technical abilities. The light-hearted Quartet in C provides the performers plenty of opportunities to sing and dance with its Mozart-like melodies, beautiful aria and playful Rondo.

Tickets for Chamber Series concerts are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. They are available online at www.lansingsymphony.org or by calling (517) 487-5001.

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra's chamber performances were established in 1987 under the artistic direction of I-Fu Wang and grew into the Renaud Chamber Music Society. Under the guidance of Music Director Timothy Muffitt and Artistic Director Richard Sherman, the series is now known as the Lansing Symphony Chamber Series. The 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 ChurchWyble, PC.

Michael Kroth is Principal Bassoon of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra and Associate Professor of Bassoon at the Michigan State University College of Music. Kroth has earned a reputation as an excellent solo, chamber and orchestral musician, having performed in recitals and concerts throughout the United States and Germany. His performances of both serious and novel works for bassoon have been well received by audiences and critics, and he has been praised for his beautiful tone and expressive playing. Kroth earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Bassoon Performance from Ithaca College studying with Edward Gobrecht. He continued his

studies, receiving a Master of Music degree in Bassoon Performance from Temple University, where he studied with Bernard Garfield. He has also studied with Ryohei Nakagawa as a bassoon fellowship student at the Aspen Music Festival. Prior to his appointment at MSU, Kroth was Principal Bassoon with the South Dakota Symphony and Dakota Wind Quintet. He has also held positions as Principal Bassoon with the Air Force Academy Band and the Colorado Springs Symphony Orchestra. Former teaching positions include Augustana College (SD), the University of Sioux Falls, University of South Dakota, and The Colorado College.

Kroth is also a Faculty Artist at the Colorado College Summer Music Festival (Colorado Springs, CO), and Second Bassoon at the Peninsula Music Festival (Door County, WI). Kroth performs regularly with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and he has recently performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He has also performed with the Trenton Symphony the Colorado Ballet, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Kroth has presented master classes at various colleges and universities including the Eastman School of Music and Ithaca College. His performances can be heard regularly on National Public Radio, Colorado Public Radio, Minnesota Public Radio, and South Dakota Public Radio. He has released recordings on the Sound Works, Ultrasound, AFSC, and HCS labels.

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 or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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