Racine Symphony
ORCHESTRA

Do We Dare? Of Course We Do!

The Racine Symphony Orchestra's 2009 – 2010 season is past the halfway point and this one will go in the record books. Like most nonprofits, the RSO has been on a roller coaster ride for the past 18 months. Do we think about the future - Do We Dare?

Do we dare to be optimistic? Of course we do, the 80th anniversary of the symphony is in two years. The Board of Directors is already preparing for the celebration.

Do we dare to plan? Of course we do, we already have dates for next summer's Pops concerts and the rest of the season is more than penciled in.

Do we dare to change? Of course we do, we have to. Our audience is changing and the Board is addressing how to satisfy our current audience while engaging the future.

Do we dare to celebrate? Of course we do, we have a great reason, **YOU**. We have musicians who love to play, a dedicated Board of Directors, staff and volunteers making the organization strong. The **MOST IMPORTANT** reason to celebrate is you. We appreciate every way you support the RSO. Thank you, we cannot do it without YOU. Join us for the celebration!

One Orchestra Playing, Over 100 High School Choir Members Singing and WPR's Norman Gilliland Emcees the Evening

The Racine Symphony Orchestra continues its 78th season with its' seasonal favorite ***Home for the Holidays*** **Pops Concert**, Friday, December 4, 7:00 pm at Festival Hall. RSO **Music Director Andrew Massey** will conduct, while WPR's **Norman Gilliland** is the emcee for the evening. **The Horlick Madrigal Singers** begin the evening's pre-concert with a rousing welcome to the season. The **Christmas Festival Chorus**, comprised of **choral students from Washington Park, Lutheran, and Prairie** high schools will join the RSO in a program of traditional holiday music.

Norman Gilliland began hosting classical music broadcasts in the mid-1970s and joined Wisconsin Public Radio in 1983. He is the producer and host of a weekday classical music program, and co-host, with Stephanie Elkins, of **Midday Classics**. Gilliland also co-produces and hosts, with Professor Emily Auerbach, the **University of the Air** series. Since 1989 he has hosted Wisconsin Public Radio's popular **Old-Time Radio Night** and produces the classical music biographical modules Grace Notes.

The **Christmas Festival Chorus** is comprised of 100 students, from choruses conducted by Tim Gullicksrud at Lutheran High, Pat Badger at The Prairie School, and Heather Skaggs at Washington Park High School. Listen to your holiday favorites, *Twas the Night Before Christmas*, narrated by **Joan Spinks**, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* or *White Christmas* sung by the Choirs. The **entire Holiday Pops audience will be invited to sing** along to favorites from a selection of traditional carols and songs for the season.

Invite your family and friends to enjoy classic holiday music and singing a-long with your favorite carols. Sponsors for the concert are **Norco Manufacturing** and **Educators Credit Union**.

The RSO and Their Audiences Give Back to the Community – Racine County Food Bank

At the first Summer Pops concert this year, we asked audience members to bring in food donations to help stock the shelves at the Food Bank. You did, two large barrels of food was collected. The holiday times are always tough on families and this year is even harder. More than 59,000 people in Racine County received food last year, on average of 62,000 pounds of food are delivered monthly. The six most needed food items are canned fruit, peanut butter, tuna fish, beef stew, canned meats and canned pasta with meat. Look for the RCFB barrels by the doors. In the spirit of holiday giving, help make those barrels OVERFLOW!

Donate to the RSO or Purchase Concert Tickets
Donations or ticket purchases can be made online at www.racinesymphony.org or by calling the RSO office at 636.9285.