Racine Symphony
ORCHESTRA

ANDREW MASSEY, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Racine Symphony Orchestra to present Holiday Pops at Festival Hall
with UW-Parkside Soprano Ami Bouterse and high school choruses
Washington Park, Prairie, and Lutheran high school singers to join RSO and Bouterse performing selections from Messiah, Nutracker, and traditional holiday carols

RACINE, WI | November 18, 2008

The Racine Symphony Orchestra continues its 77th season with a charming concert program for the 2008 **Holiday Pops.** The concert will take place on **Friday, December 5th at 7 p.m. at Festival Hall**. RSO **Music Director Andrew Massey** will conduct, with **guest artist Ami Bouterse, soprano.** 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 and new music for the holiday season.

Ami **Bouterse** is Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Wisconsin- Parkside where she teaches private voice and other related courses, including directing the Opera Workshop which presented the beloved *Hansel and Gretel* this season. She has performed extensively in opera, oratorio and musical theatre, in various roles ranging from Bach, Handel, and Mozart to Sondheim and beyond. As an opera apprentice artist, Ami sang two full seasons with the Opera Theater of Pittsburgh and Dorian Opera Theater in main stage roles, educational outreach performances and concert repertoire.

A national award-winning vocalist, Bouterse has been a frequent soloist with local ensembles including the Racine Symphony Orchestra, Festival Arts of Antioch, and the Choral Arts Society of Southeastern Wisconsin. She has appeared in recital nationally and internationally, and frequently performs *Wednesday Noon Concert Recitals* at UW-Parkside.

The **Christmas Festival Chorus** is comprised of 60 students, from choruses conducted by Tim Gullicksrud at Lutheran High, Pat Badger at The Prairie School, and Heather Skaggs at Washington Park High School. The **entire Holiday Pops audience will be invited to sing** along to favorites from Handel's *Messiah,* as well as a selection of traditional carols and songs for the season.

The **Racine Symphony Orchestra**, now in its 77th season, is the oldest orchestra in continuous operation in the state of Wisconsin. Begun by Frederick Schulte, who served as conductor for many years, the orchestra has performed under the batons of Dudley Powers, Stephen Colburn, and David

Becker and Alexander Platt. The RSO is dedicated to preserving our musical heritage by entertaining, educating and enriching audiences and musicians in the Racine community.

The Racine Symphony Orchestra's 2008/09 season is supported by Platinum Corporate Season Sponsor **Chase** and Gold Corporate Season Sponsor **Johnson Bank**. The Holiday Pops is presented thanks to additional funding from **Norco Manufacturing**.

EVENT DETAILS
Racine Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops
Friday, December 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)
Festival Hall, 5 Fifth Street, Racine

Tickets are $20 in advance for adults, $22 at the door; $5 students; $1 children.
Tables are available by advance reservation, on a first-come basis, at varying prices.
Catering by O&H Danish Bakery of Racine will be available by pre-order to guests at tables, and walk-up sales will be available to all. Carry-in food and beverages are welcome.
All alcohol must be purchased inside Festival Hall.

Complete 2008/09 season information and tickets are available at www.racinesymphony.org, or by calling (262) 636-9285.