

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Catherine Guarino, Director of Communications & Ticket Sales
(517) 487-5001 ext. 10 - catherine@lansingsymphony.org

LANSING SYMPHONY CHAMBER SERIES TO PRESENT TRIO BRAGI: RICHARD SHERMAN, ROBERT deMAINE AND JAMES WILHELMSSEN

LANSING, Mich. – November 4, 2009 – The Lansing Symphony Chamber Series will present the ensemble “Trio Bragi” in chamber concert on **Sunday, November 15, 2009 at 3 p.m.** at **Plymouth Congregational Church** in Lansing. The second concert in the four-concert Chamber Series features Artistic Director and Lansing Symphony Principal Flute **Richard Sherman**, Principal Cello of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra **Robert deMaine** and pianist **James Wilhelmsen**.

The program features three works for flute, cello and piano trio. “Sonata da Camera” by Gabriel Pierné (1863-1937) will begin the program, followed by “Trio” by Jean Francaix (1912-1997). After intermission, the trio will perform Felix Mendelssohn’s “Trio in D-Minor” arranged by Frank Michael. Richard Sherman has titled the program “Trio Con Brio,” to convey his excitement about this combination of musicians and works. In Italian, *con brio* means “with fire” or “with vigor.”

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

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 the artistry of LSO members in an intimate setting and to introduce audiences to some of mid-Michigan’s most talented artists and ensembles. *The 2009/2010 Chamber Series is generously sponsored by the Wilbur & Ruth Wright Charitable Fund, David & Jill Mittleman and ChurchWyble, PC.*

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In addition to serving as principal flute of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Director of the Lansing Symphony Chamber Series, **Richard Sherman** is principal flute of the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra in New York and professor of flute at the Michigan State University College of Music. Active as a soloist, orchestral musician and recitalist, he is recognized as a dynamic performer and an outstanding musician with dramatic power. In addition to studying at the Royal College of Music in London, he received a bachelor's degree in music from the Eastman School of Music and a master's degree in music from Northwestern University. Mr. Sherman is former principal flute with the Rochester (New York) Philharmonic Orchestra and has given performances with the Chicago Symphony, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony, the Toronto Symphony and the Florida Symphony. He has performed as a soloist with the Columbus Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic, Youngstown Symphony, Lansing Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony and Bridgeport Symphony, among others. He is currently head of winds, brass and percussion at the Chautauqua Music School, part of the Chautauqua Institution. He has given master classes at many universities through the United States, as well as at the Sydney Conservatory in Sydney, Australia, at the Queensland Conservatory in Brisbane, Australia and as part of the National Brazilian Flute Convention. Mr. Sherman recorded an album with the late pianist Kimberly Schmidt. He has also recorded two albums with pianist Ralph Votapek, released on Summit Records, with a third to be released in the spring of 2010.

Praised by *The New York Times* as “an artist who makes one hang on every note,” **Robert deMaine** has distinguished himself as one of the finest and most versatile cellists of his generation, having performed to critical acclaim as soloist, recitalist, orchestral principal, recording artist, and chamber musician throughout the world, from Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York to the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires. A first-prize winner in many national and international competitions from the time he was 12 years old, deMaine became, in 1990, the first cellist ever to win San Francisco's prestigious Irving M. Klein International Competition for Strings. Robert deMaine has collaborated with many distinguished musicians, including violinists Gil Shaham, Pamela Frank, Joseph Silverstein, and Felix Galimir, pianists Emanuel Ax, Claude Frank, Anton Kuerti, and Yefim Bronfman, and conductors Neeme Järvi, Leonard Slatkin, Arild Remmereit, Ludovic Morlot, Peter Oundjian, Thomas Wilkins, Walter Hendl, Mark Wigglesworth, Nicholas McGegan, Jun Märkl, Alexander Schneider, and Yoav Talmi. As a chamber musician, he is a frequent guest artist at music festivals throughout the world, including Aspen,

Chautauqua, Norfolk, Seattle, Steamboat Springs, Utah, Heidelberg, Festival Asturias, San Miguel de Allende, Buenos Aires, and the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont, also performing with Music from Marlboro in New York and Washington, D.C. He has collaborated with the Beaux Arts Trio, Kronos Quartet, Cleveland, Juilliard, Emerson and American String Quartets, and now performs regularly with violinist James Ehnes and pianist Andrew Armstrong. Currently Principal Cellist of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Mr. deMaine has served in the same capacity with the New York String Orchestra, Neeme Järvi's All-Star Mahler Orchestra at the Riverside Church in New York, Hartford Symphony Orchestra and Connecticut Opera, and was Visiting Principal of the Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra in Boston and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

James Wilhelmsen studied at the Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Michigan, receiving a DMA in Chamber Music and Piano Performance from the latter. He studied chamber music and vocal accompanying in Vienna, Austria as a Fulbright scholar, and was a semi-finalist in duo violin and piano at the Internationaler Musikwettbewerb in Munich, West Germany. Mr. Wilhelmsen has performed widely throughout North America, Europe and Australia, both on stage and on radio and television. He has recorded and toured with many of the world's great musicians, including violinists Ruggiero Ricci and Aaron Rosand, the Verdehr Trio, and Metropolitan Opera basso Ara Berberian. Although he is primarily known as a vocal accompanist, recitalist and chamber musician, Mr. Wilhelmsen is also fluent in jazz and other popular styles, having worked with Aretha Franklin, "Fat Bob" Taylor, Martha Reeves and many others. He performs regularly with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as well. A former member of the piano faculty of the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor, Mr. Wilhelmsen also owns and operates the Clarkston Conservatory of Music in Clarkston, MI, and has been on the faculties of Wayne State University and the Center for Creative Studies Institute of Music and Dance.

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra was established in 1929 and is currently celebrating its 80th season. 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 performances by NPR affiliate WKAR-FM Radio. The Symphony's highly-acclaimed education programs reach 15,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade in five counties. For more information, visit www.LansingSymphony.org.

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