For Immediate Release:

MSU Symphony Orchestra and choral groups to perform Feb. 7
Mahler’s Symphony No. 3 – a great ode to nature!

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – Michigan State University’s Symphony Orchestra along with the women of University Chorale, State Singers, and the MSU Children’s Choir will perform Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 3, considered by the composer to be “one great hymn to the glory of every aspect of creation.” The performance is scheduled for 8:00 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7, in Wharton Center’s Cobb Great Hall.

Mahler, who began work on his third symphony in 1893, composed most of the work in the summer of 1895 during which he was staying in an inn near the mountains in Salzburg, Austria. Inspired by the beauty of the mountains, woods and lakes, Mahler’s longest symphony pays homage to the natural world. It has been said that instead of offering program notes, a book could be written about this gigantic work.

Although Mahler finished his third symphony in 1896, it was years later that the first full performance took place in a small town named Krefeld in Germany. With the help of his friend – well-known composer and program organizer – Richard Strauss, Symphony No. 3 was finally premiered in 1902. The work was received with much enthusiasm and it is said by Mahler’s wife Alma that at the end “the whole audience got up from their seats in a frenzy and surged to the front.”

To support such a large work, more than 200 musicians will take the stage, including the orchestra, with 91 instrumentalists; the 40 women of the University Chorale; State Singers with 50 members; and the 38 choristers that make up MSU Children’s Choir. Kirsten Sollek, contralto, is the guest soloist.

The Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Kevin Noe, is comprised of the most developed musicians at the College of Music.

Admission is free for students with ID and anyone under age 18. Tickets are $10 for adults, $8 for seniors (age 60 and older), and can be purchased online at the College of Music box office by calling (517) 353-5340, or in person (333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing), or at the Wharton Center box office by calling (800) WHARTON or (517) 432-2000. There will be a $3 restoration fee for tickets purchased at Wharton Center, via phone, box office or the website. This is not a College of Music fee.

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