

Monday, Feb 20, 2017

## Oakland University Chorale to join DSO for 'A Night at the Academy Awards'

The **Oakland University Chorale**, under the direction of music professor **Michael A. Mitchell**, has been invited to join the **Detroit Symphony Orchestra** for a series of shows this weekend as the DSO presents "**A Night at the Academy Awards.**"

Movie music aficionados will hear some of Hollywood's most enduring scores from Academy Award-winning films such as *Avatar*, *Rocky*, *Star Wars*, *Titanic* and more. These shows will take the audience back to relive the unforgettable music that made the movies great!

"It is an honor for the Chorale and our students to join the premier musicians of our city," said Mitchell. "These are the types of experiences that our students will remember for a lifetime."

The performances are at Orchestra Hall this weekend, February 24-26 on Friday morning at 10:45 a.m. and Friday evening at 8 p.m., Saturday evening at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m.



*The Oakland University chorale*

Tickets for **A Night at the Academy Awards** begin at \$19 and can be purchased at [dso.org](http://dso.org), by calling (313) 576-5111, or in person at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center (3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit).

### **About the DSO:**

Hailed by The New York Times as "cutting edge," the internationally acclaimed Detroit Symphony Orchestra is known for trailblazing performances, visionary maestros, collaborations with the world's foremost musical artists, and an ardent commitment to Detroit. As a community-supported orchestra, generous giving by individuals and institutions at all levels drives the continued success and growth of the institution. Esteemed conductor Leonard Slatkin, called "America's Music Director" by the *Los Angeles Times*, became the DSO's 12th Music Director, endowed by the Kresge Foundation, in 2008. Acclaimed conductor, arranger, and trumpeter Jeff Tyzik serves as Principal Pops Conductor, while celebrated trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard holds the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Jazz Creative Director Chair. With growing attendance and unwavering philanthropic support from the Detroit community, the DSO's performance schedule includes Classical, Pops, Jazz, Young People's, and Neighborhood concerts, and collaborations with high profile artists from Steven Spielberg to Elton John, and Lang Lang. The DSO recently announced its 2017 Asia Tour, the orchestra's first-ever tour of China and their first of Japan in 150 years. A commitment to broadcast innovation began in 1922, when the DSO became the first orchestra in the world to present a radio broadcast, and continues today with the free Live from Orchestra Hall webcast series, which also reaches tens of thousands of children via the Classroom Edition expansion. Making its home at historic Orchestra Hall within the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, one of America's most acoustically perfect concert halls, the DSO actively pursues a mission to embrace and inspire individuals, families, and communities through unsurpassed musical experiences.

### **About the Oakland University Chorale:**

The Oakland Chorale is OU's elite touring choral ensemble. Membership in the Chorale is open to all university students via competitive audition each fall. The Chorale maintains a busy concert schedule including annual appearances with the Oakland Symphony Orchestra at historic Orchestra Hall in Detroit. The Chorale has toured frequently throughout Michigan and the Midwest, as well as to Texas and New York and appeared with the Rolling Stones as part of their Zip Code Tour at Detroit's Comerica Park. In the summer of 2017, the Chorale will undertake a European concert tour featuring performances in Venice, Italy; Vienna, Austria; Ljubljana and Bled, Slovenia; and Zagreb, Croatia. The Chorale has been honored to rehearse and perform with many distinguished musicians, including Morten Lauridsen, Simon Carrington, Eph Ehly, and Stacey Gibbs. Lauridsen praised the choir for giving "one of the finest performances of my music I have ever heard" and Gibbs composed *Live a Humble* for the Chorale as a thank you for singing his music with great passion. Recent chorale alumni have pursued graduate study in music at the University of Michigan, Indiana University, New England Conservatory, Cincinnati Conservatory, Manhattan School of Music, the Eastman School of Music, Peabody Conservatory, and Juilliard, among others, and include a finalist and several regional winners of the Metropolitan Opera auditions, a finalist in the Plácido Domingo Competition, and the winner in the National Student Auditions at the NATS National Conference. Chorale alumni are also pursuing professional musical careers in the US and Europe, teaching music in schools throughout the country.