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Midland Symphony Orchestra's "Maestro Wannabe" fundraiser is back!

MIDLAND – Who would you like to see conduct the Midland Symphony Orchestra? "**Maestro Wannabe**" is back! In its fourth year, the "Maestro Wannabe" contest provides a fun, competitive environment for raising funds to support programming and educational growth for the Midland Symphony Orchestra, and is its largest fundraiser. "Maestro Wannabe" candidates will compete for the chance to conduct the orchestra at the April 16, 2011, MSO performance: the contestant with the most "votes" becomes "Maestro" for an evening!

Vote for your favorite "Maestro Wannabe" candidate by pledging **\$1 per vote**. *It's easy!* Call the MCFTA Ticket Office at 989-631-8250, donate online at www.mcfta.org, or cast your vote in the MCFTA lobby during the MSO's February 5, 2011, concert. Voting continues through Friday, April 1, 2011.

This year's contest also continues the "delicious" twist to this fun fundraiser. Dine-in or take-out at **Pi's Chinese Restaurant** or **Genji Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar** anytime after 5 pm on Mondays and Tuesdays during the months of January, February and March. Each restaurant will donate a portion of their nightly Monday and Tuesday proceeds to MSO. Ballots can be cast in the restaurant lobbies.

Maestro Wannabe Candidates *Dow High v. Midland High!* Who will win: **GREEN & gold or BLUE & gold?**

- **Steve Derees**, Dow High Band Director
- **Bill Monroe**, Midland High Band Director
- **Kathy Peretz**, Midland High Orchestra & Band Director
- **Shirley Rose**, Dow High Orchestra & Choir Director

STEVE DEREES, H. H. Dow High Band Director

Steve Derees has taught for 27 years, the past 16 years at H. H. Dow High School. Mr. Derees earned his bachelor's degree in music education from Central Michigan University. He was elected to membership in the American School Band Directors Association in 1997. In 2000 and 2009 he was named "Band Director of the Year" for District V by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.

During his tenure, the Dow High band program has more than doubled its average yearly enrollment from 80 to well over 200. The Dow High band program has musicians in three concert bands, a symphonic orchestra, two jazz bands and the Charger Marching Band. All consistently earn high marks in contests and festivals.

Mr. Derees regularly serves as a mentor and clinician to new band directors. He was recently honored by Creative 360 as their "Arts Angel" for 2010, recognizing his work with the jazz bands at Dow High. The award is presented annually to the mid-Michigan artist whose direct contributions to arts education have furthered the advancement of the arts in the region.

Mr. Derees lives in Midland with his wife, Sharon, and their two daughters, Katie and Kelly.

BILL MONROE, Midland High Band Director

Bill Monroe is currently the director of bands at Midland High School, teaches band at Central Middle School, Jefferson Middle School, and several elementary schools in Midland. Mr. Monroe attended Michigan State University where he received his bachelor's in music in 1981. He received his master's in music education from North Texas State University in 1986. During his undergraduate career, he was a member of the Michigan State University Spartan Marching Band, where he served as Band President in 1980.

Mr. Monroe regularly does clinics and critiques for band programs throughout the state. He has taught at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and works with student teachers from CMU.

In 1999, Mr. Monroe received the Gerstacker Award for Excellence in Teaching in Midland Public School. He was named the 2007 "Band Director of the Year" for District V by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, and was the 2008 District III North Honors Band Director.

Mr. Monroe and his wife, Sue, enjoy their time with their two sons, Billy and Christopher. They also love to travel, play golf, and root for the GVSU Lakers and MSU Spartans.

KATHY PERETZ, Midland High Orchestra & Band Director

Kathy Peretz has been an instrumental music teacher for Midland Public Schools since 1996. She holds degrees from Ball State University in music education and in clarinet performance. While attending university, Kathy performed with the Ball State University Singers and traveled on USO tours. She also played clarinet with the Muncie, Marion, and Kokomo Symphony Orchestras and presented children's concerts with the Muncie Symphony Student Woodwind Quintet.

A recipient of a Palmer Scholarship, Sigma Alpha Iota Alumni Scholarship, and a Muncie Symphony League Scholarship, Kathy was a university concerto competition winner her senior year. She currently teaches at Midland High School, Eastlawn and Carpenter Elementary Schools, and serves as music teacher consultant for MPS.

Ms. Peretz is married to Dr. Marc Peretz and has three grandchildren.

SHIRLEY VINCENT ROSE, H. H. Dow High Orchestra & Choir Director

Shirley Vincent Rose is a native of Jackson, Michigan, and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Central Michigan University. She has taught for 30 years, the last 19 in Midland Public Schools. Ms. Rose started her teaching career as a choral and elementary music teacher, but has also taught humanities, International Baccalaureate music, band, and now, for the first time this fall, orchestra.

She has sung at Carnegie Hall and been a member of (and soloist with) the Music Society Chorale, Camerata Singers, and Canzone di Musica. She has also soloed with the Chemical City Band and CMU Festival Chorus. She has been recognized twice as Michigan School Vocal Music Association State Honors Choir Director, has taught in many regional choral and marching band workshops and camps, and been on staff with the Resonators Competitive Drum Line and the Michigan Marching Band.

Ms. Rose has also been involved with many musical theater productions through Music Society, Theatre Guild, and at H. H. Dow High School. She is currently the director of the Dow High School Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, as well as Dow High's Concert and Symphonic Orchestras.

Ms. Rose resides in Midland with her husband, Beau Don Rose, and has four grown children and two step-children.

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, 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, Center Stage Theatre, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, and Music Society – Choral. 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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