



Welcome to Animated POPS!

Look, up on the stage! It's a bird, it's a plane, it's...

Yet another exciting escapade with the Michigan Pops Orchestra! Not long ago, we walked down Broadway, rode out to the Wild West, traveled Around the World, and even flew to Outer Space. Now, in one of our most colorful adventures to date, we invite you to join us as we bring life to some of our favorite cartoon celebrities. In the wise words of Walt Disney, "Cartoon animation offers a medium of storytelling and visual entertainment which can bring pleasure and information to people of all ages everywhere in the world." From Bugs to Bart, Fievel to Fred Flintstone, we know that these *toons* will resonate with you!

Animated Pops features the sounds of the 80-plus member Michigan Pops Orchestra, one of the most diverse and unique student groups on campus. Musicians from a variety of disciplines within the University come together to produce concerts that always prove to be anything but typical. This concert promises animation both familiar and brand new, accompanied by legendary musical arrangements.

As the only student-run and directed orchestra on campus, we often need our very own superheroes to save the day—this concert would not be possible without the assistance of many willing and generous individuals including Mary Kisor of UAC, Steve Weaver of First Impression Printing, Tara McComb and Scott Clarke of Michigan Theater, Linda Siglin of the Major Events Office, Magge St. Clair and Jamie L. Nix and the Michigan Marching Band, Solid Sound, and MFlicks. Please know how very grateful we are to each of you who have helped us this semester throughout the production of *Animated Pops*.

Finally, thank *you* for joining us this evening. We hope you thoroughly enjoy the show and that the animation within our music will leave you energized and entertained!

Look forward to seeing you again this Spring,

Sarah Maynard
Executive Director, Michigan Pops Orchestra

Animated POPS!

Looney Toons Overture
Animation by Andy Windak, November 2005

Arr. W. Holcombe

Somewhere Out There
An American Tail

J. Horner, B. Mann, &
C. Wei (Arr. Bob Lowden)

Superman 1940 - the Mad Scientist
Donald A. Milton III - Announcer/Superman
Rebecca Whatley - Lois Lane
Andrew Wilson - Evil Scientist

Pat Timberg

Overture to *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*
Used in "The Rabbit of Seville"
Starring Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd

Gioacchino Rossini

**** INTERMISSION ****

Flintstones Meet the Jetsons
1987 Cartoon Movie

W. Hanna & J. Barbera
(Arr. R. Wendel)

Simpsons Overture

D. Elfman (Arr. C. Bankey)

Pink Panther Theme

H. Mancini
(Arr. J. Cavacus)

The Firebird Suite (1919)
From Fantasia 2000

Igor Stravinsky

Michigan Pops Fall Concert
November 20th, 2005 Michigan Theatre

The Musicians

Violin

Mark Portolese, *Concertmaster*
Sarah Thiel, *Assoc. Concertmaster*
Carolyn Nishon, *Principal*
Lyndsey Brown
Michael Chang
Patricia Chang
Richard Chang
Josh Elson
Jeff Ferman
Emily Haltom
Cassie Jeng
James Kornacki
Matt Lachance
Betty Lee
Grace Liu
Sarah Maynard
Clare McGuire
Elizabeth Parker
Danny Pearlberg
Michelle Ravitsky
Christine Rhee
Shari Rosen
Zoe Rudisill
Rhea Sirkar
Yash Somnay
Liz Stover
Kim Stradal
Lindsey Trainor
Gina Valo
Andy Wang
Andy Whitten
Li Yi
Angela You
John Zhang

Harp

Diana Elliot

Viola

Kathy Blanchard, *Principal*
Emily Altman
Alex Chen
Ed Cormany
Katie Niehues
Zach Rosenthal
Hannah Smith
Ben Srivastava
Trevor Verrot
Marla Wojciechowski

Cello

Diana Keung, *Principal*
Erin Bachynski
Connie Chang
Michael Eisenberg
Kenny Koshorek
Lauren Miller
Lindsay Parker
Gail Shen
Kristen VanDyke
Jennifer Wurtzel

Bass

Allison Gorsuch, *Principal*
Adam McCloe
Virginia Silvis
William Stoddard

Percussion

Joel Acevedo
Cory Hafer
Charles Lee
Christina Li
Matthew Smith
Jessie Stith

Flute

Tom McDonough, *Principal*
Katharina Obser
Erin Platte
Ranjan Radhamohan

Oboe

Heather Schier, *Principal*
Jessica Bickel
Cori Richards

Clarinet

David Sohn, *Principal*
Dominic Domingo
Shelley Greene
Maya Subbarao

Bassoon

Jeff Lovell, *Principal*
John Gettel
Ray Bilter

Saxophone

Z Marshall Ignas

French Horn

Jonathan Duggan, *Principal*
Laura Hunsberger
Casey Stiehl

Trumpet

Sarath Sanga, *Principal*
Jacob Dugopolski
Jared Faraudo
Allison Wachter

Trombone

Matt Vanderlaan, *Principal*
Sarah Tomaszewski

Bass Trombone

Nathan Platte

Tuba

Mike Dobbs

The Executive Board

Sarah Maynard
Chris Lees
Lindsay Parker
Michael Dobbs
Kathy Blanchard
Trevor Verrot
Tom McDonough
Maya Subbarao
Carolyn Nishon
Josh Elson
Jessica Bickel

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Music Director
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Small Ensembles Publicity
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Co-Publicity Director
Program Director

As he stands on the podium conducting Superman he turns to the entire orchestra and says, "These [notes] need to be infused with impending doom... It's like an orgo exam waiting to happen!" A combination of laughs and groans emanate from the musicians and off we go again in another whirlwind rehearsal of Michigan Pops.



Chris Lees has been the Pops conductor for four years now after being introduced to the orchestra by singing with the chorus his freshman year. Chris came to UM as an organ and music education major. His plan was that when he graduated he would return to his home town of Rockville, MD and play organ at the local church and fix the music program at the local school. That was before he heard the Verdi Requiem performed by University Symphony Orchestra. "I was so impressed by the size and the magnitude of the piece. Oh Baby! I went out and bought my five dollar baton and would stand in my room and conduct the piece in my head." The rest, as they say, is history.

Chris' favorite composers and pieces fade in and out, "There's just so much great music it's hard to take it all in and know all of it," but they include Tchaikovsky and Beethoven. He loves to listen to the Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Boston, Detroit, and the Kirov Orchestra which is conducted by one of his favorite conductors, Valery Gergiev. However, even with all of this classical influence, Chris is still highly influenced by artists like Billy Joel and Elton John, and a Jazz Improvisation class he took his freshman year. With this range of musical interest, Chris brings a lot of variety to the podium which makes him a good conductor for a group like Pops. He also brings a fun way of looking at rehearsals, having musicians move around and sit next to another instrument at least once a semester to promote listening and knowing other parts as well as creating camaraderie within Pops. When asked how Pops has impacted other parts of his life, "It's forced me to become more organized," he says with a laugh. The best and worst parts of conducting an orchestra? The best is the fun music, great community, and the unique mission of Pops, which is to cater to both of these. The worst is the logistics, though on the plus side, "It's taught me how to talk to publishers and distributors, etc, and how to be persistent." His first semester with the orchestra it took multiple emails and phone calls that were finally returned three months later for him to be told, "Ok, you can play this

piece of music, but by the way the publisher is in New Zealand!" "But I was persistent and it was an awesome concert." And next year after leaving Pops, what does Chris want to do? "I want to be an assistant conductor in a major orchestra. I'm not done learning yet. I have so far to go. I'm mentally done with academia, but there's still so much I still want to learn and being understudy to someone fantastic would be a great way to do that." And in the long run Chris wants to travel the world making music. "If I could do that, I'd be the luckiest guy in the world!"

Of course, since this is an ANIMATED POPS concert, I couldn't let Chris go without asking him what his favorite superpower would be. "To fly. To be able to travel, and get up and go, without traffic and away from all the hustle and bustle. I equate flying with freedom and serenity." And his favorite superhero growing up? "Anyone, like in X-Men, who could move things with their hands, just a gesture and it would go flying across the room." At which point, I had to wonder. Gesturing with hands as a superpower... Perhaps this is the true reason behind Chris' decision to be a conductor as with a flick of his wrist, the music begins.

Pops Peeps Describe Chris as: spiffy, different, crazy, entertaining, fun, sweet, awesome, amazing, energetic, passionate, brilliant, enthusiastic, well-attired, excited, silly, weird, neat, cool, effervescent, wonderful, wacky, creative, ridiculously good looking, music geek, flamboyant, the man, Pops-tastic, hilarious, inspiring, happy, Perfect for Pops, and Perpetually Positive & Peppy.



There are many people without whom this program would not be possible. We'd like to thank all our wonderful supporters:

Pops Concermasters:

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Carl Cormany and Valentina Sgro
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Michael Lachance

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