



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* takes center stage at 19th Annual Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. – The 19th Annual Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival will present two fully-staged performances of Igor Stravinsky's famous ballet, *The Rite of Spring*, on Saturday, June 16 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Seligman Performing Arts Center. The work will be danced by metro Detroit's own professional contemporary dance company, the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble (EDE), and performed by pianists Elisabeth Pridonoff and Eugene Pridonoff, and Percussion Group Cincinnati.

The Rite of Spring's 1913 Paris premiere shocked audience members with its intensely rhythmic score, scandalous choreography, and story of pagan sacrifice. Today, *The Rite of Spring* is one of classical music's most well-known works. The piece is considered a milestone in modern music that continues to transform and amaze the musical world to this day.

The performance will feature new choreography by EDE's Artistic Director, Laurie Eisenhower. Eisenhower has waited more than a quarter of a century for the perfect opportunity to create new choreography for this important work.

"I have been interested in choreographing to this music for at least 25 years." said Eisenhower. "Because it is such an iconic work and many notable choreographers have already choreographed important works using this music, I felt I needed to be more mature to tackle it. I

also wanted all the right forces to come together in order to do it right. Performing it as part of the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival with wonderful musicians was important. And, of course, my dancers are fabulous, so I definitely have all the right forces coming together.”

The original performance in 1913 depicted the pagan sacrifice of a young girl who dances herself to death. Eisenhower, however, has created her own storyline for the work.

“I am creating my own scenario and choreography for the dance. The Rite(s) of Spring in my dance are new discoveries through history that have changed society, such as fire, the wheel, machines, technology. Since this work has been on my mind for so many years, my expectations are high. So far the process is meeting those expectations! ”

Tickets to see *The Rite of Spring* on Saturday, June 16 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Seligman Performing Arts Center are \$40 and \$10 for students (25 and under). Tickets are \$5 more at the door. Subscription packages are available. For more information, please call 248-559-2095 or visit www.greatlakeschambermusic.org.

JUNE 16 CONCERT INFORMATION

- Handel/Halvorsen.....*Passacaglia* performed by Tai Murray, violin; Andres Diaz, cello
- Joel Hoffman.....“...*the first time and the last*” for cello quartet, performed by cellists Andrés Díaz, Amit Even-Tov, David Geringas, and Paul Katz
- Glazunov*Quintet in A Major for Strings, Op. 39*, performed by the Ariel Quartet and David Geringas, cello
- Stravinsky.....*The Rite of Spring* performed by pianists Elisabeth Pridonoff and Eugene Pridonoff; Percussion Group Cincinnati; Eisenhower Dance Ensemble

JUNE 17 CONCERT INFORMATION

- Cage.....Selections of *Amores; Living Room Music* and *Credo in Us* performed by Percussion Group Cincinnati
- Rachmaninoff.....*Trio élégiaque No. 2 in D minor* for violin, cello and piano, Op. 9

performed by Elisabeth Pridonoff, piano; Tai Murray, violin; Paul Katz, cello

- Stravinsky.....*The Rite of Spring* performed by pianists Elisabeth Pridonoff and Eugene Pridonoff; Percussion Group Cincinnati; Eisenhower Dance Ensemble

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

A secular event, the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival is sponsored by Kirk in the Hills, St. Hugo of the Hills, Temple Beth El, and Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings. The 2012 Festival will take place June 9 – June 24 in venues across Metro Detroit. For more information, please visit www.greatlakeschambermusic.org.

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