



Antonia Joy Wilson  
Artistic Director & Conductor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 21, 2010

Midland Symphony Orchestra presents:

**What:** "Twilight Cello Concerto"

**When:** November 6 • 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](http://www.mcfta.org)

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

MIDLAND – As autumn turns to winter, savor the inspirational music of guest cellist Matthew Allen. Midland Symphony Orchestra, Antonia Joy Wilson, Artistic Director and Conductor, presents *Twilight Cello Concerto* at Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrews, Midland, on November 6 at 8 pm. Edward Elgar's *Enigma Variations* will be included, with the "Nimrod Variation" performed in tribute to the late Robert T. Ralston. Sponsored by Hilliard Lyons.

Adult tickets are \$24 and \$32; Student tickets are \$10, with a special Student Rush Ticket of \$5 (available day of concert only). Tickets are available online at [www.mcfta.org](http://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.

To help celebrate the MSO's Diamond Jubilee, Jenkins Custom Jewelers makes a special visit to the MCFTA lobby. Be sure to stop by, try on some jewelry, and enter your name for a gift certificate. This could be your chance to find an early gift for that special someone!

**PROGRAM:**

Felix Mendelssohn *Ruy Blas: Overture*

Samuel Barber *Cello Concerto*

Edward Elgar *Enigma Variations* (Nimrod Variation: Tribute to the late Robert T. Ralston)

**MATTHEW ALLEN, CELLIST**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner of the Gaspar Cassado International Violoncello Competition in Hachioji, Japan. Performing *Cello Concerto*.

Matthew Allen has established himself as one of the leading young American cellists. At the age of 17, Mr. Allen was named the Gold Medalist in the Gaspar Cassado International Violoncello Competition in Hachioji, Japan, where he was also awarded the Audience Award.

Born in Denton, Texas, in 1992, Mr. Allen began studying cello at the age of four. As a soloist, Mr. Allen has been featured with a number of orchestras including the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic, LaGrange Symphony Orchestra, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, and the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. In 2008, Mr. Allen recorded Popper's *Hungarian Rhapsody* for TELARC Records released in August, 2009.

Mr. Allen has been a prizewinner in numerous competitions throughout the United States, including the Grand Prize in the 2007 Cobb Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition, First Prize in the 2008 LaGrange Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition, First Prize in the 2009 ASTA National Solo Competition, and Gold Medal in the 2008 Stulberg International String Competition.

He currently studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music with Melissa Kraut.

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, 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](http://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](http://www.mcfta.org)