



News Release

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DRAKE UNIVERSITY WIND SYMPHONY TO PERFORM AT JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – The Drake University Wind Symphony will be performing at Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School on Wednesday, February 22nd at 2:00 P.M. in the Jefferson Auditorium. The Wind Symphony will be performing at Southeast Polk High School and Jefferson High School as they travel to Michigan to perform at the College Band Directors National Association Conference. The Wind Symphony is under the direction of Robert Meunier, Director of Bands and Professor of Music at Drake University.

Admission is free to the public.

2011 – 2012 DRAKE UNIVERSITY WIND SYMPHONY

Drake's premier wind band is comprised of the finest wind and percussion students at the university and dedicated to performing the highest quality literature for band, ranging from chamber wind works to the contemporary band repertoire. Since its inception in 1998, the Wind Symphony has developed a national reputation for musical excellence. The ensemble has thrice given invited performances for the North Central Division of the College Band Director's National Association (2000/2008/2012). It has also performed for the North American Saxophone Alliance (2005), Iowa Bandmasters Association (1999/2006/2012), South Central Iowa Bandmasters Association, and toured extensively throughout the Midwest. It has released six compact discs, including *Angels and Demons* (2001), *Homage* (2003), *Impressions* (2005), *Reflections* (2007), *Collage* (2009) and *Windscares* (2011) through Mark Custom Recording. These have received accolades from composers and critics alike, including Band World's Ira Novoselsky, who has called Drake's Wind Symphony "...one of the Midwest's premier wind orchestras," and stated: "...the Drake University Wind Symphony gives the utmost attention to every musical detail & nuance." *Impressions*, *Reflection*, and *Collage* have received Grammy Nomination Eligibility status from the Grammy Nomination Committee in both the Best Classical Music and Best Orchestral Performance categories. Recordings by the Wind Symphony have received high praise from noted band composers including Jan Van der Roost, Joseph Spaniola, Roger Cichy, Timothy Mahr and Barry Kopetz. The Wind Symphony has also produced promotional recordings for both Daehn Publications and C. Alan Publications.

Robert Meunier is Director of Bands and Professor of Percussion at Drake University where he is the conductor of the wind symphony, and director of percussion studies. Meunier is in demand as a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator, and a contributing author to eight

volumes of *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band*, *Teaching Music Through Performing Marches* and *Teaching Music Through Jazz Performance*. He has appeared throughout the United States, and in Sweden, Canada, and Mexico, where he has been an artist/conductor in residence at the *Conservatorio Nacional de Musica* and at the *Academia de Musica Escuela de Musica Ollin Yoliztli* in Mexico City. Meunier is the founder of the Drake University Wind Symphony that, since its inception in 1998, has gained national recognition for excellence in live performance and recordings.

Meunier holds a Bachelor of Science in music education from the University of Mary, a Master of Music in percussion performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has pursued doctoral studies in wind conducting at the University of North Texas where he was a student of Eugene Migliaro Corporon and Dennis Fisher. In 2005, Meunier was honored as Drake's College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teacher of the Year and in 2009, he was honored by Drake as a nominee for the Outstanding Teacher of the Year. He is a past-president of the Iowa Bandmasters Association, and a past-president of the South Central Iowa Bandmasters Association and the Iowa Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society. Meunier is a member of the College Band Directors National Association, Iowa Bandmasters Association, Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society, the Percussive Arts Society and an honorary member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

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