



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2011

Midland Symphony Orchestra presents:

What: Opening Night: *Schumann and Sibelius*

**When: Saturday, October 1, 2011 • 8 pm
Prelude • 7:15 pm**

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

Cost: \$24 & \$32 Adults | \$10 Students

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

Find this on our website: <http://www.mcfta.org/OnstageGroups.html#schumann>

MIDLAND – Conductor Emeritus Carlton Woods returns to open the Midland Symphony Orchestra's 76th season – "Music in Motion" – with a program of the classics beginning with Weber's *Overture to Oberon*. Pianist Daria Rabotkina joins the MSO in the well-loved piano masterpiece, Schumann's *Piano Concerto*. A true romantic, Schumann had an unparalleled gift of melody and lyricism that has enchanted generations of audiences. Sibelius' dramatic *Symphony No. 2* will cap off this dynamic evening of classical repertoire. The concert is sponsored by Hilliard Lyons.

Schumann and Sibelius takes place Saturday, October 1, at 8 pm in the Midland Center for the Arts Auditorium. The Prelude, an informal discussion among the conductor, guest artist, and the audience, will take place at 7:15 pm. Following the concert, there will be reception to celebrate the opening of the new concert season. The reception is free and open to the public.

Adult tickets are \$24 and \$32; Student tickets are \$10, with a special Student Rush Ticket of \$5 (available day of the concert only). Tickets are available online at www.mcfta.org or by calling 800-523-7649.

Carlton Woods

Conductor Emeritus

Dr. Carlton Woods is a familiar name in the Midland arts community. Dr. Woods was the conductor of the MSO for 10 years (1997-2007), during which time the symphony outreach was expanded with a variety of new concerts and education opportunities. Dr. Woods continues in his dedication to the arts in founding the Blue Water Chamber Orchestra in Cleveland, OH. BWCO is a professional, cooperative organization managed by the musicians of the ensemble in residence on the west side of Cleveland, and is receiving rave reviews from music critics.

Daria Rabotkina

Winner of the 2007 Concert Artists Guild International Competition

Performing Schumann's *Piano Concerto*

Praised as a "Russian virtuoso," possessing "clearly prodigious musical gifts," Daria Rabotkina brings to her performances a delightful balance of talent and passion. Ms. Rabotkina has enjoyed

solo appearances with the San Francisco and New World Symphonies, and the Kirov Orchestra. She has released her debut recital CD on CAG records which feature Tchaikovsky's *Grand Sonata* and Prokofiev's *Ten Pieces from Romeo and Juliet*. Ms. Rabotkina is currently pursuing a doctorate as a "Liberace Scholar" at the Eastman School of Music.

Program

Weber is mostly known for his operas and works for the clarinet. *Overture to Oberon* has been described as "a gorgeous masterpiece of operatic orchestration." Many musicians have declared this last of Weber's compositions for orchestra to be his finest. Schumann's *Piano Concerto* was written for his wife Clara, also an accomplished pianist. Clara was the first soloist to perform the concerto. Schumann called it "a compromise between a symphony, a concerto and a huge sonata." Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2* is known as one of his best works, and a piece of optimism, renewed hope and a turning point in one's life. Sibelius, a Finnish composer, finished the symphony when Finland was struggling with Russian oppression through extreme sanctions on the Finnish language and culture. While Finland fought for its independence, Sibelius' composition became the unofficial light at the end of the tunnel and voice of Finnish nationalism.

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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