

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

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES GRANT TO LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

November 24, 2010 - Lansing, MI - Rocco Landesman, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, today announced that the Lansing Symphony Orchestra has been approved for a grant of \$10,000 to support the final MasterWorks concert of its 2010/2011 season – “Exploring Gershwin & Ravel” to be presented Saturday, April 16, 2011. The Lansing Symphony is one of 1,057 not-for-profit organizations recommended for a grant as part of the federal agency’s first round of fiscal year 2011 grants. In total, the Arts Endowment will distribute \$26.68 million to support projects nationwide.

An independent agency of the federal government, the National Endowment for the Arts advances artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman said, “I continue to be impressed with the creative, innovative, and excellent projects brought forward by arts organizations across the country. Our grantees are not only furthering their art forms but also enhancing their neighborhoods by making them more vibrant, livable, and fun.”

With the \$10,000 grant, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra will present MasterWorks 6: Exploring Gershwin & Ravel on April 16, 2011 at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts. The concert will feature internationally-renown pianist Anton Nel as guest artist. This concert will conclude the Lansing Symphony’s 2010/2011 season with an exploration of jazz from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. As the program title suggests, the musical selections will explore the connection that existed between Gershwin and Ravel and how their relationship influenced the other’s work and eventually American culture. The

program will include Gershwin's *American in Paris* and *Cuban Overture* and will feature Mr. Nel on Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major and Piano Concerto for the Left Hand in D Major.

"We are honored to be recommended for an NEA grant," said Lansing Symphony Executive Director Courtney Millbrook. "This grant recognizes the important role that the Lansing Symphony plays in our region and provides critical funding for an outstanding program."

In addition to the quality of the artists and concert programming, this project includes activities designed to make the program more accessible as well as deepen understanding and appreciation of orchestral music in our community. A PreView Conversation hosted by WKAR's Jody Knol will be presented immediately prior to the concert and will be free for all ticket holders. The Symphony will also welcome area high school students for an open rehearsal, which will allow students to watch the orchestra rehearse and observe professional music-making first hand, as well as meet and interact with Mr. Nel. Discounted and scholarship tickets will be available to students who would otherwise not be able to attend the 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 Lansing 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.

###