

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

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September 3, 2008 – Lansing, MI – Today marks the 2nd Annual Lansing Symphony Day in the city of Lansing. Last year on the first Wednesday of September, Mayor Virg Bernero proclaimed Lansing Symphony Orchestra Day “... in recognition of the 78 years of cultural, educational and musical contributions that the Lansing Symphony Orchestra (LSO) has proved to our community ...”

This year’s Lansing Symphony Day will feature a press conference with Mayor Bernero at City Hall at 10:30 a.m., a performance by LSO musician Sarah Miles, and a presentation with LSO Music Director Timothy Muffitt, Executive Director David Gross and Board members Charles Hillary (President-Elect) and John Loose (Special Campaign Chair). With the support of Mayor Bernero as Honorary Chair, the group from the LSO will announce “Securing a Sound Future” – a three-year campaign in which the Symphony aims to raise a minimum of \$500,000 to ensure the long-range financial stability of the LSO. “Securing a Sound Future” seeks gifts and contributions from individuals, companies and government organizations whose communities the LSO serves.

Lansing Symphony Day also serves as an appropriate launch to the 2008/2009 Season, entitled “Begin Your Journey.” The LSO invites symphony goers old and new to “Begin Your Journey” with its opening concert on September 6, 2008 at 8 p.m. at Wharton Center’s Great Hall. The season premiere, MasterWorks 1: The Gypsy Life, features guest artist David Kim performing Brahms’s Violin Concerto, as

well as Ravel's exciting *Rhapsody Espagnole*. The performance will be led by Music Director Timothy Muffitt. Tickets start at \$10 and are available by calling (517) 487-5001 or online at www.lansingsymphony.org.

This is Music Director Timothy Muffitt's third season with the Lansing Symphony. In addition to his role with the LSO, Muffitt is in his tenth season as Music Director and 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 premiere 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 Orchestra's concerts 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.

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