

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 PRESENTS SPECIAL CHAMBER CONCERT AT DART AUDITORIUM

LANSING, Mich. – April 7, 2009 – For the last concert in its 2008/2009 Chamber Series, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra is pulling out all the stops. On Sunday, April 26th at 3:00pm, the LSO will present Igor Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* (A Soldier's Tale), along with Michael Daugherty's companion piece *Dead Elvis*. This performance will not only feature seven of the LSO's finest musicians conducted by Music Director Timothy Muffitt (making his Chamber Series debut), but it will also be staged collaboratively with actors from BoarsHead Theater. To accommodate staging, the concert will be held at Lansing Community College's Dart Auditorium.

L'Histoire du Soldat tells the story of a Russian soldier returning home on leave from World War I who is tempted into selling his violin – his soul – to the devil. Various actors will play the roles of the soldier, the devil and the narrator. The chamber ensemble is made up of mainly LSO principal musicians: Assistant Concertmaster Anton Shelepov, Principal Bass Ed Fedewa, Principal Clarinet Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr, Principal Bassoon Michael Kroth, Principal Trumpet Richard Illman, Principal Trombone Ava Ordman and Gwen Burgett, Percussion.

Chamber Concert 4

Timothy Muffitt, Conductor
Smart Office Systems Chair

Sunday, April 26th – 3:00pm

Dart Auditorium, LCC campus
500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

DAUGHERTY – *Dead Elvis*
STRAVINSKY – *L'Histoire du Soldat*

Tickets: \$15 Adults / \$7 Students

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Michael Daugherty wrote *Dead Elvis* in 1993 as a companion piece to Stravinsky's *L'Histoire*. It is written for the same group of seven instruments, though it does not include narration. Instead of a soldier selling his soul, *Dead Elvis* examines "a rock star [who] sells out ... for wealth and fame." (Composer's program notes.) Principal Bassoon Michael Kroth will don an Elvis suit for this performance and will be accompanied by the rest of the ensemble.

Tickets for Chamber Concerts are \$15 for adults and \$7 for students. Tickets are available online at www.lansingsymphony.org or by calling the Symphony office at (517) 487-5001.

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 premier orchestral training ensembles. Muffitt has appeared with leading orchestras throughout the country and is recognized as a strong proponent of community arts education. 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. 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'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 (*Smart Office Systems Chair*) and Artistic Director Richard Sherman (*Bruce & Virginia Allen Chair*), 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 the Wilbur & Ruth Wright Charitable Fund.

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