

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

MUSIC DIRECTOR TIMOTHY MUFFITT RENEWS CONTRACT WITH LANSING SYMPHONY THROUGH 2013

May 17, 2010 – Lansing, MI – Timothy Muffitt has renewed his contract with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra to serve as Music Director & Conductor through the 2012/2013 season. The 2010/2011 season, which begins in September, will be Muffitt's fifth season with the LSO.

Under Muffitt's leadership, the Lansing Symphony has experienced tremendous growth in community support and artistic quality, demonstrated by a 50% increase in total ticket sales over the past five years.

"I am thrilled with the accomplishments of the Lansing Symphony," says Muffitt. "We have tackled enormous repertoire, introduced our audience to new and exciting works and presented some of the world's finest guest artists. I look forward to the coming seasons and planning the next phase of this fantastic orchestra."

Executive Director Courtney Millbrook is happy with Muffitt's decision to extend his contract.

"The Lansing Symphony has seen such growth under the leadership of Timothy Muffitt," explains Millbrook. "He has developed wonderful relationships with our musicians, patrons and our mid-Michigan community over the past four years. We look forward to the coming years and building on our current success."

"The Lansing Symphony Board of Directors is pleased and honored that Timothy Muffitt has chosen to extend his contract with the orchestra," states **Board President Charles Hillary**. "His commitment to excellence has been felt across all levels of the organization, and grounds us as we continue our Mission of 'Enriching lives through excellence in music and in educational outreach.'"

Additionally, the orchestra musicians have voted to extend their Agreement with the Lansing Symphony for another year. All musicians that perform with the Lansing Symphony are represented by the Grand Rapids Federation of Musicians, Local 56 of the American Federation of Musicians.

In addition to his role with the Lansing Symphony, Muffitt is in his eleventh 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. Muffitt 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 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 orchestra's performances by NPR affiliate WKAR-FM Radio. The Symphony's highly acclaimed education programs reach students in kindergarten through 12th grade in five counties. For more information, visit www.LansingSymphony.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

###