

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

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LANSING SYMPHONY OPENS CHAMBER SERIES WITH BEAUMONT BRASS

LANSING, Mich. - September 3, 2008 – The Lansing Symphony Orchestra will open its Chamber Series on Sunday, September 14, 2008 at 3 p.m. at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing. The first concert in the four-concert Chamber Series features Beaumont Brass, a brass quintet composed of many of the Lansing Symphony's principal musicians. Beaumont Brass is: Richard Illman, Trumpet; Michael Bowman, Trumpet; Ava Ordman, Trombone; Janine Gaboury, Horn; and Phil Sinder, Tuba.

Their program will feature several familiar compositions, arranged for brass quintet. The eclectic program includes: Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story Suite*, arranged by Jack Gale and a festive arrangement of Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever." Some contemporary pieces they'll perform were written specifically for brass quintet and include: *Divertissement for Tuba and Brass Quartet* by Barboteu and *Seasons* – not Vivaldi's string quartets, but a four-movement piece written by composer John Stevens written in 1984.

Four-concert subscriptions for the Lansing Symphony's Chamber Series are \$54 for adults and \$26 for students. Single tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for students. Subscriptions and single tickets are available online at www.lansingsymphony.org or by calling the Symphony office at (517) 487-5001.

Beaumont Brass is the faculty brass quintet at the Michigan State University College of Music. Formed in 1989, the quintet is named after the Beaumont Tower -- the landmark bell tower located in the scenic, older part of the MSU campus. The Beaumont Brass has performed throughout Michigan and the Midwest. The quintet presents concerts and clinics in a variety of settings, from public



schools, campus concert halls, and Southeast Michigan churches, to guest appearances with the Empire Brass and Canadian Brass. Members of the quintet consist of faculty and graduate students, several of whom have subsequently won positions in the Saint Louis Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony, Lansing Symphony, United States Marine Band, Ft. Wayne Philharmonic, and at Eastern Michigan University. In 2000, the Beaumont Brass released its first recording, *Christmas at Beaumont Tower*. (Mark Records #3609 MCD). Pictured (from left): Michael Bowman, Janine Gaboury, Richard Illman, Ava Ordman, and Phil Sinder.

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 2008/2009 Chamber Series is generously sponsored by Bruce & Virginia Allen and the Wilbur & Ruth Wright Charitable Fund.

In addition to serving as principal flute of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Director of the 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, and Chautauqua Symphony. He has given master classes at many universities through the United States, as well as at the Sydney Conservatory in Sydney, Australia, and at the Queensland Conservatory in Brisbane, Australia. His recordings with pianist Ralph Votapek, *Flute Sonatas* and *American Landscape*, were released on Summit Records.

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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