

April 21, 2011

## Explore Michigan's past through tour of music, exhibits May 1

**Contact:** Amanda Darche, MSU Community Music School  
(517) 355-7661, ext. 16, [adarche@msu.edu](mailto:adarche@msu.edu)

EAST LANSING, Mich. –Michigan's past is the inspiration for the original music and narration that will be presented within the galleries of the Michigan Historical Museum on May 1 in an immersive story-telling experience led by the MSU Community Music School (CMS).

The event, *Cycles—a Musical Journey through Michigan History*, will give community members a unique progressive concert/tour in which live musicians will perform new music inspired by historical exhibits. All music has been composed by CMS's Composer-in-Residence Dr. Marjan Helms.

“This concert-tour explores the relationship between Michigianians – past and present – and the land and resources that sustain our lives,” said Helms. “Through music, I have attempted to address the complexity of that interconnectedness and to offer a vision of hope and possibility.”

The six original concert works will be performed in four different areas of the museum. Each will explore a different aspect of Michigan's history. Featured themes and galleries include: Michigan's First People, the Mining Era, the Lumbering Era, and the Dawn of Mechanized Farming and Industrialization.

“People find different things in history,” said Sandra Clark, director of the Michigan Historical Center. “We are excited to be part of this adventure in combining the visual impact of our galleries and artifacts with the inspiration of music and spoken word performances.”

The event was born from an ongoing partnership between the CMS, the museum, and the MSU College of Music (CMS's parent unit), which have all been working collaboratively over the past three years to bring arts and culture together.

“*Cycles* is building on the partnership that the MSU College of Music has had since 2008 with the Music at the Museum series,” said Rhonda Buckley, associate dean for outreach and engagement at the college and executive director of CMS. “We are delighted to be featuring our Community Music School and its talented faculty and students on this concert,” said Buckley.

The performers include clarinetists Sara Stolt and Will Cicola, Native American Flutist Karen Burr, and composer/pianist Helms. The MSU Children's Choir and the CMS Spartan Strings will also perform. Humanities Consultant Martha Bloomfield will narrate the tour.

-more-

**Michigan State University Community Music School**

841-B Timberlane Street • East Lansing, MI 48823 • Phone: 517-355-7661 • Web: [cms.msu.edu](http://cms.msu.edu)

The outreach division of the MSU College of Music

*Cycles—a Musical Journey through Michigan History* is supported in part by the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. Additional support is provided by the Michigan History Foundation and Friends of Michigan History.

The event is free and open to the public and begins at 3 p.m. at the Michigan Historical Museum located at 702 W. Kalamazoo Street in Lansing.

###

*Founded in 1993, the Community Music School (CMS) is the outreach division of the MSU College of Music. The mission of CMS is to provide comprehensive music education – quality instruction, related music services, and educational programs – for interested individuals of all ages and levels with financial assistance for those in need.*

For more information, visit [www.cms.msu.edu/](http://www.cms.msu.edu/) or call (517) 355-7661.