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MACON  
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# Cherry Blossom Festival

*Jack Gleaton*  
*Jakbe@A1tel.net*

MACON  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

*Adrian Gnam, Music Director and Conductor*

# Beethoven Symphony No. 9

*Saturday, March 22, 2003*

*8:00 p.m.*

*Grand Opera House  
Macon, Georgia*



*Presented by*



YKK Corporation of America

# Meet the Artists



## **RIKA IWAI, SOPRANO**

Rika Iwai hails from Kurobe City, Japan. She has received degrees from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music and is currently one of the most sought after sopranos in Japan. During her career, Rika has performed on stages in Japan and abroad. She has performed many of the leading soprano roles in such operas as *Madam Butterfly*, *Così fan tutte*, *Das Rheingold*, and *Othello*. In January 2002, Rika performed Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with Maestro Gnam in Kurobe.

## **REBECCA LANNING, MEZZO-SOPRANO**

Rebecca Lanning specializes in Hungarian and German art songs, having performed in recital and on concert stage throughout the eastern United States. She is the head of the Music Department and director of the Chamber Singers at Macon State College. Rebecca is also an active conductor and clinician, presenting choral master classes and clinics throughout Georgia.



## **MEL FOSTER, TENOR**

Mel Foster received degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the University of California at Santa Barbara. He currently serves on the faculty of Morehouse College in Atlanta as Assistant Professor of Music. His performing credits include roles in *La Traviata*, *La Bohème*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Magic Flute*, *Carmen*, *Elijah*, the Mozart and Verdi *Requiems*, and Beethoven's *Symphony No.9*.

## **VICTOR LEDBETTER, BARITONE**

Rapidly gaining a reputation as a baritone of great range and sensitivity, Victor Ledbetter has been called "a model of incisive, impeccable vocalism" by the San Francisco Examiner. Mr. Ledbetter has appeared on concert stages throughout the world including Rome, Düsseldorf, Rotterdam, and in Shanghai. In the United States, the Cleveland, Philadelphia, and Minnesota Orchestras, New York City Opera, the Boston, Atlanta and Saint Louis Symphonies have all welcomed Victor on their stages.



## **ADRIAN GNAM, CONDUCTOR**

Adrian Gnam has been the Music Director and Conductor of the Macon Symphony Orchestra since 1983. During his distinguished career, Maestro Gnam has shared the stage with such notable soloists as Nadia Salerno-Sonnenberg, Gil Shaham, Robert McDuffie, Chee Yun, Anne Akiko Meyers, John Browning, Helen Huang, Christopher O'Riley, and Samuel Ramey among others. He is the former Music Director of the Midland, Eugene and Tuscaloosa Symphonies. In addition, he is the Music Director of the Macon Sinfonia and Artist in Residence at Mercer University.

## **STANLEY ROBERTS, CHORUS DIRECTOR**

Stanley L. Roberts is the Director of Choral Activities and Coordinator of Sacred Music Studies at Mercer University. He directs the 45-voice Mercer Singers, the 100-voice University Choir, and the 25-voice Mercer Women's Chamber Choir, while teaching courses in conducting and sacred music. Dr. Roberts also serves as Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church of Macon, Georgia.



## **KUROBE DAIKU CHOIR**

The Kurobe Daiku Choir was established in 1993 by the people who love music in the Kurobe area. The choir has a tradition of international co-operation that includes the Metropolitan Youth Symphony of Portland, Oregon, and previous choral students from Mercer University. The choir performed Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* under the direction of Maestro Gnam in 2002 in Kurobe.

# MACON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

*Adrian Gnam, Music Director and Conductor*

## • PROGRAM •

*Special presentation to Mrs. Carolyn Crayton  
The Honorable George Hisaeda, Consul General of Japan*

Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Allegro ma non troppo, un poco maestoso

Molto vivace

Adagio molto e cantabile – Andante moderato

Finale: Presto – Allegro assai

Rika Iwai, Soprano  
Rebecca Lanning, Mezzo-Soprano  
Mel Foster, Tenor  
Victor Ledbetter, Baritone

Mercer Singers  
Mercer University Choir  
The Chancel Choir, First Baptist Church, Macon  
The Kurobe Daiku Choir, Kurobe, Japan  
Dr. Stanley L. Roberts, Chorus Director

