

# LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AWARDED \$16,000 BY MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**Lansing, MI – September 17, 2008** – The Lansing Symphony Orchestra has been awarded \$16,000 of the nearly \$7.9 Million that the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) will award to a variety of arts and cultural projects around the state during the 2009 fiscal year. This is the same amount that the Lansing Symphony Orchestra was awarded in 2008. Approximately one-third of the Lansing Symphony's annual income is made up of ticket sales; the rest must come from individual donors, corporate sponsors, private foundations and government grants like this one. The largest grant the LSO has received from MCACA was \$70,350 in 2001, when MCACA's total budget was just under \$26 Million. The LSO extends its thanks to the Council, but expresses its concern over the nearly \$55,000 loss in grants over eight years. "The Lansing Symphony is grateful for the support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. This grant goes to supporting jobs and improving the quality of life in mid-Michigan. Both are critical towards moving our state forward," said LSO Executive Director David Gross.

The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs serves to encourage, develop and facilitate an enriched environment of artistic, creative, cultural activity in Michigan. 290 grant awards for projects in 53 Michigan counties were approved and announced on September 9th by Dr. William Anderson, Director of the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries.

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. Over 2,500 children attend the Young People's Concert where students in grades 4 through 6 learn about orchestral instruments, music and practice through a narrated concert. At least 1,000 students participate in the Music In Our Schools presentations which bring LSO musicians into area classrooms.

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