

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

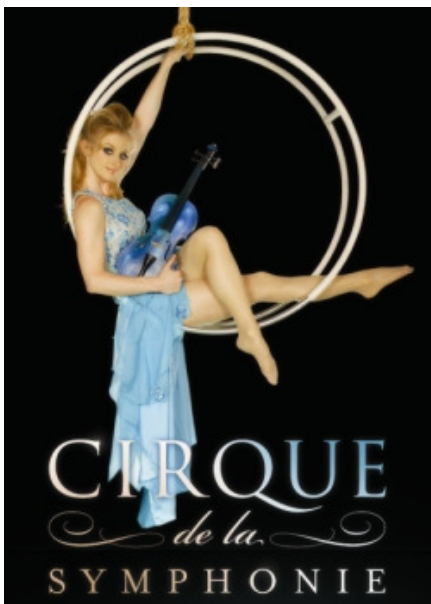
TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Catherine Guarino, Director of Education & Community Engagement
(517) 487-5001 ext. 10 - catherine@lansingsymphony.org

LANSING SYMPHONY TO PRESENT CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE OCTOBER 15TH



Lansing, MI – October 1, 2010 – The Lansing Symphony Orchestra will present the nationally-touring show **Cirque de la Symphonie** on **Friday, October 15, 2010** at 8pm at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts. Called a “blockbuster of sight and sound,” a “delight” and “truly amazing,” **Cirque de la Symphonie** combines some of the world’s finest acrobats and aerial artists with the “greatest hits” of classical music. Led by Guest Conductor **John Varineau**, the charismatic Associate Conductor of the Grand Rapids Symphony, the orchestra will perform favorites like Dvorak’s *Carnival*

Overture, selections from Bizet’s *Carmen*, Chabrier’s *España*, dances from Tchaikovsky’s *Swan Lake* and “Harry’s Wondrous World” from John Williams’ brilliant score to *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*. On and above the stage, performers will juggle rings, perform contortions, twist in ropes and swing from the rafters in time with the music for a combined performance that will be dazzling.

Tickets for Cirque de la Symphonie range from \$12-\$40, and are available by calling (517) 487-5001 or online at www.LansingSymphony.org. Three-concert Pops Series Subscriptions are available, which also include the annual Holiday Pops and Spectrum: The Music of Motown to be presented in February. A 25% discount is available for first-time subscribers.

The Lansing Symphony Pops Series is presented by Auto-Owners Insurance. Cirque de la Symphonie is sponsored by Plante Moran and the MSU Federal Credit Union.



As Associate Conductor of the Grand Rapids Symphony, **John Varineau** conducts the orchestra on all of its concert series, including the Richard and Helen DeVos Classical Series, Fox Motors Pops Series, the SymphonicBoom Series, Rising Stars Series, DTE Energy Foundation Family Series, Lollipop Concerts and the D&W Fresh Market Picnic Pops. He also conducts a variety of educational and outreach concerts throughout the area. Mr. Varineau is committed to nurturing the next generation of classical music lovers. He is a frequent visitor to area schools, and shares an infectious enthusiasm with students throughout West Michigan. The 2009/2010 Season marked his 25th anniversary with the Symphony and 22nd year as the conductor of the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony and Classical Orchestra. He has been a visiting orchestra conductor both at Calvin College and Western Michigan University. Recently, he was a guest conductor for the Traverse City Symphony. Lansing Symphony audiences will also recognize him as the author of our MasterWorks program notes. Mr. Varineau also appears in a variety of summer music programs in the region and plays in the chamber music group, Montage. In 2003, he appeared twice as a guest conductor with the Arkansas Symphony. Additionally, he conducts the Grand Rapids Symphony for performances by the Grand Rapids Ballet Company. Mr. Varineau is a clarinetist and teaches clarinet at Calvin College, Cornerstone University and Grand Rapids Community College. Mr. Varineau attended Michigan State University, University of Wyoming and Yale School of Music for his clarinet training. He has made three recordings with the Grand Rapids Symphony and three with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Alexander Streltsov is a Russian aerial artist who started working with future Cirque du Soleil choreographer Pavel Brun and famed producer Valentin Gneushev when he was only twelve, performing on Broadway at the Gershwin Theater. The same year he won the gold medal in the competition among international cirque artists at the prestigious Festival Mondial Du Cirque De L'Avenir in Paris. His combination of natural strength, artistic expression and grace sets his performance apart from other aerialists. He has performed for three Russian presidents and the Bolshoi Ballet, numerous symphonies in the US and Europe and elaborate theater and stage productions worldwide. He has made many television appearances, such as the ABC-TV special *Christopher Reeve - A Celebration of Hope* and the PBS nationwide broadcast of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's Fourth of July Celebration. He continues to be a favorite at music halls, where he soars out over the audience in a spectacular display of aerial artistry and performs his riveting spinning cube act.

Christine Van Loo is a seven-time consecutive National Champion, Female Olympic Athlete of the Year and Athlete of the Decade in acrobatic gymnastics. She was inducted into the USSA (acrobatics) Hall of Fame and the World Acrobatics Society Gallery of Honor. As a professional aerialist and acrobat, she has performed in the 2002 Winter Olympics, at two Grammy Awards, at the American Music Awards, the Miss Universe pageant and Paul McCartney's European tour. She choreographed the aerials for Britney Spears World Tour and the Stars on Ice US tour. Ms. Van Loo will provide mesmerizing performances of static silks, aerial hoop and duo trapeze tonight.

Vladimir Tsarkov provides a spell-binding performance with combinations of mime and juggling feats. A favorite of the younger members of the audiences, Mr. Tsarkov's Red Harlequin act features rings, balls and batons, and he's even been known to teach the maestro a trick or two! He is a veteran of Circus Circus, Cirque Ingenieux and various Cirque de la Symphonie performances. Mr. Tsarkov graduated from Russia's prestigious State College of Circus and Theater Arts and won the gold medal at the Cirque de Demain International Festival in France.

Elena Tsarkova, the "Lady in White," is a graduate of the famed Moscow Circus School and first-place winner of the prestigious National Russian Circus Festival. From her "Master of Sports" in gymnastics, Elena developed into a unique and graceful performer with the Big Apple Circus, Switzerland's Circus Knie and Germany's Circus Roncalli. Her combination of contortion, balance and graceful dance moves has made her a major star with Cirque de la Mur in Florida and Circus Circus in Las Vegas. Ms. Tsarkova's experience with many major stage and theater productions offers a professional background that allows for a truly unforgettable and elegant performance.

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra was established in 1929. More than 20,000 people attend Lansing Symphony concerts each year, and more than 250,000 listeners are able to hear broadcasts of the Lansing Symphony's performances by NPR affiliate WKAR-FM Radio. The Symphony's education programs reach students in kindergarten through 12th grades. For more information, visit www.LansingSymphony.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

###