

# LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TIMOTHY MUFFITT • MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Contact:**

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## SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> FOR LANSING SYMPHONY 2009/2010 SEASON

**Lansing, MI – May 27, 2009** – In recent months, the Lansing Symphony has been called “a cultural gem,” “masterful,” and “extraordinary.” Now, more than ever – in what *City Pulse’s* Lawrence Cosentino has called the “**golden age of the Lansing Symphony**” and the “**miraculous Muffitt era**” – the Lansing Symphony invites mid-Michigan to grab a seat and “**Escape the Everyday**” in its **2009/2010** season. Subscriptions are on sale now, and **single tickets go on sale Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**. Tickets will be available online at [www.LansingSymphony.org](http://www.LansingSymphony.org), by phone at (517) 487-5001 or in person at the LSO’s offices (501 S. Capitol Ave., Suite 400 – Lansing).

The 2009/2010 season – **the LSO’s 80<sup>th</sup> season** – will bring together great works, fantastic artists and a momentum the Lansing Symphony has been building for the past few seasons under the direction of **Music Director & Conductor Timothy Muffitt**. The **MasterWorks Series** will present – among other things – legendary pianist Christopher O’Riley, Ravel’s *Boléro*, Poulenc’s magnificent *Gloria* paired with Holst’s epic *The Planets*, return engagements by Ilya Kaler and Amit Peled for Brahms’ Double Concerto, an Evening with Mozart, Barber’s Violin Concerto, a performance by a 2010 Gilmore Young Artist and a season grand finale performance of Beethoven’s Fifth.

The fourth season of the LSO’s **Pops Series** will continue to attract new audiences to the orchestra. This season the LSO will present three Pops concerts – A Night at the Movies: Take II, the annual Holiday Pops, and Rocket Man: The Music of Elton John. In addition, the LSO will present a four-concert Chamber

Series, two Big Band concerts, a Halloween Spooktacular! Family Concert and a special spring performance of Handel's *Messiah* with the MSU College of Music.

**Following is a lineup of the 2009/2010 Season – “Escape the Everyday”**

**2009/2010 MASTERWORKS SERIES** – *all concerts at Wharton Center's Great Hall*

The 2009/2010 season opens Saturday, September 12, 2009 at 8:00pm with **MasterWorks 1: España** led by Timothy Muffitt. Featuring legendary pianist Christopher O'Riley performing Falla's *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*, this Spanish-inspired concert will also include Ravel's *Boléro*, a suite from Falla's ballet *The Three-Cornered Hat*, and – appropriately – Chabrier's *España* rhapsody.

Timothy Muffitt will lead **MasterWorks 2: Into the Heavens** on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 8:00pm. This program will take listeners up and away with Poulenc's beautiful *Gloria* and Holst's epic suite *The Planets*. The MSU Choral Union, Chorale & State Singers will lend their voices for this performance, along with soprano Nancy Allen Lundy.

Two great artists, violinist Ilya Kaler and cellist Amit Peled, return to the LSO for **MasterWorks 3: Command Performance** on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 8:00pm. Together, they will perform Brahms' Double Concerto in A Minor. Timothy Muffitt will also lead the orchestra in a suite from Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Strauss' *Don Juan*.

On Saturday, February 20, 2010 at 8:00pm, Timothy Muffitt and the LSO will treat the audience to **MasterWorks 4: An Evening with Mozart**, featuring Symphony Nos. 25 and 41, as well as the overture to his opera *Don Giovanni*.

In **MasterWorks 5: Reflections of Romanticism** on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 8:00pm, Timothy Muffitt will explore shades of romanticism in Schumann's Symphony No. 3 “Rhenish” and Barber's melodious Violin Concerto, featuring up and coming violinist Giora Schmidt. The first suite from Respighi's *Ancient Airs and Dances* will open the program.

The season will conclude with Timothy Muffitt conducting the grand finale of **MasterWorks 6: Beethoven's Fifth** on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 7:30pm. This concert will not only feature Beethoven's epic Symphony No. 5, but also a performance by a 2010 Gilmore Young Artist – to be announced summer 2009. *Too Hot Toccata*, a high-energy work by American composer Aaron Jay Kernis, will open the program.

**Six-concert subscriptions to the MasterWorks Series range from \$66 to \$252. Four-concert Sampler Subscriptions range from \$44 to \$164. Single tickets start at \$12. Student prices available.**

**2009/2010 POPS SERIES** – *all concerts at Wharton Center's Great Hall*

In its fourth season, the **Lansing Symphony Pops Series**, sponsored by Auto-Owners Insurance, offers the lighter side of orchestral music, with something for every age and budget.

The Pops Series opens with **A Night at the Movies: Take II** on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at 8:00pm. Back by popular demand, this new program will bring the magic of the movies to life with popular film scores from yesterday and today, led by Timothy Muffitt.

The Lansing Symphony's **Holiday Pops** on Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 3:00pm has become a holiday tradition for so many mid-Michigan families. This season, Timothy Muffitt and the LSO will be joined by soprano Ellen Wieser, and together they'll perform all your holiday favorites.

A special rock-orchestra collaboration – **Rocket Man: The Music of Elton John** – will close out the Pops Series on Friday, April 16, 2010 at 8:00pm. This concert will feature a live band of guitar, bass, vocals, piano and drums combined with the power of the Lansing Symphony. Guest Conductor Jeff Christmas will lead them all in all your favorite Elton John classics like you've never heard them before!

**Three-concert subscriptions to the Pop Series range from \$33 to \$93. Single tickets start at \$12. Student prices available.**

**2009/2010 CHAMBER SERIES** – *all concerts at Plymouth Congregational Church*

The **Lansing Symphony Chamber Series** invites listeners to witness the individual skill and artistry of Lansing Symphony musicians in an intimate setting. The Chamber Series is presented on four afternoons at 3:00pm at Plymouth Congregation Church. Ensembles and dates for the 2009/2010 season are: Richard Sherman (flute), Jan Eberle (oboe), Caroline Hartig (clarinet), Michael Kroth (bassoon), Janine Gaboury (horn) and Derek Polischuk (piano) on **September 27, 2009**; "Trio con Brio" – Richard Sherman (flute), Robert deMaine (cello) and James Wilhelmsen (piano) – on **November 15, 2009**; Takeski Abo (violin), Dessislava Nenova (cello) and Angela Wu (piano) on **March 14, 2010**; and "Hoksbergen Quintet" – Ross Hoksbergen (trumpet), Stephen James (trumpet), Mikel Arkautz (trombone), John Hipol (horn), and Clinton McCanless

(tuba) – on **April 25, 2010**. **Four-concert subscriptions to the Chamber Series are \$56 for adults and \$28 for students. Single tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.**

**2009/2010 BIG BAND CONCERTS** – *all concerts at Dart Auditorium*

The **Lansing Symphony Big Band** is led by Director John Dale Smith and features jazz and swing music from the '30s, '40s and more. Two concerts will be held at Lansing Community College's Dart Auditorium on **Sunday, October 18, 2009** and **Sunday, March 7, 2010** at 3:00pm. **Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.**

**HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR! FAMILY CONCERT** – *East Lansing High School Auditorium*

The Symphony will present a **Halloween Spooktacular! Family Concert**, conducted by Timothy Muffitt, on **Sunday, October 25, 2009** at 3:00pm. The Symphony will play all your favorite spooky music, and everyone is encouraged to wear a costume to get in the spirit for Halloween! **Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.**

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH** – *location to be announced*

The Lansing Symphony and MSU College of Music will present a performance of Parts II and III of **Handel's Messiah** on **Sunday, April 11, 2010** at 7:00pm. David Rayl will conduct the MSU Choral Union, Chorale and State Singers, along with members of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. **Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students.**

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Subscriptions are available now at [www.lansingsymphony.org](http://www.lansingsymphony.org) or by calling (517) 487-5001. **First-time subscribers are eligible for a 25% discount on their subscription**, but must place their order by phone to receive the discount. Subscription renewals are available by phone or mail. **Single tickets for all concerts go on sale June 1, 2009.**

In addition to subscription packages, ticket buyers also have the option to become VIP members with the VIP Concert Package, which has been revamped this season to include every concert the LSO offers. For \$500 per person, VIP members will receive:

- A six-concert MasterWorks Series subscription in the seating zone of their choice
- A three-concert Pops Series subscription in the seating zone of their choice

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- A four-concert Chamber Series subscription
- One ticket to each LSO Big Band concert
- One ticket to Handel's *Messiah*
- One ticket to the Halloween Spooktacular! Family Concert
- One Parking Pass for all LSO concerts at the Wharton Center during the 09/10 season

The 2009/2010 season will be Music Director Timothy Muffitt's fourth season with the Lansing Symphony. In addition to his role with the LSO, Muffitt will be 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 will celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009/2010. 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).

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