

grant county

ARTS

MARION PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



The Marion Philharmonic Orchestra, in collaboration with Taylor University, was established as a professional orchestra in 1969 and incorporated in January 1971. A 23 member Board of Directors that meets once a month governs the MPO. Mary Kirby is the Executive Director of the Philharmonic and while formerly teaching at Marion high school she won National awards and inspired hundreds of our local kids to appreciate music. The Philharmonic orchestra employs 55 professional freelance musicians from Ball State University, Taylor University, Indiana Wesleyan University, Butler University, Fort Wayne and Kokomo. The 2009-2010 Season begins with "Opening Night" on October 24, 2009 at the Phillippe Performing Arts Center on the

campus of Indiana Wesleyan University. The performance features pianist Stephen Hargreaves performing Rachmaninoff's *Third Piano Concerto*. Music by Prokofiev and Borodin complete the salute to Russian masters.

On December 12, 2009 the orchestra returns to the F. Ritchie Walton Performing Arts Center at Marion High School for a Holiday Celebration. Music of the season, including an arrangement of *The Nutcracker* by Duke Ellington and an audience sing-a-long will put everyone in a holiday spirit.

On March 13, 2010, the MPO joins the Civic Theater in a Reader's Theater of *The Wizard of Oz*. Children from Grant County schools will have a chance to see this performance on Thursday, March 11.

The season ends with a return to Rediger Auditorium, on the campus of Taylor University, where the orchestra will join the outstanding Taylor Chorale in a performance of Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*.

The Marion Philharmonic Orchestra has enjoyed a wealth of music directors through the past forty years including present music director, Maestro Alexander Platt. The MPO shares Mr. Platt with the Waukegan, Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, the Boca Raton, Florida Symphony Orchestra and the Chicago Opera Theater. In addition to these duties, Mr. Platt has extensive guest conducting performances throughout the United States and abroad. His enthusiasm for conducting and amazing knowledge of all types of music has made the MPO one of the finest orchestras in Indiana.

In addition to the annual children's concerts, the MPO sponsors a yearly Concerto/ Aria competition for outstanding young musicians. Students can compete in high school and collegiate levels, with a chance to perform with the orchestra.

