



For Immediate Release
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Photo's Attached

Canton Symphony Orchestra opens KeyBank Masterworks Series with “Celebrating Gerhardt”

The Canton Symphony Orchestra will open its 2010-11 KeyBank MasterWorks Series on Sunday, October 10 at 7:30p.m. in Umstattd Hall as it celebrates 30 years with Music Director and Conductor Gerhardt Zimmermann. For this historic season, Maestro Zimmermann has selected some of his favorite composers and works that hold particular significance for him and the orchestra. “We will feature soloists that I have a special affinity with,” says Zimmermann, “including André Watts, Norman Krieger and Christine Brandes, as well as members of the orchestra including Concertmaster Nathan Olson. We will once again bring a semi-staged opera to Umstattd, Rossini’s wonderful *Barber of Seville*.”

Spotlighting a Lifelong Passion for Beethoven

Among the works on the October 10 program is Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 7*. Zimmermann’s first exposure to this powerful masterpiece during his college years ignited his lifelong passion for Beethoven and conducting. “This piece literally saved my life,” Zimmermann recalls, “and it will be a night to remember with this wonderful orchestra!”

The program also includes Dvořák’s charming and lyrical *American Suite*, and *Inspiring Beethoven*, by composer Kevin Puts, whom critics have consistently hailed as one of America’s most important composers of his generation. Puts describes this work, which quotes the Beethoven symphony, as “...a musical tale, completely imagined, of Ludwig van Beethoven finding the inspiration to compose the first movement Vivace of his *Symphony No. 7*.”

About Gerhardt

Zimmermann’s energetic and vibrant performances have drawn invitations to appear on the podium with the Cleveland, Chicago, National, Atlanta, Warsaw Philharmonic, and Toronto Symphony orchestras, among many others. With headlines such as, “Canton Symphony steams up the night”; and “Orchestra (Canton Symphony) gives impassioned (Mahler) Ninth Symphony”, Zimmermann has consistently received high praise from critics and audiences alike. Of his February 2006 debut with the Cleveland Opera, conducting Gounod’s *Romeo and Juliet*, the Cleveland Plain Dealer remarked, “Zimmermann...went on to lead a warm, vivid reading... The orchestra responded with a

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keen blend of ensemble finesse and solo suavity.” The Akron Beacon Journal added, “I’ve rarely heard the orchestra sound so full or play more expressively than under Zimmermann.”

In 2006 he was named Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of Texas, Austin. He is currently Conductor Laureate of the North Carolina Symphony, after serving 21 years there as Music Director/Conductor. This past summer he returned to the Breckenridge Music Festival for his 13th season as Music Director and Principal Conductor.

Born in Ohio, Mr. Zimmermann lives in Raleigh, North Carolina with his wife, Sharon. They have two children, Anna Marie, and Peter Karl Irum.

Ticket Information

Tickets are available by calling the Symphony Box Office at 330-452-2094; ordering online at www.cantonsymphony.org; in person at the Box Office in the Cultural Center for the Arts at 1001 Market Ave. N., weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; or at the Umstattd Hall box office one hour prior to the performance. Prices are \$20, \$30, and \$40. Discounts are available for seniors & students.

Founded in 1973, the Canton Symphony Orchestra is a fully professional ensemble and organization dedicated to performing concerts that enrich, educate, and entertain residents of Stark County and beyond. The orchestra performs classical, holiday, and a variety of educational programs in Umstattd Hall, 2323 17th Street NW, Canton, OH, as well as other venues in Stark County. For more information, please visit www.cantonsymphony.org or call (330) 452-2094. Administrative offices are located at 1001 Market Ave. N., Canton, Ohio, 44702-1024

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