



# MANKATO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## PRESS RELEASE

7/22/11

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Mankato Symphony Announces New Concert Season, Music from the Heart**

**Mankato, MN**—The Mankato Symphony is pleased to present its 2011-2012 concert season, Music from the Heart. “This season is all about music that has a deep personal meaning” says MSO conductor and Music Director Ken Freed. The concerts cover a wide variety of different genres. Highlights include symphonies by famous composers Tchaikovsky and Ives, portions of Handel’s *Messiah*, a semi-staged production of the opera *Carmen*, and a concert of Big Band classics by Cole Porter, George and Ira Gershwin, and Fats Waller. The season is comprised of six concerts with the full orchestra and noted guest artists under the baton of Ken Freed. Freed has directed the Mankato Symphony since 2006. Concert titles are Heartland, America the Beautiful, Candy Cane Pops, Candy Cane Classic, Carmen, and Fly Me to the Moon. Tickets are on sale now at the Twin Rivers Box Office.

#### **New This Season**

The Candy Cane Concert is an MSO tradition; this year, the orchestra is trying something new. The beloved Christmas concert is being split into two mini concerts held back to back, the Candy Cane Pops and the Candy Cane Classic. “A lot of people who come to the Candy Cane Concert are there to hear Christmas carols and songs they know and can sing along with” says MSO Executive Director Sara Buechmann, “but there are also quite a few who are purists and want to hear nothing but serious classical music at an orchestra concert. This way everyone is happy. People who like both can come to both for the price of a single concert while others can pick the portion they’d like to hear for a portion of the price. People tend to bring their children and grandchildren to the Candy Cane. A one hour mini concert is a lot more fun for a kid than a full length concert.”

The Mankato Symphony’s mission is to make classical music accessible to all residents in the region. “We want to bring the joy and beauty of live performance to everyone, and that means providing some more affordable ticket options for families, students, and individuals” says Buechmann. This season the orchestra is offering bigger discounts on season tickets, a smaller package of three tickets, a package for families, and are offering a third pricing category of seats. Student ticket prices have been cut in half. Anyone with a student ID can attend for \$5. “We want people to come see what we have to offer. A lot of people have never been to one of our performances and we want to encourage them to try it and see if they like it. Classical music is a lot more accessible than people think; you don’t need any experience or special training to appreciate it.”

In addition to its Subscription Series Music from the Heart, the Mankato Symphony also offers a chamber music series, Music on the Hill which is returning for a second season, and a fourth season of the family concert series, titled Bach’s Lunch, this year.

Tickets are available through the Twin Rivers Box Office at 507-387-1008, online at [www.mankatosymphony.com](http://www.mankatosymphony.com) or [www.twinriversarts.org](http://www.twinriversarts.org). A season brochure is available for download from the Mankato Symphony website.

## 2011-12 SEASON AT A GLANCE

### Subscription Series Music from the Heart

#### 1. Heartland

October 9, 2011 3 pm, Mankato West High School Auditorium

Virtuoso pianist Christopher Atzinger plays Rachmaninoff's lush Second Piano Concerto, followed by a Tchaikovsky symphony filled with longing for home. Award winning composer Geoffrey Hudson reflects on the encounter of Native and European in Meeting Ground.

#### 2. America the Beautiful November 20, 2011 3 pm, Mankato West High School Auditorium

MSO's own clarinetist Leslie Weber and cellist Joseph Rodgers star in a concert of masterworks by American composers, including pieces by Barber, Copland, and Ives' Second Symphony.

#### 3. Candy Cane Concerts December 11, 2011 Mankato West High School Auditorium

Attend both for the same price as a single MSO concert, or choose the portion that interests you

##### **Candy Cane Pops** 3-4 pm

Fun-filled Christmas delights like Sleigh Ride and O Holy Night sung by Minnesota favorite Mary Jane Alm, formerly of City Mouse; this one hour mini concert is great for families and ends with the traditional carol sing-a-long

##### **Candy Cane Classic** 4:30-6:00 pm

Portions of Handel's Messiah stir the soul and uplift the spirit in time for the Christmas season

#### 4. Carmen

February 19, 2012 3 pm, Mankato West High School Auditorium

Carmen seduces Don Jose away from his faithful love Micaela and draws him into a life of crime, only to abandon him for the bullfighter Escamillo in this dramatic semi-staged production of Bizet's classic opera. Rising stars from the Minnesota Opera's Young Artist Program play the lead roles. Sung in French with English titles broadcast above the stage.

#### 5. Fly Me to the Moon

May 13, 2012

3 pm, Mankato West High School Auditorium

Jazz trumpeter Charles Lazarus debuted at Carnegie Hall at age 19 and just keeps getting better. Hear Big Band classics by Cole Porter, George and Ira Gershwin, and Fats Waller alongside some original compositions in a concert dedicated to that special lady in your life

### **Chamber Music Series**

#### **Music on the Hill**

The Mankato Symphony is pleased to announce a second season of the chamber music series Music on the Hill. Concertmaster Lydia Miller will lead four afternoons of intimate music, set in the Chapel at Good Counsel. Each concert will feature pieces for a small group of musicians from the Mankato Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Opera, and beyond. All concerts start at 2 pm and will be followed by a reception with the artists.

Watch for a Music on the Hill brochure coming to your mailbox soon with ticket information or visit

[www.msomusiconthehill.com](http://www.msomusiconthehill.com).

September 25, 2011

January 22, 2012

March 25, 2012

May 6, 2012

### **Family Concert Series**

#### **Bach's Lunch**

Composer Johann Sebastian Bach has it all. A brilliant composer with a loving family, he has a job he enjoys playing the organ for church, writes fugues and cantatas with ease, and gets to teach some of the most talented musicians in town. The only problem? His student Heinrich just won't take things seriously! The Family Concert Series is designed to introduce young children and their families to the delights of classical music. No need to sit still! Laughing, clapping, singing along, and dancing are encouraged. Starring David Fienen as Bach and Alex Barnett as Heinrich. 11 am, Mankato YMCA Exercise Room

October 15, 2011

December 17, 2011

March 17, 2012

June 2, 2012