



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 3, 2009

Midland Symphony Orchestra presents:

What: *The Nutcracker Ballet* featuring the Grand Rapids Ballet Company
When: December 5 – 3 pm & 8 pm; December 6 – 3 pm
Where: Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, MI 48640
Cost: \$24.48 to \$34 Adults/\$11.52 to \$16 Students/\$80 Family 4-Pack (2 adults and 2 students – *additional students \$16 each*)/\$5 Student Rush (day of performance only)

Information: Call Ticket Office at (989) 631-8250 or (800) 523-7649 or www.mcfta.org

MIDLAND – Leap into the holiday season when Midland Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Director and Conductor Antonia Joy Wilson present *The Nutcracker Ballet featuring the Grand Rapids Ballet Company*. Performances are December 5, 3 pm and 8 pm, and December 6, 3 pm, at Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, MI. Tickets cost \$24.48 to \$34 Adults; \$11.52 to \$16 Students; \$80 Family 4-Pack (2 adults and 2 students – *additional students \$16 each*; \$5 Student Rush (day of performance only). Call Ticket Office at (989) 631-8250 or (800) 523-7649 or www.mcfta.org. Sponsored by Chemical Bank.

Share the magic and rekindle the tradition as the Grand Rapids Ballet Company, along with over 30 Midland-area children, brings this holiday classic to life. *The Nutcracker* is the heartwarming story of a young girl's dream filled with a handsome prince, a sugar plum fairy, frightening rats and a nutcracker come to life. Its brilliant blend of costumes, sets and choreography creates a magical storybook world that delights the senses of children and adults alike. The Midland Symphony Orchestra performs Tchaikovsky's timeless score for an enchanting performance the whole family will enjoy. Pre- and post-performance, visitors will enjoy festive lobby décor, as well as a family portrait area. Bring your camera to capture your own special memories.

Auditions for the children's roles for this production of *The Nutcracker* were held at Midland Center for the Arts in September. Thirty-four talented young dancers were chosen and awarded the privilege of rehearsing and performing under the direction of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company, and Midland dance instructor Sandra Black of the Dean/Black School of the Performing Arts. This has been an exciting opportunity for these children (and their families) to feel the thrill of being part of a professional ballet troupe.

Michigan's only professional ballet company, the Grand Rapids Ballet Company is committed to its mission to lift the human spirit through the art of dance. A proud recipient of the ArtServe Michigan Governor's Arts Award for Outstanding Cultural Organization, GRBC has a rich history marked by steady growth, a commitment to excellence and strong community support. For more information, visit their website at www.grballet.com

The Midland Symphony Orchestra (MSO) offers a 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.

The Midland Symphony Orchestra (MSO) has provided mid-Michigan with continuous symphonic music since 1936. Along with concerts featuring renowned guest artists, the MSO also provides educational opportunities through its touring ensembles in the schools, Community Orchestra, chamber concerts, Tunes for Tots, 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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