

**The Valparaiso University Symphony Orchestra** (VUSO) is a select student ensemble dedicated to professional standards of performance of works from both the standard and contemporary repertoires. Recent seasons have seen performances of major symphonic works by Brahms, Shostakovich, R. Strauss, Stravinsky, and Tchaikowsky, as well as works by Adams, MacMillan, Rautavaara, Torke, and several premieres. Although a majority of the players are music majors, the orchestra has members from all of VU's professional colleges and the Law School. The Symphony made its debut as an all-student symphonic orchestra in 1999, and released its first CD, *Reformation*, in 2001. The Symphony has toured from Minneapolis and St. Louis to New York City, performed in Chicago's Orchestra Hall, and in 2009 returns to Severance Hall, the home of the Cleveland Orchestra. International touring has included England, Wales and Ireland, and concerts in Prague, Pilsen, Linz, Vienna, and Budapest in May of 2008.

Featured guest conductors have included: Helmuth Rilling, Bachakademie Stuttgart; Dennis Russell Davies, Bruckner Symphony of Linz; Barbara Schubert, University of Chicago and DuPage Symphony Orchestras; and Craig Jessop, Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Guest soloists have included: Walter Preucil, cello; Maki Namekawa, piano; Channing Philbrick, trumpet; Yan Shengmin, tenor; Zhu Changyao, erhu; Rachel Barton, violin; and Butterfly Troupe, traditional Chinese performers from the province of Zhejiang. Two Christmas Concerts accompanying the Trinity United Church of Christ 200-voice Sanctuary Choir have been featured on Chicago television.

This season, the Symphony celebrated VU's 150th Anniversary by collaborating with international recording artist, fiddler/composer Mark O'Connor in his Concerto No. 6, *'Old Brass.'* A quartet of members is touring to several cities performing for alumni gatherings throughout the year, and the orchestra has been honored to perform for the inauguration of Valparaiso University President Mark A. Heckler.