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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Midland Symphony Orchestra presents**

## ***Simple Gifts***

***An evening of American favorites  
and popular masterworks***

MIDLAND – The Midland Symphony Orchestra presents ***Simple Gifts***, a program of all-orchestral American favorites and popular masterworks under the direction of guest conductor **Chelsea Tipton II**. The evening begins with Gershwin's ***Cuban Overture***, dominated by Caribbean rhythms and Cuban native percussion. Also on the program are Copland's endearing ***Appalachian Spring***, and ***West Side Story's*** most famous songs. Marquez' acclaimed and invigorating ***Danzon No. 2*** concludes the evening.

The winner of the **Maestro Wannabe** fundraising contest will be announced during the concert, with a member of the winning orchestra section conducting a piece of their choice.

***Simple Gifts*** takes place **Saturday, February 18, at 8 pm** in the Midland Center for the Arts Auditorium, 1801 W. St. Andrews Rd., Midland, MI, with pre-concert Prelude Lecture at 7:15 pm. The concert is sponsored by Merrill Lynch – The Iles Group.

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

**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#simplegifts>

### **Chelsea Tipton II, guest conductor**

Guest Conductor Chelsea Tipton II has held the position of Music Director of the Symphony of Southeast Texas in Beaumont, Texas, since 2009. Prior to that, he was Resident Conductor of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra from 2003 – 2010. He spent the summer of 2011 touring with Sting in Europe and Russia as part of the *Symphonicity Tour*. As a sought-after guest conductor, Maestro Tipton has appeared with major orchestras in the U.S. including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the New World Symphony Orchestra, and the Nashville Symphony Orchestra among others.

### **Maestro Wannabe Fundraiser**

The fundraiser benefits Midland Symphony Orchestra and continues through Friday, February 10, 2012. Votes are \$1 each and can be cast online, by mail or by calling the MCFTA Ticket Office at 800-523-7649. Also, this year's contest continues the "delicious" twist to this fun fundraiser. Dine-in or take-out at **Pi's Chinese Restaurant, Genji Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar**,

**Café Zinc, Table, or Oxygen** anytime after 5 pm on Wednesdays during the months of November, December and January. Each restaurant will donate a portion of their Wednesday night proceeds to the MSO. And, ballots can be cast in the restaurant lobbies, too!

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 Choirs, Center Stage Theatre, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, and Midland Symphony Orchestra. 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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