

# LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### LANSING SYMPHONY TO PRESENT ILYA KALER AND AMIT PELED IN “COMMAND PERFORMANCE”

Lansing, MI – January 4, 2010 – The Lansing Symphony Orchestra will welcome back two guest artists for a “**Command Performance**” on **January 23, 2010** at Wharton Center’s Great Hall. The MasterWorks Series concert, conducted by **Music Director Timothy Muffitt**, will feature **Violinist Ilya Kaler** and **Cellist Amit Peled** performing Brahms’ Double Concerto in A Minor. Also on the program are Strauss’ tone poem *Don Juan* and a suite from Mendelssohn’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Tickets range from \$45-\$12, based on seating, with student prices available. Tickets available by calling **(517) 487-5001** or online at **www.LansingSymphony.org**.

Four-concert **MasterWorks Sampler Subscriptions** are also available, with a 25% discount offered to first-time subscribers.

**Ilya Kaler** performed Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto in D Major with Timothy Muffitt and the LSO in 2006. **Amit Peled** appeared with the orchestra in 2007, performing Lalo’s Cello Concerto in D Minor. Often performing together as a part of The Tempest Trio, Kaler and Peled will combine for **Johannes Brahms’** (1833-1897) final work for orchestra – his Double Concerto in A Minor. Amit Peled has been called “fiery and intelligent” with “bold and dramatically conceived interpretation.” (*Strad Magazine*, London) About Ilya Kaler, the *Los Angeles Times* claims “you will never hear the violin played more perfectly ... Kaler displays a complete virtuoso arsenal, rhythmic vitality, warmth of tone and sentiment.”

**Felix Mendelssohn** (1809-1847) composed his Overture to *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in 1826. In it, he gives each of Shakespeare’s characters a musical voice and weaves a beautifully lyrical “love” theme through the entire movement. It wasn’t until 1842, when he was asked by the King of Prussia to write musical accompaniment to the play, that he wrote the remaining movements. The LSO will perform the Overture, as well as the Scherzo, which introduces the action of the fairies; the Nocturne, which is set at the end of Act III as the lovers all fall asleep in the forest; and the Wedding March, which depicts the wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta and is recognizable from many non-fiction weddings.

#### MasterWorks 3: Command Performance

Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:00pm  
Wharton Center’s Great Hall

Timothy Muffitt, Conductor  
Ilya Kaler, Violin  
Amit Peled, Cello

Tickets: \$45 - \$12, based on seating  
**(517) 487-5001**  
www.LansingSymphony.org

During his career, **Richard Strauss** (1864-1949) wrote several tone poems, single movement orchestral works that illustrate a particular story, painting, poem, landscape or other non-musical entity. He wrote tone poems on subjects like *Macbeth* and *Don Quixote*, but *Don Juan* is considered his greatest early work, written when he was just 24. This piece illustrates the lusty Don's dashes from one love to the next, each portrayal ranging from passionate to noble to tender or timid.

*MasterWorks 3: Command Performance* is sponsored by the LSO Maestro Society. Media Partner: AM Lansing.

Described by London's *Gramophone* as a "magician, bewitching our ears," **Ilya Kaler** is one of the most outstanding personalities of the violin today. His recordings of the Paganini Caprices have been deemed by *American Record Guide* to be "in a class by themselves," combining "the perfection, passion and phrase sculpting of Michael Rabin with the energy, excitement and immediacy of Jascha Heifetz." *The Washington Post* lauds him as "a consummate musician, in total control at all times, with a



peerless mastery of his violin." Mr. Kaler was born in Moscow into a family of musicians. He has earned rave reviews for solo appearances with distinguished orchestras throughout the world, which included the Leningrad, Moscow and Dresden Philharmonic Orchestras, the Montreal Symphony, the Danish and Berlin Radio Orchestras, Detroit Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Seattle Symphony, New Japan Philharmonic and the Moscow and Zurich Chamber Orchestras, among others. His solo recitals have taken him throughout the former Soviet Union, United States, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, South Africa and Israel. One of the most sought-after teachers in the world, he has served as a Distinguished Professor at Indiana University School of Music and Eastman School of Music and is currently a Professor of Violin at DePaul University School of Music. Among his many awards are Gold Medals at the Tchaikovsky, Sibelius and Paganini Competitions. Mr. Kaler performs on a "Sennhauser" Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesu violin, 1735, on generous loan from the Stradivari Society of Chicago.



From the United States to Europe to the Middle East to Asia, **Amit Peled**, a musician of profound artistry and charismatic stage presence, is acclaimed as one of the most exciting cellists on the concert stage today. Mr. Peled has performed as soloist with orchestras in the world's major concert halls including Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall, New York; Salle Gaveau, Paris; Wigmore Hall, London; Konzerthaus Berlin; and Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium. Mr. Peled is also a frequent guest artist, performing and giving master classes at prestigious summer music festivals such as the Marlboro Music Festival, Newport Music Festival, Seattle Chamber Music Festival, Heifetz International Music Institute, Schleswig Holstein Festival and Euro Arts Festival in Germany, Gotland Festival in Sweden, Prussia

Cove Festival in England, the Violoncello Congress in Spain and the Kfar Blum Music Festival in Israel. As a recording artist, Mr. Peled recently released his CD, *The Jewish Soul*, on Centaur Records. In addition, as an advocate of Israeli music, he has recorded the Cello Concerto by Mark Kopytman with the Tel Aviv Soloists for

the JMC label. He also premiered, under the baton of conductor Ilan Volkov, the Cello Concerto by Israeli composer Erel Paz, written for and dedicated to Mr. Peled. Amit Peled has been featured on television and radio stations throughout the world, including NPR's *Performance Today*, WGBH Boston, WQXR New York, WFMT Chicago, Deutschland Radio Berlin, Radio France, Swedish National Radio & TV and Israeli National Radio & TV. A celebrated artist on the website of the Internet Cello Society, Mr. Peled is a Professor at the Peabody Conservatory of Music of Johns Hopkins University and plays a rare Andrea Guarneri cello ca. 1689.

This is **Music Director Timothy Muffitt's** fourth season with the Lansing Symphony. In addition to his role with the LSO, Muffitt is in his 11<sup>th</sup> season as Music Director & 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. 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 and is currently celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> season. More than 20,000 people attend LSO concerts each year, and more than 50,000 listeners are able to hear broadcasts of the LSO's performances by NPR affiliate WKAR-FM Radio. The Symphony's highly acclaimed education programs reach 15,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grades in five counties. For more information, visit [www.LansingSymphony.org](http://www.LansingSymphony.org) or find us on Facebook® or Twitter.

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