

Symphony prepares to celebrate the holidays

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A&E Editor

Time to get your fancy pants on, Lansing!

Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. is the annual Lansing Symphony Orchestra (LSO) holiday pops concert at the Wharton Center.

The MSU Youth chorale will be joining the Symphony for this special performance of holiday classics. Also performing in Tchaikovsky's "Suite from the Nutcracker" are select student winner singers.

A mini-concert before the show, beginning at 2:20 p.m. will feature Suzuki students from Community Music School as well as a visit from Santa Claus.

LSO Music Director and



Conductor Timothy Muffit spoke about the harmonious festivities.

"This has become a holiday tradition in the Lansing area," Muffit said. "It's a big event with a wide range of repertoire from classic holiday music to very popular style music."

Guest baritone artist Jonathan Beyer will also take the stage for the concert. Muffit spoke highly of Meyer and said everyone will enjoy a piece of the concert.

"It's a very festive event full of everyone's holiday music," Muffit said.

A classic song from "The Nutcracker," as well as "Silent Night" and "The First Noel" are some of the pieces to be performed.

The symphony is made up of freelanced musicians from Lansing, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Mt. Pleasant and even Chicago. These professional musicians must go through an audition process to gain a chair.

Gretchen Morse has been part of the LSO since 1993, for an impressive 21 seasons.

Morse plays the oboe and French horn and teaches at MSU Community Music School. She spoke about her fondness of the LSO.

"It's great that we have such a quality orchestra," Morse said. "And I really enjoy the variety of repertoire we get to play. However, what I like best is playing for and interacting with the audience."

Students who are unsure if a symphony is "their scene" shouldn't worry. Muffit encourages students and anyone else who've never been to a symphony before to attend.

"The Holiday Pops would be a great place to start,"

Muffit said. "A first-time concertgoer would find the January program to be a great introduction a symphony concert as well."

The January program consists of Tchaikovsky and Beethoven.

If those last two names sound a bit too fancy pants for you, don't fret. The LSO aims at making this rich experience available to all, with student discount tickets and a wide variety of music events throughout the year.

"It's a great honor to be involved in educational and community outreach events through the Symphony," Morse said. "I love finding new and fun ways to help make classical music fun and accessible to audiences of all ages."

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