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Van Cliburn Piano Competition Winner to Perform with Midland Symphony Orchestra

MIDLAND – Pianist Yeol Eum Son, the silver medalist of the Thirteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, will perform with the Midland Symphony Orchestra, the MSO announced today. The concert will take place at Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 West St. Andrews Road, Midland, Michigan, on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 8 p.m. as part of the MSO's 2009-2010 concert season. For tickets and more information, contact the Ticket Office at 800-523-7649 or online at www.mcfta.org

The Van Cliburn Piano Competition showcases 30 of the world's most promising young pianists over 17 days of extraordinary music-making. Ms. Son, a 23-year-old native of South Korea, will perform Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* accompanied by the MSO. Also on the program are Wagner's *Rite of the Valkyries: Prelude* and Rimsky-Korsakov's romantic depiction of *1001 Arabian Nights, Scheherazade*.

Ms. Son has performed with the Israel, New York, Seoul, and Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestras, among other noted orchestras. Third-prize winner of the 2005 Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition, she has made debuts at several international music festivals, including the Beethoven Easter Festival in Warsaw, the Rheingau Festival in Germany, and the Bowdoin Festival in the United States. She currently studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover, Germany, and has recorded a CD of Chopin etudes for Universal Music in Korea.

A total of 225 pianists from around the world applied to the 2009 Van Cliburn Piano Competition. Following an extensive screening process, the applications were whittled down to just over 150 pianists (representing 37 countries). These pianists were invited to participate in the worldwide Screening Audition Recitals held in Shanghai, China; Hannover, Germany; St. Petersburg, Russia; Lugano, Switzerland; and in the United States in New York, New York and Fort Worth, Texas during January and February 2009, from which the thirty pianists were selected to compete. The screening recitals, free and open to the public, were presided over by a five-member jury who are also members of the Cliburn 2009 competition jury.

The Midland Symphony Orchestra (MSO) offers a six-concert season featuring renowned guest artists. Providing mid-Michigan with continuous symphonic music since 1936, the MSO also sponsors educational opportunities through its touring ensembles in the schools, Community Orchestra, chamber concerts, Tunes for Tots, a summer outdoor event, 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, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, Music Society and Theatre Guild. 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.

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