



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gospel Meets Symphony Concert to Air on Western Reserve PBS

KENT — March 31, 2009 — For 16 years, the Akron Symphony Orchestra and its 200-voice Gospel Choir have sung of America's diversity with one common voice. This year they celebrated Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday with Maestro Christopher Wilkins and guest conductor Roland Carter sharing the podium. Western Reserve PBS presents highlights of the Feb. 7, 2009 concert in its new production, **Gospel Meets Symphony: Let Freedom Ring!** It will premiere on Monday, April 6 at 9 p.m. and will repeat on Sunday, April 12 at 7 p.m. and Monday, April 13 at 1 a.m.

The program captures Maestro Wilkins leading the combined orchestra and the 200-voice volunteer choir from over 50 area churches. It also features Charles J. Myricks, a local composer and minister at Arlington Church of God, who conducts several of his own works. Other works featured include "Verdi Va Pensiero," "This Morning When I Rose" and "Ride On, King Jesus." **Gospel Meets Symphony: Let Freedom Ring!** will be made available for broadcast to the nation's 355 other public television stations in May 2009.

Following the premiere at 10 p.m., Western Reserve PBS will air an encore presentation of **Gospel Meets Symphony: Celebrating 16 Years!** This production, which premiered in February, tells the history of how this unique concert experience has become one of Akron's most cherished cultural events.

Production of **Gospel Meets Symphony: Let Freedom Ring!** was made possible through generous contributions by Akron Community Foundation, The Kulas Foundation, The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation, Summa Health System, Summit County Regional Arts and Cultural District Board, Thora J. Mills Memorial Foundation and The Welty Family Foundation.

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About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. Western Reserve PBS, a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.4 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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