



**FLINT INSTITUTE OF MUSIC**  
Dort Music Center  
1025 East Kearsley Street  
Flint, Michigan 48503  
810.238.1350 ph • 810.238.6385 fx  
FlintInstituteofMusic.org

## **The Flint Symphony Orchestra**

The Flint Symphony Orchestra (FSO), which began 90 years ago as a community orchestra in a fast-growing automotive environment, enjoyed wide support and participation from those in the Flint area. In spite of drastic changes in the community since that time, the support and love for the orchestra has remained and grown. There are a number of reasons.

2007-08 marks the 19<sup>th</sup> year the FSO has been privileged to have as its Music Director and Conductor Maestro Enrique Diemecke. He takes time from his busy schedule with orchestras around the world to come to Flint. Currently, he serves as Music Director and Conductor of the Long Beach Symphony, as Principal Guest Conductor of the National Orchestra of Montpellier, France, and as guest conductor with a number of other major orchestras. Diemecke also served as Music Director of the National Symphony of Mexico for 19 years. During his time in Flint, he has developed a rapport with both audiences and musicians that is nothing less than extraordinary.

Many musicians travel more than 100 miles and balance hectic schedules to perform with the FSO. Concertmaster Andrew Jennings, who also serves as violinist of the Concord Piano Trio and Professor of Violin and Chamber Music at the University of Michigan and Oberlin College, has this to say, "Since I am not exactly under-employed, there is only one reason to add the FSO to my life—the joyfulness of making music with others who feel the same way and under the direction of one who creates an environment which encourages us all to search for joy in our souls!"

Part of FSO's appeal is its innovation in programming. Regularly, the orchestra performs music that challenges and inspires musicians and audience members alike. Seasons have ranged from reviews of women in classical music, with a piece by a female composer performed at nearly every concert, to an upcoming year showcasing Russian composers and their influence on others.

Audience attendance figures attest to the popularity of the FSO. Through the help of a program called the PIT, the FSO attracts more than 150 students to every concert. Numbers, however, only hint at the enthusiasm of the audience. Because of their outstanding leadership and musical excellence, the FSO and Maestro Diemecke have developed a strong and loyal following throughout Southeastern Michigan rivaled by few other orchestras its size.