



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For 53 years the American Wind Symphony Orchestra has been making musical headlines along the waterways of the United States, the Caribbean and Northern Europe. The 2009 “Festival of the Americas” tour on the AWSO’s unique floating stage, “Point Counterpoint II” will begin in mid-June as the vessel and its troubadours traverse the coasts and waterways of the Great Lakes Region.

Chances are Robert Boudreau is the only orchestra conductor in the world who also skips a 195-foot floating arts center! Robert Boudreau, the son of a chicken farmer-factory worker picked up a trumpet at an early age and that was just the beginning. Robert acquired two degrees at Juilliard, studied abroad at the Paris Conservatory and earned a degree in English Literature from Boston University. He is a visionary whom has, enriched lives through the arts and has made impossible dreams possible.

On July 17th, the arrival of Point Counterpoint II, designed by renowned architect Louis I. Kahn, is sure to cause a stir in Mackinaw City. The silver vessel, 195 feet long and 38 feet wide, once seen on a foggy day, was mistaken for a UFO! On board the vessel is a central stage, art galleries and a small theatre. The stage area is spanned by an acoustical shell, a stage roof which rises by hydraulic lifts slowly revealing the orchestra on its 75 foot stage as the first strains of Aaron Copland’s “Fanfare for the Common Man” are heard. Musicians are displayed on permanent pedestal seating designed by Japanese sculptor Yasuhide Kobashi to provide a view of all the musicians.

The Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau is the main sponsor of the first Music Festival in Mackinaw City. This year “Festival of Americas” takes place July 17-19 from a “floating

stage” and throughout Mackinaw City. The Point Counterpointe II barge will be harbored near the new Straits State Harbor. The festival begins Friday evening, July 17th at 7:00pm in the Conkling Heritage Park with a combined concert and at 8:00pm a special concert aboard the Point Counterpointe II will take place with complimentary wine & cheese and tours of the art galleries (seating is limited to 70).

The main waterfront concert is scheduled for Saturday, July 18th at 8:00pm just following the Straits State Harbor ribbon cutting ceremony which is at 6:00pm. The Mackinaw City Village will place chairs on the fishing pier for the audience (tickets for seating are available online and will be sold onsite to help defray the expenses of this special event). Tickets are also being sold for ferry boat seating.

A sculpture will be displayed in Conkling Heritage Park to commemorate the event, compliments of Tom Moran. Other sponsors include: Citizens National Bank, the Village of Mackinaw City, and CMU Public Broadcasting. This activity is supported by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Cheboygan Area Arts Council. Support is also being given by the Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce.

The festival concludes with a Children’s Concert at the vessel site Sunday, July 19th at 3:30pm. pending that the main concert does not get rained out. A rain date for the concert has been set for Sunday at 3:00pm. Please visit www.mackinawcity.com or call the Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau for tickets and information at 800-750-0160 or 231-436-5664 for details and information.