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TRADITIONS SHINE IN SYMPHONY'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

Sounds of the Season

Monday, December 16 – 7:30 p.m.

Stephens Auditorium, Iowa State Center, Ames

AMES, Iowa – Iowa State University President Gregory Geoffroy, University Carillonneur Tin-shi Tam, and a massed choir of 250 voices will join the Central Iowa Symphony for the annual Sounds of the Season holiday concert at 7:30 p.m., Monday, December 16 at Stephens Auditorium.

President Geoffroy will read Clement Moore's beloved classic, 'Twas the Night before Christmas, in an orchestral setting by Jerome Neff. The delightful arrangement features sound effects, quotations from holiday carols, and a rousing finale.

The Central Iowa Symphony also will present the world premiere of "Star Bells," a work for carillon and orchestra by ISU composer and music professor Jeffrey Prater. The piece is divided into three movements: Bells of Contention, Bells of the Dance, and Bells of Celebration. It incorporates several well-known hymn melodies including "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star," and "Sleepers Wake." Tam will perform the solo part from the campanile on ISU's central campus via a live audio/visual telecommunications link.

The 250-voice choir, made up of high school singers from throughout central Iowa, will sing "Christmas Day" by Gustav Holst, "He Watching over Israel" by Felix Mendelssohn, "Shepherds' Chorus" from Amahl and the Night Visitors by Gian Carlo Menotti,

"This concert is not to be missed," explained Central Iowa Symphony conductor Mark Laycock, who also directs orchestral activities at ISU. "It will be a wonderful celebration of the season featuring a rich array of talents found right here in our region. With an incredible variety of holiday selections new and cherished, this concert has become a marvelous tradition for families and friends to come together in the spirit of the season.

Singers from six outstanding high school choirs will comprise the massed ensemble: Boone (Pamela Grundstad, director), Des Moines Christian (Rick Tegeler, director), East Greene (Wendell Brown, director), Eldora-New Providence (Betty Collins, director), Gilbert (Melodie Duple, director), and Norwalk (Kim Ward, director).

The orchestra also will perform several seasonal favorites in a classical vein, including selections from “The Nutcracker” by Tchaikovsky, the Bach chorale prelude “Wachet auf” by Eugene Ormandy, and “Christmas Music for Orchestra” arranged by John Cacavas.

The 70-member community orchestra is comprised of professional musicians, music educators, exceptional student performers, and accomplished amateurs from Ames and central Iowa. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students (ages 5 years and under are free). Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at the Iowa State Center Ticket Office, all TicketMaster locations, charge-by-phone in Ames at (515) 233-1888 and in Des Moines at 515-243-1888, or on-line at www.ticketmaster.com.

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