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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ZELTSMAN MARIMBA FESTIVAL
RETURNS TO WISCONSIN, JUNE 26 – JULY 9**

**CONCERT SERIES AT LAWRENCE U. IN APPLETON
FEATURES WORLD-CLASS PERFORMERS**

FREE 4th of JULY GALA CONCERT

Zeltsman Marimba Festival returns to Lawrence University in Appleton for the fifth time, bringing two weeks of concerts, lectures, and master classes, June 26 – July 9. The festival alternates between Appleton and other cities on a biennial basis, drawing leading performers from around the globe. Last year's ZMF took place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Past festivals have attracted admiring coverage from *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and other publications.

This year's event marks ZMF's 10th anniversary. The focus is on great repertoire presented for the first time by themes with each concert performed by an international array of leading marimbists. Themes include Marimba Around the World (music from many different countries), Japanese Marimba Music (no admission fee; donations will be accepted to benefit the **Japan Earthquake Relief Fund**), American Marimba Music, Transcriptions (mostly classical music), Explorations (interesting mixed media), and a **4th of July Gala Concert** on Monday, July 4 (2 pm) with fun music for the whole family.

In addition, **An Evening of Jazz** on Saturday, July 2 will feature **vibist Christos Rafalides** from New York City (originally, Greece) with pianist Sergio Salvatore, **bassist Steve Rodby** (of the Pat Metheny Group), and drummer Dane Richeson. The final ZMF faculty concert on Friday, July 8 will feature ZMF's Artistic Director **Nancy Zeltsman** and **Jack Van Geem** (Principal Percussionist of the San Francisco Symphony) including the landmark percussion sextet *Island Music* composed by **Michael Tilson Thomas** for them. Tickets are \$10 to both of these.

ZMF 2011 offer **12 concerts in all**, beginning with Marimba Around the World I on June 26 (8 pm), and concluding with a free concert by ZMF participants on July 9 (2-5 pm). Other concerts are: American Music I on June 28 (8 pm), Japanese Marimba Music on June 29 (8 pm), Marimba Around the World II on July 1 (8 pm), An Evening of Jazz on July 2 (8 pm), 4th of July Gala (2 pm), Transcriptions on July 5 (8 pm), Explorations on July 7 (8 pm), and American Music II on July 8 (8 pm).

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Admission will be FREE to the 4th of July Gala Concert, Japanese Marimba Music on June 29 (donations are suggested), the ZMF Participants Concert on Saturday, July 9 (2-5 pm) and two more concerts by participants: **Marimba Lunchtime Wednesdays** (11:30 am to 1:00 pm) in front of the Warch Campus Center on **June 29** and on **July 6**. Hot dogs (or vegetarian options) will be available for purchase, or just bring your lunch and enjoy!

The evening concerts will take place either in Lawrence Memorial Chapel or Harper Hall at Lawrence University. A complete list of events open to the public can be found at: <http://www.zmf.us/concerts.cfm>

“A formerly obscure instrument has certainly come of age when a whole festival is dedicated to it.” – *The New York Times*

ABOUT ZELTSMAN MARIMBA FESTIVAL

The concerts at Lawrence University are an integral part of Zeltsman Marimba Festival 2011, an intensive two-week seminar. There are six faculty members. To celebrate ZMF's 10th anniversary, 10 past participants (from across all nine previous seasons) will be featured as well: six as Associate Faculty members, and four as Showcase Artists. The 40-or-so festival participants are attending from 17 U.S. states and from Canada, Japan, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

Says ZMF Artistic Director and founder Nancy Zeltsman, “This will be a phenomenal year celebrating how far the literature for the marimba has come. Audiences will be astounded by the depth of talent and the range of expression from this summer's brilliant musicians!”

Visit www.ZMF.us for performer biographies, ticket information, and directions.

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