



TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR



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LSO PARTNERS WITH MID-MICHIGAN FOOD BANK FOR ORCHESTRAS FEEDING AMERICA

Lansing, MI – February 25, 2010 – The Lansing Symphony Orchestra (LSO) has partnered with the Mid-Michigan Food Bank (MMFB) for Orchestras Feeding America, an initiative launched by the League of American Orchestras to encourage orchestras nationwide to make a difference in their communities. During the month of March, the LSO is asking audience members to donate food items at their concerts:

Lansing Symphony Big Band – Sunday, March 7th – 3pm – Dart Auditorium, LCC campus

LSO Chamber Series – Sunday, March 14th – 3pm – Plymouth Congregational Church

MasterWorks 5: Reflections of Romanticism – Saturday, March 27th – 8pm – Wharton Center

A Press Conference to launch the campaign will be held **Tuesday, March 2nd at 10:00am** at the Mid-Michigan Food Bank warehouse, located at 2116 Mint Road in Lansing. LSO Music Director **Timothy Muffitt** and MMFB Director **Dave Carr** will both speak about this exciting new partnership.

The LSO is also implementing a “Tuna for Tunes” promotion: Make a donation of 10 cans of tuna at the LSO office and purchase a discounted \$10 ticket to an LSO performance in March. Tuna is an important high-protein item that is currently in high demand at the MMFB.

“The Lansing Symphony has been a proud member of the mid-Michigan community for 80 years,” said LSO Executive Director **Courtney Millbrook**. “We are proud to join Orchestras Feeding America to help battle hunger in the homes of our local families.”

The initiative comes at a time when the issue of hunger is growing in mid-Michigan. 58,300 people in mid-Michigan receive emergency food each year through the Mid-Michigan Food Bank's hunger-relief network, with 28% of those recipients being children. 87% of pantries, 92% of kitchens and 40% of shelters of the Mid-Michigan Food Bank reported that there had been an increase since 2006 in the number of clients who come to their emergency food program sites.

“The Mid-Michigan Food Bank is excited about the partnership with the LSO and Orchestras Feeding America,” said MMFB Warehouse Supervisor **Kathe Smith**. “It really shows the heart of our orchestra and the desire of its members to join this community in the fight to end hunger right here in Lansing!”

Last year, with more than 250 orchestras representing all 50 states, the League of American Orchestra's Orchestras Feeding America program was the single largest orchestra project serving communities nationwide, collecting over 200,000 pounds of food for local communities.

The mission of the Mid-Michigan Food Bank is to feed mid-Michigan's hungry through a regional network of over 200 soup kitchens, shelters, and food pantries; and to engage our region in the fight to end hunger. Every week the Food Bank's agencies feed over 1100 people, nearly 30% of which are children. Established over 25 years ago, the MMFB serves in Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Isabella and Shiawassee counties. More information and resources are available on www.MidMichiganFoodBank.org and on the Food Bank's Facebook and Twitter pages.

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra was established in 1929 and is celebrating its 80th anniversary. 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 15,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grades. For more information, visit www.LansingSymphony.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

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