

CMI: Taking Music To Our World

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Christmas pageant visits area for 45th consecutive year

A cast of over 200 will present many of the most familiar songs of the holiday season during a series of concerts that feature the pageantry, costuming and special effects reminiscent of a Broadway production.

“The Really Big Christmas Show” will visit six Michigan and Ohio cities in November to launch the local holiday season.

Produced and directed by internationally recognized musical creator, Thurlow Spurr, and his wife Kathey, the concert will feature The CMI MI/OH Concert Choir, The Thurlow Spurr Singers, The Four Divas, Rick Everitt & The CMI Brass, as well as 80 kid and teen singers and dancers from Miss Kathey’s Academy for the Performing Arts and of course the sensational Rob Mills Family are back by popular demand.

Additional soloists and musicians from the Michigan-Ohio area also will appear during the two-and-one-half-hour concert.

“The Really Big Christmas Show” has been a tradition for area concertgoers for more than four decades with sold-out performances in each venue. A highlight of each show is audience participation and surprise early Christmas gifts.

This year’s series includes five matinees and one evening performances.

“It’s a musical explosion of sight and sound,” said Spurr, “Each year something unexpected is added that will thrill the audience.”

Spurr chose the “The Really Big Christmas Show” theme as a way to celebrate the true meaning of the holiday season in this land so blessed by God.

“The sound, the visuals and our creative lighting combine to communicate the message of this special time of the year,” he said. “We invite our faithful concert patrons to come again and to bring their friends.”

The choir and the musicians have videotaped two made-for-television specials entitled “Christmas...All Year Long” and “Christmas...A Timeless Treasure.” They will be aired in major markets this season. Their enduring “Barn Christmas” is a classic and will be aired nation-wide this season for the 20th consecutive year.

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The group has recorded three CDs and several DVDs, which will be available at the November concerts and on the CMI Web site www.cmichoir.org.

The choir has performed in Russia and Israel and has participated in a made-for-TV patriotic special from the Waikiki Band Shell in Hawaii which featured Larnelle Harris.

“This dazzling one-of-a-kind concert is a must-see for all who love the Christmas season,” said Spurr.

Area performances include the following:

- Dearborn, MI – Nov. 5, Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 2:30 p.m.
- Hartland, MI – Nov. 11, Hartland Performing Arts Center, 2:30 p.m.
- Macomb, MI – Nov. 12, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 2:30 p.m.
- Perrysburg, OH – Nov. 17, Performing Arts Center Perrysburg High School, 7:30 p.m.
- Flint, MI – Nov. 18, Flint Central Church of the Nazarene, 2:30 p.m.
- Holt, MI – Nov. 19, Holt Performing Arts Complex, 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 for the best seats with a Meet & Greet, \$39 for maestro circle seating, \$29 for premium reserved seating and \$18 for reserved seating. Special pricing is available for organized groups of 20 or more.

To order tickets call 800.993.SING (7464) or order online at www.cmichoir.org.

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A digital copy of this release, photographs and additional information are available at <http://www.cmichoir.org/press-room.php>.