

**For immediate release**

**GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY TO MAKE ITS CARNEGIE HALL DEBUT  
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2005, AT 8 P. M., IN CELEBRATION OF ITS  
75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**THE CONCERT, CONDUCTED BY DAVID LOCKINGTON, WILL FEATURE  
VIOLINIST DYLANA JENSON AS SOLOIST**

The Grand Rapids Symphony will make its Carnegie Hall debut on Saturday, May 21, 2005 at 8:00 p.m., as part of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The concert, conducted by David Lockington, will feature violinist Dylana Jenson as soloist, marking her fourth appearance at Carnegie Hall. The program will feature Dvorák's *Domov muj (My Home)* Overture, Op. 62; Goldmark's Violin Concerto, with violinist Dylana Jenson as soloist; and Aaron Copland's Symphony No. 3.

Tickets, \$24 to \$75, are available at the Carnegie Hall box office beginning March 21, 2005; by calling CarnegieCharge at 212/247-7800; or on-line at [www.carnegiehall.org](http://www.carnegiehall.org). Discounted tickets for students and seniors will be available on the day of the concert.

David Lockington, the Symphony's Music Director, spoke for all members of his ensemble by stating, "Carnegie Hall is symbolic of the highest ideals, and it will be an honor for the Grand Rapids Symphony to perform there. Performing on this national stage is a validation of what the musicians have worked hard for and achieved. Our performance will be a wonderful culmination of our 75th Anniversary Season."

The Grand Rapids Symphony (Michigan) was officially organized in 1930 and is recognized as one of America's leading regional orchestras. The Symphony's

**concert series subscriptions have tripled since 1980, as has the number of its contributors, and its budget has grown from \$1.5 million to \$8.6 million within the past decade.**

**The Symphony's eighth CD, to be released later this year, will feature Adolphus Hailstork's Symphonies Nos. 2 and 3. (The Symphony No. 3 was commissioned by the orchestra in 2003.) A CD featuring the music of Aaron Copland was released in 2000, and three of the orchestra's other CDs were produced and released internationally on the Koss Classics label.**

**Under the leadership of former Music Director Catherine Comet, the Symphony received two ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) awards for innovative programming. As a result of its ongoing partnership with the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, the orchestra will be featured in a documentary broadcast nationally on PBS, about the 2004 Gilmore Young Artists.**

**This past season, more than 120,000 people attended the orchestra's 80 ticketed concerts, and more than 77,000 students, senior citizens and people with disabilities benefited from the orchestra's extensive education and community service programs.**

**The orchestra sponsors the 140-member Grand Rapids Youth Symphony and Classical Orchestra and the 110-voice Symphony Chorus, and provides the orchestra for performances by Opera Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Ballet Company and other local performing and presenting organizations. The Symphony presents concerts in many outlying communities and is heard throughout Michigan in regular broadcasts by the National Public Radio affiliate station WBLV/WBLU. In 2003, the orchestra was invited to perform in one of the world's great concert halls, Detroit's Orchestra Hall, as part of inaugural activities for the new Max M. Fisher Music Center.**

#### **About David Lockington**

**David Lockington has been Music Director of the Grand Rapids Symphony since January 1999, and has energized audiences and musicians alike while reaching new heights of artistic excellence. The Grand Rapids Symphony has been Lockington's sole music directorship since the 2000-2001 season. Prior to that season, Lockington held the music directorships of both the Long Island Philharmonic (1996-2000) and New Mexico Symphony Orchestra (1995-2000). He has led a number of other orchestras since his arrival to the United States in 1978 from his native Great Britain. His conducting activities have also included serving as music director of the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, Denver Young Artist's Orchestra and Boulder Bach Festival. He was founder and conductor of the Academy in the Wilderness Chamber Orchestra and for three years held the post of assistant conductor with the Denver Symphony Orchestra and Opera Colorado. Mr. Lockington was assistant conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in 1992 and later was**

**promoted to associate conductor. In 1993, he became music director of the Ohio Chamber Orchestra.**

**Mr. Lockington has guest conducted the Saint Louis, Houston, Detroit, Seattle, Indianapolis, Vancouver, Colorado, Pacific and Kansas City symphonies; the Buffalo, Rochester and Louisiana Philharmonic orchestras; and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. During the 1999-2000 season, he conducted the China Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra in Beijing and Taiwan, and led the English Chamber Orchestra on a tour in Asia.**

**Recent guest conducting engagements include his debuts with the Toronto, Oregon, Phoenix, Columbus (OH), San Diego, Nashville, North Carolina, Syracuse and Toledo Symphony orchestras and return engagements with the Indianapolis, Colorado and Kansas City symphonies and the Calgary Philharmonic. During the 2004 summer season, he appeared at the Grand Teton and San Luis Obispo Mozart festivals. This season, he will return to the Vancouver, Fort Worth, Modesto, Cheyenne and Wichita symphonies, and will make his debut with the San Antonio and Omaha symphonies. Mr. Lockington worked with the National Orchestral Institute Orchestra in June, 2001, and will continue to conduct the World Youth Symphony at the Interlochen Arts Academy during summers.**

**Mr. Lockington began his musical career as principal cellist with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. After completing his bachelor of arts degree at the University of Cambridge, he came to the U. S. on a scholarship to Yale University, where he studied conducting with Otto Werner Mueller and received his master's degree in cello performance. Mr. Lockington was a member of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and served as assistant principal cellist for three years with the Denver Symphony Orchestra before turning to conducting. Mr. Lockington is married to Dylana Jensen, and they reside with their four children in East Grand Rapids.**

#### **About Dylana Jensen**

**The musical journey of American violinist Dylana has taken her down a road less traveled by most world class musicians. Dylana Jensen started the violin at the age of two and a half with her mother, then studied with Manual Compinsky, Nathan Milstein and Josef Gingold.**

**A musical prodigy, Ms. Jensen, as a young teen, had performed with most major orchestras in the United States and traveled to Europe and Latin America for concerts, recitals and recordings. After a triumph at the Tchaikovsky Competition - - where she became the youngest and first American woman to win the Silver Medal -- she made her Carnegie Hall debut playing the Sibelius Violin Concerto with Eugene Ormandy and The Philadelphia Orchestra. The New York Times called her, "a mature master," and stated she was "unsurpassed since Heifetz." When she performed with the San Francisco Symphony playing the Brahms Violin**

Concerto, a reviewer from the San Francisco Chronicle wrote, “Dylana is a rarity, a complete concert violinist, the real thing.”

Abruptly, in 1982, the Guarnerius del Gesu that was on loan to her was recalled by its owner. Not wanting to compromise her musical integrity by playing a second-rate instrument, Ms. Jenson reduced her concert appearances while searching for a suitable instrument. She found this in one crafted by American violin-maker Samuel Zygmuntowicz. It is this instrument that she will play in her return to Carnegie Hall.

YoYo Ma recently said about Dylana Jenson, “I respect her even more today for the undiminished luster of her playing. It sizzles with an incredible red-blooded vitality.”

Ms. Jenson has toured Australia and Japan and was made an Honorary Citizen of Costa Rica for her artistic contribution to that country. Recent performances have included the Louisiana Philharmonic, Colorado Symphony, New Mexico Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival, and the Interlochen Festival of the Arts.

**Sponsors of the Carnegie Hall Concert**

Sponsors for the orchestra’s Carnegie Hall concert to date include the following: The Richard & Helen DeVos Foundation, Jay & Betty Van Andel Foundation, Wege Foundation, Pamela Roland, Comerica Bank, Grand Rapids Symphony Women’s Committee, Bank One, Peter C. & Pat Cook, Fifth Third Bank, Gainey Corporation, Hansen-Balk Steel Treating Company, Huntington Bank, Robert & Judith Hooker, Miner S. & Mary Ann Keeler Foundation, Meijer, Steelcase Foundation, Steelcase Inc., Witte Travel & Tours, Grand Valley State University, F. Martin & Dorothy A. Johnson, David & Marilyn Hunting, Jr., Loosemore Foundation, Greg & Meg Miller Willit, Wolverine World Wide Inc., Amerikam, Grand Rapids Community College, Jim McKay & Twink Frey, Macatawa Bank, Monaghan Associates Inc., Jim & Marie Preston, Royce Rolls Ringer Co., Standard Federal Bank, David & Peggy Thompson, The Grand Rapids Press and Michael and Susan Jandernoa.

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**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:**  
**For additional information, interview access or photographs, please contact:**  
  
Nancy Shear Arts Services, Press Representative, 212/496-9418;  
**SHEARARTS@AOL.COM**