

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Catherine Guarino, Director of Communications & Ticket Sales
(517) 487-5001 ext. 10 - catherine@lansingsymphony.org

LANSING SYMPHONY TO PRESENT SEASON FINALE “BEETHOVEN’S FIFTH”

Lansing, MI – April 19, 2010 – The Lansing Symphony Orchestra will present its 2009/2010 season finale **MasterWorks 6: Beethoven’s Fifth** on **Tuesday, May 4, 2010** at **7:30pm** at Wharton Center for Performing Arts. The concert is a part of the **2010 Gilmore Keyboard Festival**, presenting **2010 Gilmore Young Artist Ivan Moshchuk** in a performance of **Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 2**. Lansing Symphony Music Director **Timothy Muffitt** will lead the season finale, which also includes *Too Hot Toccata* by modern composer **Aaron Jay Kernis** and **Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony**.

MasterWorks 6: Beethoven’s Fifth opens with Aaron Jay Kernis’s *Too Hot Toccata*, a high-energy piece filled with references to pop music, jazz, honky-tonk and even rap. Next, the Lansing Symphony is joined by 19-year-old Ivan Moshchuk for Frederic Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Minor, written when Chopin himself was only 19. The program will conclude with Ludwig van Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, one of the most iconic pieces in the orchestral repertoire. Known most for its first four notes, Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony is stirring piece of music, taking the audience on a wonderful journey full of quiet, intricate moments to an exultant ending fit for a season finale. *(Please note: the PreView Conversation for this concert will be held from 6:45-7:15pm.)*

Tickets for MasterWorks 6: Beethoven’s Fifth range from \$45-\$12, based on seating, with student prices available. Tickets available by calling **(517) 487-5001** or online at www.LansingSymphony.org.

MasterWorks 6: Beethoven’s Fifth is sponsored in part by Emergent BioSolutions. Media Partner: TalkLansing.net.

Ivan Moshchuk recently graduated with highest honors from Grosse Pointe South High School and is headed to the Peabody Conservatory of Music at John Hopkins University in the fall. There he will be continuing his music studies under Boris Slutsky. Ivan Moshchuk, 19, was born in Moscow, Russia. At the age of four, he moved with his family to Grosse Pointe, Michigan where his father had accepted a position at Wayne State

University. Moshchuk's piano studies began a year later. His principal piano teachers have been Marina Zarkhin and Dmitri Vorobiev. In the summers of 2006 and 2008, Mr. Moshchuk attended the International Music Academy in Pilsen, Czech Republic where he studied piano with Ivan Moravec, Dmitri Vorobiev and Miroslav Brejcha. In addition to a rigorous concert schedule, Mr. Moshchuk was chosen to record for Czech National Radio. Between 2007 and 2009, he had master classes with Santiago Rodriguez and Arthur Greene. Ivan Moshchuk was co-first prize winner of the 2007 Arthur Fraser Concerto Competition in South Carolina and most recently was nominated as Yamaha Young Performing Artist 2009. He appeared with the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra in 2007 and the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra in 2006.

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 11th 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 **Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival** is North America's largest and most prestigious piano music festival. Since 1991, The Gilmore's biennial Festival has showcased astonishing performances celebrating piano music in recitals, chamber settings, concerts, lectures, master classes, and film. International keyboard artists, jazz greats and contemporary stars appear alongside lesser-known artists and young pianists of exceptional talent. The Festival was established as part of a living legacy to Irving S. Gilmore, whose lifetime of philanthropy often included help for struggling musicians. It was his devotion to keyboard music and musicians that inspired the creation of the Gilmore Keyboard Festival and the associated Gilmore Artist Award.

The **Lansing Symphony Orchestra** was established in 1929 and is currently celebrating its 80th 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 students in kindergarten through 12th grades in five counties. For more information, visit www.LansingSymphony.org or find us on Facebook® or Twitter.

##