FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Industrial Carillon concert features Grammy-winner Libby Larsen in ‘Living Composer Series’

(Beatumont, Texas) March 24, 2010 – Industrial Carillon, Lamar University’s new-music ensemble, will present the final concert in the 2009-2010 “Living Composer Series” at 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 29 with Grammy Award winner Libby Larsen as special guest.

Larsen is one of America’s most prolific and most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of more than 400 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral works and more than a dozen operas. Her music has been praised for its dynamic, deeply inspired, and vigorous contemporary American spirit. USA Today has hailed Larsen as “the only English-speaking composer since Benjamin Britten who matches great verse with fine music so intelligently and expressively.”

“Libby has composed beautiful, engaging, and sometimes witty music for some of the finest world-class soloists and ensembles of our time,” said Nick Rissman, director of the Industrial Carillon and associate professor of music at Lamar. “Her Grammy Award, for instance, was for a recording she produced with the late, great soprano Arleen Auger.”

“We are extremely honored to have her here,” Rissman continued, because “under the dictionary entry ‘American Post-Modern Music,’ it probably says ‘See Libby Larsen.’

Beginning in the late ’70s, she, along with others, began to offer a more lyrical alternative to the severe ‘modernism’ practiced in concert halls and conservatories. More lyrical yes, but no less sophisticated.”

Guest performers will include Lamar music faculty members Debra Greschner and Kerry Jennings, vocals; Kim Ellis, clarinet; and Lance Beaumont, guitar. Beaumont is a former Lamar faculty member who now teaches at Howard Payne University.
Rissman said the audience at the concert will feel embraced with “stunning melodic presentations of innovative poetry,” as in Larsen’s "Cowboy Songs," sung by Greschner. Ellis will perform "Dancing Solo," a technically beautiful piece infused with wit. James Han will direct the Lamar University A Cappella Choir in the singing of two movements of Larsen’s “Missa Gaia.” Other Larsen works will be performed by Jennings and Beaumont.

The Industrial Carillon was established to entertain, enlighten and challenge listeners with new, diverse concert music representing a variety of styles and cultures. The “Living Composer Series” is presented with support from Mobil Oil Federal Credit Union.

The concert will take place in the architecturally striking atrium of the Mobil Oil Federal Credit Union at the corner of Delaware Street and Major Drive in Beaumont.

Admission is free. For more information, visit lamar.edu/music or call (409) 880-8144.

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