

# SMSO splits new season between LMC, Andrews



Photo provided

Cirque de la Symphonie will perform during the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra's Nov. 1 program, "A Halloween Spooktacular," at Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center.

By HP STAFF

ST. JOSEPH — It's been less than a week since the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra wrapped its summer season. And in a little more than three weeks from today, on Sept. 14 to be exact, the SMSO returns indoors to open its six-date 2014-15 Mainstage Concert Series.

Perhaps the biggest change to the schedule is the venue itself. Unlike years past, when the SMSO season was predominately held at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center Mainstage Theatre in Benton Harbor with an occasional, singular concert at Andrews University's Howard Performing Arts Center in Berrien Springs, this season the SMSO will perform three concerts at each of the two venues.

In fact, the SMSO's Sept. 14 season opener, "Around the World in 80 Minutes" featuring guest soprano



PETRUS



GARTSHORE



PARNAS



FELDER

Juliet Petrus performing Antonín Dvořák to Joseph Haydn, takes place at 4 p.m. at the Howard Performing Arts Center stage.

"This is a season filled with variety, excitement and real substance," says SMSO music director and conductor Robin Fountain, who is entering his ninth season. "It's the very essence of what a professional orchestra can bring to the community it serves."

The other two Howard concerts, which also take place at 4 p.m., are "Brahms German Requiem," featuring guest artists Sarah Gartshore, Jonathan Beyer and The Citadel Symphony

Chorus, on Feb. 8, 2015, and "This England," the May 17, 2015, finale featuring the music of England during the time of World War I and II, with guest Cicely Parnas.

The LMC Mendel Center portion of the SMSO season begins at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 1 with "A Halloween Spooktacular," featuring the internationally-acclaimed Cirque de la Symphonie performing to a program that includes haunting selections from Andrew Lloyd Webber, Zequinha de Abreu and Paul Dukas.

The holiday theme continues at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13 with "A Very Merry Pops"

concert at LMC featuring guest conductor Harvey Felder, guest soprano Denise Ritter Bernardini and a host of holiday classics.

The final Mendel Center concert of the season takes place at 7:30 p.m. April 18, 2015, with "The Magical Music of Disney" that includes music from classics such as "The Little Mermaid," "Mary Poppins" and "The Lion King."

The SMSO will continue the two-tier price structure implemented three years ago. The best seats will remain at \$37, \$32 for seniors and \$5 for students. A second tier of reserved seats will be priced at \$20 for all adults and \$5 for students.

There are also a number of multi-concert ticket packages available, starting at \$72 for four concerts up to \$174 for top tier tickets for all six shows.

Tickets are on sale now. For more information, call 982-4030 or visit [www.smso.org](http://www.smso.org).

'Come Stands Tall'

