

# LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### LANSING SYMPHONY PRESENTS NEW AND OLD WITH “ACROSS CONTINENTS AND THROUGH THE CENTURIES”

**September 19, 2008 – Lansing, MI** – On Saturday, October 11, 2008 the Lansing Symphony Orchestra will presents its second MasterWorks concert of the 2008/2009 Season – “Begin Your Journey.” MasterWorks 2: Across Continents & Through the Centuries will include Beethoven’s Symphony No. 4 in B-flat Major and the orchestral premiere of David Maslanka’s Concerto for Alto Saxophone & Orchestra, featuring Joseph Luloff, Saxophone. The performance will be led by LSO Music Director Timothy Muffitt. Both Luloff and Maslanka are graduates of Michigan State University, and Luloff holds the position of Distinguished Professor of Saxophone Performance Studies there now. (More about each artist below – read on!)

**MasterWorks 2: Across Continents & Through the Centuries is Saturday, October 11, 2008 at 8 p.m. at the Wharton Center’s Cobb Great Hall.** Single tickets range from \$10 - \$43, depending on seating, with half-off student rush tickets available one-hour prior to the concert at the Wharton Center Box Office. Four-concert MasterWorks Sampler subscriptions are also available, starting at just \$38. **Tickets are available by calling (517) 487-5001 or online at [www.lansingsymphony.org](http://www.lansingsymphony.org).**

David Maslanka originally wrote his Concerto for Alto Saxophone for saxophone and wind ensemble. The premiere performance was in 2000 by the University of Arizona Wind Ensemble, with

Joseph Lulloff as soloist. Last year, Timothy Muffitt contacted Maslanka to ask if he would consider transcribing the concerto for orchestra. The LSO's performance on October 11, 2008 will be the premiere performance of the orchestral version. The following is taken from Maslanka's own notes on his work: This concerto "... suggests a music that is more intimate than symphonic. I don't know what the story is, only that it wants to be music, and not words." The five movements of his concerto certainly create an interesting image:

- I. Song: "Fire in the Earth"
- II. Interlude: "Bright Window, Your Night is Full of Stars"
- III: Song: "Dear Jesus, What Have You Done?!"
- IV: Interlude: "Starry Night"
- V: Song: "Mortal, Have You Seen This?"

David Maslanka was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts and studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He received his Masters and Doctorate degrees from Michigan State University where he studied composition with H.Owen Reed and clarinet with the LSO's own Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr. He has served on the faculties of the State University of New York at Geneseo, Sarah Lawrence College, New York University, and Kingsborough College of the City University of New York. David Maslanka will be in East Lansing for the October 11, 2008 performance, and will join WKAR 90.5 Classical host Jody Knol in a PreView Conversation 45-minutes prior to the 8 p.m. performance.

Joseph Lulloff has been acclaimed internationally for his innovative style and unparalleled virtuosity on the saxophone. He has been described by Branford Marsalis as "a marvelous musician" whose "knowledge of music, along with his ability to embrace music normally considered outside the sphere, makes him a joy to listen to." He performs regularly with symphony orchestras throughout the United States and as soloist in many of the most prestigious concert venues in the Americas, Europe, Southeast Asia and Japan. He received both Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Michigan State University. He has taught at the University of Illinois and is currently Distinguished Professor of Saxophone Performance Studies at Michigan State University, from which he has received the Teacher/Scholar Award and the Distinguished Faculty Award. As soprano saxophonist with the Capitol Quartet, Mr. Lulloff performs and participates in educational residences with this critically acclaimed

saxophone quartet throughout the United States. Joseph Lulloff is a Yamaha Performing Artist and resides in Okemos with his wife Janet and son Jordan.

Not to be outdone by a comparatively young composer, Beethoven will have a strong presence in the second half of the concert, which, as its title suggests, spans both continents and centuries.

Beethoven's Symphony No. 4 in B-flat Major may not be one that you are terribly familiar with, not having nearly the popularity of its successor, the powerhouse Fifth Symphony. But in its four movements, the Fourth Symphony is a graceful and wonderfully constructed work that reflects moments of true joy in Beethoven's life. The second movement, in particular, is considered one of the most passionate expressions found in all of Beethoven's symphonies. It was composed at the same time that he wrote the now-famous letters to his "immortal beloved."

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. More information can be found at [www.lansingsymphony.org](http://www.lansingsymphony.org).

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