

PRESS RELEASE: Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra Winter Concert

The Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra brings some welcome warmth and sunshine to middle Tennessee with its winter concert, Tuesday, January 27, at 7:00 p.m. at MTSU's Wright Music Hall. Featured will be orchestral works by contemporary American composers on distinctly American themes. The program includes Robert W. Smith's *The Great Locomotive Chase*, a musical rendition of the rhythms, sights, and sounds of a Civil War adventure involving espionage and a high-speed chase on the rail lines between Chattanooga and Atlanta. The MYO is especially pleased to welcome back storyteller Jon Royal, who will introduce the piece with his own rendition of the stirring tale. The program also includes Elliot del Borgo's arrangement of the beloved traditional Shaker hymn *Simple Gifts*. In addition, the MYO is delighted to reprise Craig Duncan's *American Symphony*, which we premiered in concert in 2001. Composed by one of the most respected musicians and arrangers in Nashville, *An American Symphony* celebrates the various strands composing the rich texture of American vernacular music.

The concert is made possible by the generous sponsorship of Murfreesboro Medical Clinic Plastic Surgery and the Noon Rotary Club. Tickets may be reserved by calling the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra at 895-4513, or they may be purchased at the door the night of the concert.

Since its foundation in 1997, the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra has earned a respected and valued position in the cultural life of middle Tennessee. The MYO provides an exciting venue for young musicians to grow musically and to have fun as well. The orchestra plays a wide repertoire of classical and contemporary orchestral music. Each season includes three subscription concerts. In addition, the orchestra performs at outdoor festivals and at special school programs, and occasionally plays alongside other orchestras. The MYO especially benefits from the unique program *Strings Alive!!*, which supplies stringed instruments to students interested in playing with the MYO. Led by executive director Ellen Gassler and conductor Susan Mullen, the MYO currently includes over fifty musicians between the ages of nine and eighteen. Affiliated with the MYO is the Preparatory String Orchestra, which provides younger, less advanced string players the opportunity to refine their reading and ensemble skills with the goal of eventually playing with the MYO. The PSO performs in concert with the MYO three times annually and performs in special school programs as well.

The Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra is supported by the Tennessee Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further information on the MYO, visit our webpage—www.mboroyo.org—or e-mail the orchestra at MYOPSO@AOL.com, or call the MYO office at (615) 895-4513.