



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 15, 2010

Midland Symphony Orchestra presents:

**What: Pianist Yeol Eum Son, Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Silver Medalist, performing with Midland Symphony Orchestra**

**When: February 6 – 8 pm  
Prelude at 7:15 pm**

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

**Cost: \$23.04 and \$32 Adults / \$7.20 and \$10 Students**

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

MIDLAND – Pianist Yeol Eum Son, the silver medalist of the Thirteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, performs with the Midland Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, February 6 at 8 pm. This evening of music takes place in the Auditorium of Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 West St. Andrews Road, Midland, Michigan. Tickets are \$23.04 and \$32 for adults; \$7.20 and \$10 for students. Student Rush Tickets (day of concert only) are \$5. For tickets and more information, contact the Ticket Office at 800-523-7649 or online at [www.mcfta.org](http://www.mcfta.org). Sponsored by [Merrill Lynch/The Iles Group](http://www.merrilllynch.com). Funded in part by the Maxwell K. Pribil Memorial Fund.

The Van Cliburn Piano Competition showcases 30 of the world's most promising young pianists over 17 days of extraordinary music-making. Ms. Son, a 23-year-old native of South Korea, will perform Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" accompanied by the MSO. Also on the program are Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries: Prelude" and Rimsky-Korsakov's romantic depiction of *1001 Arabian Nights*, "Scheherazade."

*"Son should have no trouble building a career. She's got the fingers and the personality - and, at least here, the haut-est couture."* – **Scott Cantrell, Dallas Morning News**

Already considered among the most important artists of her generation in South Korea, Ms. Son has performed in that country with almost every notable orchestra, and has been a featured soloist with the New York Philharmonic on several occasions, most recently as part of the orchestra's historic visit to Seoul. Additionally, she has performed with the Israel, New York, Seoul, and Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestras, among other noted orchestras. Third-prize winner of the 2005 Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition, she has made debuts at several international music festivals, including the Beethoven Easter Festival in Warsaw, the Rheingau Festival in Germany, and the Bowdoin Festival in the United States. She currently studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover, Germany, and has recorded a CD of Chopin etudes for Universal Music in Korea.

**The 2009 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition:** A total of 225 pianists from across the globe applied to the 2009 Van Cliburn Piano Competition. Following an extensive screening process, the applications were pared down to just over 150 pianists (representing 37 countries). These pianists were invited to participate in the worldwide Screening Audition Recitals held in Shanghai, China; Hannover, Germany; St. Petersburg, Russia; Lugano, Switzerland; and in the

United States in New York City and Fort Worth, Texas. From this group, 30 pianists were selected for the final competition. The screening recitals, free and open to the public, were presided over by a five-member jury who are also members of the Cliburn 2009 competition jury.

*"...the most prestigious classical piano contest in the world."* – **Chicago Tribune**

**The Van Cliburn Foundation:** Since 1962, the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition has been the most *visible* expression of the Van Cliburn Foundation's commitment to the highest standards of musical achievement. The Foundation disseminates classical music worldwide, as well as launches and nurtures young artists' careers through the quadrennial Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, ensuing international concert tours of its medalists, award-winning television documentaries, and internationally syndicated radio series dedicated to the Competition and its most memorable performances. By making the Competition available in its entirety on the internet, the Foundation has extended its outreach to listeners in every corner of the globe. [www.vancliburn.org](http://www.vancliburn.org)

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

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