



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2008

Midland Symphony Orchestra (MSO) announces:

MSO 2008-09 Season: "Hear the Excitement"

MIDLAND – The Midland Symphony Orchestra of Midland Center for the Arts has announced its 2008-2009 season, titled "Hear the Excitement." Along with an thrilling lineup of virtuoso performers and symphonic masterpieces, the MSO has a **new conductor/artistic director** at the podium: Maestra Antonia Joy Wilson. The public is invited to meet Dr. Wilson at the MSO season launch, a free event, Thursday, May 1 at 5:30 p.m. at Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., and again after the new season's opening night performance on Saturday, September 27.

The season includes five concerts: The Harlem String Quartet, Handel's *Messiah*, pianist Anton Kuerti, percussionist Svet Stoyanov, violinist Judith Ingolfsson plus two **special family-friendly** events: "Bugs Bunny on Broadway" and the popular favorite "Halloween Spooktacular."

Subscription sales begin May 1, 2008 and **new subscribers** can enjoy a special introductory offer of **two subscriptions for the price of one**. Season subscriptions offer a 28% savings over single ticket prices, priority reserved seating, plus special newsletters with program notes and more. More information on subscriptions and performances will be available at the season launch on May 1, as well as online at www.mcfta.org or by calling the Ticket Office at 800-523-7649.

"It's the ideal time for families and newcomers to symphony concerts to give us a try," said Kimberly Dimond, managing director for MSO. "Our new season offers a fun introduction to classical music for people of all ages as well as an artistically satisfying line-up for our seasoned symphony audiences."

The 2008-09 MSO season is generously sponsored by Merrill Lynch The Iles Group; Chemical Bank; The Dow Chemical Company; The H Hotel; Wachovia Securities; and Midland Cogeneration Venture.

Midland Symphony Orchestra 2008-09 Season - At a Glance

SPECIAL EVENTS:

October 25, 2009 • 3:00 pm (Pre-concert activities begin at 1:00 pm)

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR – The Composer is Dead!

The composer is dead. . .and the perpetrator is lurking somewhere in the orchestra! Watch this musical murder mystery unfold as each section of the orchestra is interrogated, and enjoy musical highlights from *Harry Potter*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and more. The ghouls and goblins of the MSO will all be in costume – will you? Arrive early for some pre-concert fun including a museum tour, a costume contest and cider and donuts for all!

-more-

May 16, 2009 • 7:30 pm & May 17, 2009 • 3 pm

Warner Bros. Studios presents

BUGS BUNNY ON BROADWAY

Created and conducted by George Daugherty

Watch your favorite cartoon adventures of the “crazy wabbit” and Looney Tunes gang projected on a giant screen while the Midland Symphony Orchestra performs the original scores LIVE! A “hare-raising” multimedia experience!

MAIN SEASON CONCERTS:

September 27, 2008 • 8:00 pm

OPENING NIGHT with ANTON KUERTI, piano

Richard Wagner *Die Meistersinger: Prelude*

Felix Mendelssohn *Piano Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 25*

Peter Illych Tchaikovsky *Symphony No. 5 in E Minor, Op. 64*

November 1, 2008 • 8:00 pm

RHYTHM & RHYME: SVET STOYANOV, percussion

Ludwig van Beethoven *The Creatures of Prometheus: Overture*

Joseph Schwaner *Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra*

Alexander Scriabin *Symphony No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 29*

December 6, 2008 • 8:00 pm

HANDEL’S MESSIAH

Recognized for its opulent power, the Messiah brings audiences to their feet with its climactic “Hallelujah” chorus. Four highly acclaimed guest soloists and the Music Society Messiah Chorus and Camerata Singers join the Symphony for an inspired performance of this choral masterpiece.

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February 14, 2009 • 8:00 pm

AN EVENING OF ROMANCE: JUDITH INGOLFSSON, violin

Leonard Bernstein *West Side Story: Overture*
Richard Strauss *Don Juan, Op. 20*
Pablo de Saraste *Carmen Fantasy, Op. 25*
Joan Tower *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman for Orchestra*
Peter Illych Tchaikovsky *Francesca da Rimini, Op. 32*

April 18, 2009 • 8:00 pm

THE HARLEM QUARTET

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart *The Marriage of Figaro*
Michael Abels *Delights and Dances*
Paul Hindemith *Symphonic Metamorphoses of Themes by Carl Maria von Weber*
Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov *Russian Easter Overture, Op. 36*
Igor Stravinsky *Firebird: Suite (1919)*

The Midland Symphony Orchestra (MSO) offers a six-concert season featuring renowned guest artists. Providing mid-Michigan with continuous symphonic music since 1936, the MSO also sponsors educational opportunities through its touring ensembles in the schools, Community Orchestra, chamber concerts, Tunes for Tots, a summer outdoor event, prelude lectures, scholarships, music appreciation programs and guest artist master classes and residencies.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, Music Society and Theatre Guild. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at www.mcfta.org.

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