

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2010

Midland Symphony Orchestra presents:

What: "To the Planets and Beyond"

**When: April 17 – 8 pm
Prelude – 7:15 pm**

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

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

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

Ticket "Buy Page": http://www.mcfta.org/A_Symphony/index.html#planets



MIDLAND – Journey "To the Planets and Beyond," 8 pm on Saturday, April 17, when the Midland Symphony Orchestra presents its final concert of the season in the Auditorium of Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland. Celestial images from the Hubble Telescope and select Shakespearean passages accompany the MSO, led by Artistic Director and Conductor Antonia Joy Wilson, and the women of the Central Michigan University Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Nina Nash-Robertson, for Gustav Holst's masterpiece: *The Planets*.

The **2010 "Maestro Wannabe"** winner will be announced at the start of the concert; that individual will conduct *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Winners of the **Clara Highhill Memorial Scholarship** will be presented after intermission. The evening concludes with the MSO welcoming to the stage guest vocal soloists Tamara Haskin, Linda Pavelka, Patrick Marques and Philip Skinner, along with the Music Society Chorale, directed by James Hohmeyer, and the CMU Concert Choir, again under the direction of Dr. Nina Nash-Robertson, for a moving performance of Anton Bruckner's *Te Deum*. Following the concert, there will be a season-ending reception which is free and open to the public.

Adult tickets are \$23.04 and \$32; Students are \$7.20 and \$10, with a special Student Rush Ticket of \$5 (available day of concert only). Tickets are available online at www.mcfta.org or by calling 800-523-7649. The Prelude, an informal discussion between the conductor and the audience, will take place at 7:15 pm. Presented in partnership with Delta College Planetarium. Sponsored by Simmons Specific Chiropractic. Funded in part by the Maxwell K. Pribil Memorial Fund.

GUSTAV HOLST: THE PLANETS

Holst began composing and orchestrating at age 12, and at age 18 won an amateur competition prize for his vocal work, *A Christmas Carol*. In 1892 Holst traveled to London and heard Gustav Mahler conduct a performance of Richard Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* at Covent Garden, the experience opening up new compositional worlds for the young composer. Lifelong friend Ralph Vaughan Williams described Holst's *The Planets* (1914-1916) as "the perfect equilibrium" of the mystic and the melodic sides of the composer's nature. Holst's orchestra suite contains seven

tone poem movements whose order is in increasing distance of each planet from the Earth. Shakespearean narration performed by Darryl Sellers of WNEM-TV5 and Susie Polito of Midland.

ANTON BRUCKNER: *TE DEUM*

Anton Bruckner started his career as a choirmaster for a group of monks and as a church organist in Linz, Austria. He passed the Vienna Conservatory exams in 1861, after several years of studying composition and counterpoint by mail. Bruckner's *Te Deum* is the crown of his sacred music. Composed from 1881 to 1884, *Te Deum* reflects the contemporary frame of mind of its composer, being one of elation and thankfulness for his long-delayed success and acceptance. Bruckner's symphonies are monumental: expansive in scale, rigorous in formal design, and elaborate in contrapuntal writing.

MAESTRO WANNABE

A special thank you to our "Maestro Wannabe" fundraiser participants:

- Molly's Bistro
- Pi's Chinese Restaurant
- Genji's Japanese Steakhouse
- The H Hotel Restaurants: The Table, Café Zinc and Oxygen

Their support and dedication to fundraising for the Midland Symphony Orchestra is much appreciated. Funds raised from Maestro Wannabe are essential to the vitality of the MSO, helping us enrich lives for all ages within our community.

HIGHHILL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year the Midland Symphony League presents the Clara Highhill Memorial Scholarship to one or more talented area instrumental music students to support further musical study. The scholarship honors the memory of longtime Symphony League volunteer Clara Highhill by recognizing and encouraging outstanding area instrumental students. The winner(s) of the scholarship will be announced after intermission.

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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