

“Edmund Fitzgerald” Piano Concerto to commemorate 30th anniversary of famous shipwreck

Philadelphia, PA September 15 -- In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Edmund Fitzgerald shipwreck in November, 2005, the Sault Symphony Orchestra will premiere “The Edmund Fitzgerald” piano concerto written by composer Geoffrey Peterson. The concert, entitled “A Musical Seascape”, will be presented on Saturday, November 5th, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. at the Kiwanis Community Theatre Centre* in Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada. The concert is a co-production of the Algoma Fall Festival and the Sault Symphony Orchestra and will feature Stephen Mallinger as piano soloist.

Completed in 2002, “The Edmund Fitzgerald” concerto for piano and string orchestra chronicles the tragic final voyage of the *S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald*. The 729 foot iron-ore carrier was lost with her entire crew of 29 men on Lake Superior November 10th, 1975. Composed in four movements, *Embarkment*, *The Gales*, *Six-Fathom Shoal* (“*We’re holding our own.*”) and *Entombment-Dirge*, the concerto paints a vivid and haunting portrait of the legendary and mysterious shipwreck. The concerto incorporates several musical quotes. The first is *Spanish Ladies*, an English sea chantey, the other, the funeral march from Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3, “*Eroica*”. These familiar melodies are woven into a lush tapestry of sound, color and emotion, which take the listener on a moving journey into the eye of a catastrophic storm.

About the Sault Symphony Orchestra:

In 1956, a small group of local citizens formed the Sault Symphonette. With support from Algoma Steel, the Symphonette gave live concerts and radio broadcasts. In 1969, the group was renamed the Sault Symphony. Dr. John Wilkinson was appointed conductor and artistic director in 1977. The Sault Symphony continues to work at providing varied and exciting programs, often with internationally recognized soloists. For more information about the Sault Symphony and to purchase tickets, please visit their Web site: <http://www.saultsymphony.com/>

About Geoffrey Peterson:

Geoffrey Peterson’s music has been performed at venues throughout the United States and Europe including the Curtis Institute of Music, University of Miami, Northwestern University, Cleveland Museum of Art and the San Salvatore Church in Prague. He has been awarded grants and awards by both the American Composers Forum and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. His *Sonata for Solo Oboe* has been performed by the principal oboists of the National Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony and the Florida West Coast Symphony. His music is published by Tenuto Publications, Coronet Press and Theodore Presser. He holds a Bachelor’s of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

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*The Kiwanis Community Theatre Centre is located as part of White Pines Collegiate and Vocational High School, 1007 Trunk Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada P6A 5L6.