



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2011

Midland Symphony Orchestra presents

SYMPHONIC DANCES
Bohuslav Rattay, guest conductor
Pip Clarke, violin

MIDLAND – The Midland Symphony Orchestra presents ***Symphonic Dances*** – an evening of classics with an internationally renowned violinist programmed by guest conductor **Bohuslav Rattay**. Full of fanfare and high spirits, the evening begins with Shostakovich's ***Festive Overture***. Violinist Pip Clarke joins the MSO for Lee Actor's ***Violin Concerto***, dedicated to and composed especially for Ms. Clarke. Concluding the evening is Rachmaninoff's spectacularly orchestrated work ***Symphonic Dances***, highly regarded for its power in live performance.

Symphonic Dances takes place **Saturday, November 5, 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. The concert is sponsored by Wells Fargo Advisors.

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

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#symdances>

Bohuslav Rattay, Guest Conductor

Czech conductor Bohuslav Rattay has gained a reputation as one of the finest talents of his generation. An enthusiastic ambassador for classical music, Maestro Rattay is renowned for his unique and innovative concert programs. He has been acclaimed by both critics and audiences the world over for his fresh and inspired interpretations of works ranging from perennial concert hall favorites to the contemporary, with special appreciation often given to his insightful understanding of the music of his native Bohemia.

Maestro Rattay holds degrees from the Prague Conservatory, Rice University and the Peabody Institute of Music. In addition to his permanent positions with the Muncie Symphony Orchestra (Indiana) and Lake Charles Symphony (Texas), Mr. Rattay is in great demand as a guest conductor across the United States and Europe. He divides his time between the United States and Europe.

Pip Clarke, violin
Performing Actor's *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra*

In a competitive age of solo violinists, Pip Clarke stands out. Her breathtakingly romantic style of playing, passionate artistry, impeccable technique and luscious tone tell us that there is little doubt that she is one of the brightest stars on the world's musical platform.

In April of last year, Albany Records released a CD featuring Pip performing a newly composed violin concerto by American composer Lee Actor. Written especially for Pip, it is an outstanding composition with lush contemporary romantic melodies and dazzling virtuosity.

Pip gave her London debut at just 16 years of age and quickly began touring throughout her native England. Her performances took her to such London venues as St. James's Piccadilly, and St. Martin-in-the-Fields. Her recent concert touring has taken her all over the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia.

Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, by Lee Actor

"Concerto for Violin and Orchestra was commissioned by the Mission Chamber Orchestra in honor of their 10th anniversary season, and was written between July and November 2005," remarks composer Lee Actor. "It is dedicated to and written for internationally renowned violinist **Pip Clarke**, whose superlative technical skills and intensely romantic sound are an ideal fit for my compositional aesthetic. My aim was to write a serious piece of substance and weight, in a bravura style that would showcase Ms. Clarke's talents. The result is music that is highly dramatic, expressive, and passionate, while also embracing the lyrical element. The soloist is placed front and center as the main protagonist in this musical drama – a "soloist vs. orchestra" aesthetic similar to that of the 19th century romantic concertos, but in a fresh, contemporary style."

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.

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

#

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