

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LANSING SYMPHONY TO PRESENT MASTERWORKS 3: SONGS OF WINTER - DEC. 4TH

Lansing, MI – November 4, 2010 – The **Lansing Symphony Orchestra** will present the third concert in its 2010/2011 MasterWorks Series “**Songs of Winter**” on **Saturday, December 4th at 8 p.m.** at Wharton Center for Performing Arts. The performance, led by Guest Conductor **David Rayl**, will be a celebration of the winter season, an evening that will set the tone for one of the holiest times of year, no matter how you celebrate. The program will open with “**Winter**” from **Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons***, brought to life by Concertmaster **Seunghye Lee** as soloist. Next, the **MSU Choral Union** and **Chorale** will join the orchestra for **John Rutter’s *When Icicles Hang***, a cycle of songs celebrating winter and featuring works with lyrics by Shakespeare (“**Icicles**” and “**Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind**”) and Thomas Campion (“**Winter Nights**”). Finally, the chorus and orchestra will combine with guest baritone **David Small** for **Ernst Bloch’s *Sacred Service (Avodath Hakodesh)***, a setting of the Jewish Sabbath Morning Service. This monumental work, the first full setting of the Sabbath Service for orchestra and chorus, invokes the spirit of a synagogue service with its use of chorus, cantor and Hebrew text.

MasterWorks 3: Songs of Winter is sponsored in part by the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Tickets start at \$12, 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. Student discounts available on all concerts and subscriptions.

David Rayl is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Michigan State University, where he conducts the MSU Chorale and Choral Union, directs the graduate program in choral conducting and serves as Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in Music. Previously, David Rayl was Director of Choral Activities at the University of Missouri-Columbia and Music Director of the Quad City Mozart Festival. David Rayl has appeared as a guest conductor with the Missouri Chamber Orchestra, the Jefferson City Symphony and the orchestra of the Carlos Gomes



Conservatory in Belem, Brazil. He has prepared choruses for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Kansas City Symphony and has led the Lansing Symphony Orchestra in performances of Haydn's *Creation*, Mozart's *Grand Mass in C-Minor*, Bach's *Saint John Passion*, Handel's *Messiah*, and an all-American concert featuring Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*.



Seunghee Lee has delighted audiences with performances described by music critics as “stunning.” As a soloist and a chamber musician, she has performed throughout the United States, Europe, Russia and the Far East. She has appeared as soloist with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, the Sophia (Bulgaria) Philharmonic Orchestra, the Sarajevo National Philharmonic Orchestra, the Seoul National Symphony Orchestra, the Kharkov (Ukraine) Symphony Orchestra, the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra, the Renaud Chamber Orchestra and the Michigan Chamber Symphony Orchestra. Her chamber recital experience includes a performance at

Lincoln Center, New York, as well as performances with the Fontana Concert Society, the Renaud Chamber Music Society, the Orpheus Trio and the Westbrook String Quartet. Currently she is the concertmaster of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, and she has served as the concertmaster of the Midland Symphony Orchestra and the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra. As a member of the Korean National Philharmonic Orchestra, she toured Southeast Asia. She has won several competitions and awards, both in the United States and in Korea. Also, she has given master classes at many universities in the United States and abroad. She was a faculty member of the Interlochen International Summer Camp and a resident artist faculty at the Bay View Music Festival during the summer. Dr. Lee, a native of Seoul, Korea, is Professor of Violin at Central Michigan University.

Baritone **David Small** enjoys an established and continuing career on the operatic and concert stage. Equally comfortable with comedy or drama, his repertoire is richly varied, including performances of well over fifty different operatic roles. In 1991, he debuted his Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City with great success and subsequently has enjoyed over one hundred performances of the role. He made his Austin Lyric debut in this signature role in 1998 and repeated it for ALO in the 2007 season. His Figaro has charmed audiences for the opera companies of Des Moines Metro Opera,



Fresno, Nevada, Dayton, Toledo, Lyric Opera Cleveland and touring France and Spain with Il Teatro Lyrico d'Europa. Mr. Small's repertoire also includes Escamillo (*Carmen*), Dr. Malatesta (*Don Pasquale*), Belcore (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), The Pirate King (*Pirates of Penzance*), Valentin (*Faust*), Danilo (*Merry Widow*), Don Giovanni (*Don Giovanni*), Il Conte d'Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Guglielmo (*Così fan Tutte*), Papageno (*The Magic Flute*), The Four Villains (*Les Contes d'Hoffman*), Marcello (*La Bohème*), Scarpia (*Tosca*), Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*),

Germont (*La Traviata*) and many others. David Small has appeared as soloist with St. Louis Symphony, Cincinnati May Festival, Austin Symphony, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Rochester Philharmonic, Canton Symphony, Missouri Symphony and Bravo! Colorado Music Festival. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in the Lord Nelson Mass and Schubert Mass in G. David Small earned an Artist's Diploma in Opera and a Master of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of the late Metropolitan Opera basso Italo Tajo. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the DePauw University School of Music, where he studied with Thomas Fitzpatrick and received a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance with a Performer's Certificate.

The **Michigan State University Choral Union** is a 150-voice "town and gown" chorus led by MSU Director of Choral Activities David Rayl. Under Rayl's predecessor, Dr. Charles K. Smith, the Choral Union performed much of the choral-orchestral repertoire with the MSU and Lansing Symphony Orchestras. Members of the Choral Union reside throughout central Michigan and represent a wide spectrum of professions and musical backgrounds with a common love of choral singing. The ensemble rehearses once a week and typically performs twice each semester. The Choral Union's recent performances with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra include Poulenc's *Gloria*, Handel's *Messiah*, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Haydn's *Creation*, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

The **Michigan State University Chorale** is the university's premier choral ensemble, comprised of the best graduate and upper-level undergraduate singers in the College of Music. The Chorale sang for the 2002 National Meeting of the College Music Society and the 2007 American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) National Convention. It also appeared at the 1983 and 1989 ACDA National Conventions under the baton of Charles Smith. In recent years, the Chorale has performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in performances of Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Mass in B-Minor* and Mozart's *Requiem*, and in the spring of 2009 they appeared with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Bach's Cantata 131 and Handel's *Dixit Dominus*.

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 orchestra's performances by NPR affiliate WKAR-FM Radio. The Symphony's highly acclaimed education programs reach students in kindergarten through 12th grades. For more information, visit www.LansingSymphony.org or find us on Facebook® or Twitter.

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