

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LANSING SYMPHONY TO PRESENT HOLIDAY POPS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

November 20, 2008 – Lansing, MI – Each year, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra provides mid-Michigan families with the opportunity to celebrate the music of the season together. The Symphony's annual **Holiday Pops** has been a part of the lives of mid-Michigan families for decades, and this year on **Sunday, December 21st** at 3:00pm Music Director **Timothy Muffitt** and the Lansing Symphony Orchestra will fill the Wharton Center with warm tidings of the holiday season. **Tickets range from \$10-\$33, with student prices available. Tickets available online at www.LansingSymphony.org or by calling (517) 487-5001.**

Holiday Pops

Sunday, December 21, 2008
3:00 p.m.
Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall

Timothy Muffitt Conductor
Smart Office Systems Chair
Diane Penning Soprano

Tickets: \$10-\$33

www.LansingSymphony.org
(517) 487-5001



Joining the LSO for this season's Holiday Pops is Soprano **Diane Penning**, who will be featured on such classics as "Ave Maria," "Oh Holy Night," and a *Christmas Pops Medley* that includes favorite holiday carols. Other holiday classics on the program include: "Sleigh Ride," "Carol of the Bells," "March of the Toys" from *Babes in Toyland*, "We Three Kings," "Festive Sounds of Hanukkah," and selections from *The Nutcracker Suite*.

Timothy Muffitt invites families from all over mid-Michigan to join the Lansing

Symphony for Holiday Pops: “There’s such a strong connection between music and the holidays ... one of the greatest elements of appeal with this program is the opportunity for families to come together and enjoy music with each other.”

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra’s Pops Series is sponsored by Auto-Owners Insurance. Holiday Pops is co-sponsored by Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C., Merrill Lynch and NuUnion Credit Union.

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.

Equally at home in classical and pops repertoire, Diane Penning has performed with orchestras around the country, with some in programs of both genres, including the Adrian, Arkansas, Battle Creek,

Bijou and Colorado Springs Symphonies; the Dayton Philharmonic; the Dearborn, DuPage, Elgin, Elmhurst, Grand Rapids and Grant Park Music Festival Symphonies; the Interlochen Arts Academy; and the Kalamazoo, Lafayette, Midland, Park Ridge, Saginaw Bay, Sheboygan, South Bend, South West Michigan and Traverse Symphonies. Her musical theatre credits include Cunegonde in *Candide*, Marian in *The Music Man*, Amalia in *She Loves Me*, Maria in *West Side Story* and “The Grouch” in Kapilow’s *Green Eggs & Ham*. Her opera roles include Frasquita in *Carmen*, Musetta in *La Boheme* and Papagena in *The Magic Flute*. Pennings’s work in oratorio includes Bach’s *B minor Mass* and *Christmas Oratorio*; Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony*; Faure’s *Requiem*; Handel’s *Messiah*; Haydn’s *Creation*, *Harmonie Messe* and *Lord Nelson Mass*; Mozart’s *Requiem*; Orff’s *Carmina Burana*; Poulenc’s *Gloria*; Rutter’s *Magnificat* under the baton of Sir David Willcocks; and Vaughan Williams’s *Dona Nobis Pacem*, with such organizations as the Apollo Chorus in Chicago’s Orchestra Hall, the Kalamazoo Bach Festival and the Calvin College Oratorio Society. Diane Penning holds degrees in music and voice from the University of Michigan and Western Michigan University.

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.

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