



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2009

Midland Symphony Orchestra presents:

What: Opera in Concert - Michael Wade Lee, tenor

When: November 7, 2009 – 8 pm

Prelude – 7:15 pm

Where: Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, MI 48640

Cost: Adults \$23.04 to \$32; Students \$7.20 to \$10; Rush Student (day of concert only) \$5

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

MIDLAND – Opera lovers should set aside Saturday, November 7, at 8 pm to spend a sentimental evening with the Midland Symphony Orchestra and guest tenor Michael Wade Lee, whom concert-goers will remember from his role as Pinkerton in the MSO's 2008 performances of Giacomo Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. This spectacularly beautiful performance pays tribute to great operatic composers including Verdi, Puccini and Wagner. The Main Auditorium of Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, MI, will resonate as Maestra Antonia Joy Wilson conducts overtures and vocal selections from *Die Fledermaus*, *Il Trovatore*, *Carmen*, and *Aida*. Joining the MSO and Mr. Lee will be Music Society Chorale and Youth Honors Choirs, Central Michigan University Choirs, and the H.H. Dow High School and Midland High School Choirs. In addition to rehearsing Music Society Chorale, and the "Carmen Children's Choir," Jim Hohmeyer is overseeing the preparation of all the Choral Directors with their choirs. Concert highlights include: Strauss' *Die Fledermaus: Overture*; Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman: Overture*; Bizet's *Carmen: Prelude*; Verdi's *Aida: Triumphant March*. Adult tickets are \$23.04 to \$32; Students are \$7.20 to \$10, with a special Rush Student Ticket of \$5 (available day of concert only). Tickets are available online at www.mcfta.org or by calling 800-523-7649. Prelude will take place at 7:15 pm. Sponsored by Communications Family Credit Union.

Critics hail **Michael Wade Lee** as "that rarity among operatic tenors, a really good-looking, virile, well-built and gifted thespian with a wide-ranging voice to match." A seasoned performer on the operatic stage, Mr. Lee has sung with some of the most respected companies in the world, including the Greek National Opera, New York City Opera, San Antonio Opera, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Mississippi Opera, and the San Francisco Opera Center. A native of Texas, Mr. Lee received his BM from Stephen F. Austin State

University under the guidance of Dr. Deborah Dalton, and his MM from Indiana University. He won the Metropolitan Opera National Council encouragement award in Indiana in 2000 as well as being endowed with the prestigious Merola Career Grant and the Pacific Opera Career Grant, both since 2004. www.michaelwadelee.com

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.

Contact:
Julie Dukes
Communications Manager
(989) 631-5930 x 1602
dukes@mcfta.org

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Midland Center for the Arts • 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd. • Midland, MI 48640 • (989) 631-5930 • (989) 631-7890 fax • www.mcfta.org