



Antonia Joy Wilson
Artistic Director & Conductor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2009

CONTACT:

Wendy Hohmeyer, MCO Conductor

What: Midland Community Orchestra Concert: "Made in America"

When: Sunday, November 22, 3 pm

Where: Messiah Lutheran Church, Corner of Poseyville and Gordonville Rds., Midland

Cost: FREE

Information: Visit the MCO website: http://www.mcfta.org/A_Symphony/Community.html

MIDLAND -

The Midland Community Orchestra will open its 19th season November 22 with **"Made in America,"** a program of all-American music conducted by Wendy Hohmeyer in her inaugural season. The concert will take place November 22, 3pm at Messiah Lutheran Church, corner of Poseyville and Gordonville Roads, Midland, and include selections by Morton Gould ("American Salute"), Ferde Grofe ("Grand Canyon Suite"), John Williams ("Cowboys"), Richard Rogers ("Oklahoma"), and Aaron Copland ("Rodeo"). The concert is free, however donations are greatly appreciated as the orchestra does not receive other funding. Donations can be made to the Midland Community Orchestra through the Midland Symphony Orchestra office by specifying the contribution is for the MCO.

The Midland Community Orchestra dedicates the 2009-2010 season to its founding conductor, **Robert T. Ralston**, who is sorely missed by our music community. Bob created this all-volunteer group to encourage area musicians to continue loving and playing good music.

Based on the folk tune "When Johnny Comes Marching Home", "American Salute" was written by the brilliant orchestrator Morton Gould. Gould was a conductor and pianist who studied at the Institute of Musical Arts in New York City. He was a member of the Radio City Music Hall staff and worked for NBC and CBS.

Critics and musical directors agree that Ferde Grofe's "Grand Canyon Suite" has achieved one of the highest points in American music. The MCO will perform one of the best known movements, "On the Trail." One can easily imagine the mules descending into the canyon carrying view awestruck riders.

"The Cowboys Overture" was inspired by the movie "The Cowboys" featuring John Wayne, Hollywood's quintessential cowboy. Teamed up with orchestrator, John Williams, we have this delightful and rip-roaring piece depicting scenes of cowboy life: riding and roping in the surrounding beauty of the west.

The second half of the program begins with selections from the musical and film, "Oklahoma!" Written by Richard Rodgers, with book and lyrics written by Oscar Hammerstein, this collection of songs was arranged by Russell Bennett and contains the familiar songs we know so well, including the title song, "Oklahoma!"

Composer Aaron Copland collaborated with Agnes de Mille on the creation of a western ballet, "Rodeo," for the Ballet Russe De Monte Carlo for its 1942-43 season. The composer then extracted an orchestral suite from the ballet score for concert performance under the title: "Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo: 1. Buckaroo Holiday, II. Corral Nocturne, III. Saturday Night Waltz, IV. Hoe-Down."

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