FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2012

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Children in the Lansing School District to try string instruments in a special presentation by the MSU Community Music School

**Media invited to attend.

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Fourth and fifth graders in two Lansing elementary schools will try their hands at the violin, viola and cello as part of a special presentation by the MSU Community Music School (CMS). Members of the CMS faculty will perform for the children in addition to helping them handle half-size versions of the string instruments in presentations taking place through March 5.

The project is made possible by a $2,000 grant from Target and a $2,000 grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs administered by the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. The instruments are provided by Shar Music at a discounted rate.

At the conclusion of the presentations, each participating child will be invited to attend a free, optional one-day strings workshop at CMS on March 17 to build upon the fundamentals learned during the hands-on presentation and participate in other music activities such as singing and rhythm.

**WHO:** Lansing School District Music Teachers Aida Cisneros and Diane Singletary and their fourth and fifth grade students host presentations by MSU Community Music School Faculty Members Susanne Garber, Lauren Hansen, Anne Kearney-Looman and Paul Rebeck, Community Member Rodney Page, and MSU College of Music Students Megan Bowker and Lauren Taylor.

**WHAT:** CMS string faculty members perform for fourth and fifth graders and offer basic instruction on violin, viola and cello. CMS rented 30 half-size instruments to accommodate the children. Afterward, the children will be invited to attend a free, optional workshop at CMS on March 17 to learn more about string instruments and other musical topics.

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Michigan State University Community Music School
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The outreach division of the MSU College of Music
WHEN: The project will take place at the following schools and times:

- Lewton Elementary on **Feb. 15, at 1:20 p.m. and Mar. 1 and 2, at 9:15 a.m.**
- Post Oak Elementary on **Feb. 23, at 11:20 a.m. and 12:20 p.m., and Mar. 5, at 11:20 a.m. and 1:20 p.m.**

WHERE:

- Lewton Elementary, located at 2000 Lewton Place in Lansing
- Post Oak Elementary, located at 2320 Post Oak Lane in Lansing

WHY: The project connects to Music in our Schools Month, designated by the National Association for Music Education, and reminds citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. Music in our Schools Month is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community and to display the benefits school music brings to students of all ages.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

CMS is located at 841-B Timberlane Street in East Lansing and is the outreach division of the MSU College of Music. Although there is a moratorium on the academic music therapy degree program at the College of Music, music therapy services at CMS will continue. The mission of CMS is to provide comprehensive music programming – quality instruction, related music services, and educational programs – for interested individuals of all ages and levels with financial assistance for those in need. For more information, visit www.cms.msu.edu or call (517) 355-7661.

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