



CITY OF DIXON

REAGAN CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REAGAN OF ILLINOIS SYMPHONY WORLD PREMIERE DEBUTS ON WTTW, CHICAGO PUBLIC TV

CHICAGO: The Reagan of Illinois Symphony World Premiere will make its television debut, on Sunday, February 5, 2pm on WTTW, Chicago's Public Television Station, channel 11. Conducted by award-winning composer, Dr. David Holsinger, part one of this musical composition draws from the autobiographical reflections of President Reagan, found in *An American Life*. In the spirit of Aaron Copland, Dr. Holsinger captures the essence of the American heartland. The concert was held on February 19, 2011, at the historic Dixon Theatre where Mr. Reagan attended silent movies as a boy in Dixon, IL.

Dixon Municipal Band Director, Mark Bressler, commissioned Dr. Holsinger, after considering 150 composers. Last month, at the Midwest Clinic for International Band and Orchestra in Chicago, Dr. Holsinger received the Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity's Outstanding Bandmaster of the Year Award. Mr. Bressler hand-picked 50 outstanding musicians from Illinois and Iowa for the symphonic band. For part two, the band was joined by 150 singers from the Rockford Choral Union, the Clinton RiverChor, the Eureka College Chamber Singers and the Dixon High School Choir.

The program documents the year-long process of developing Reagan of Illinois. Included is footage of the concert rehearsals and interviews with Dixon Mayor James Burke; Composer, Dr. David Holsinger, Dixon Municipal Band Conductor, Mark Bressler; local historian, Reagan Centennial Commission Chairwoman Ann Lewis and participants.

Dr. Holsinger said, "It was a very exciting weekend. The musicians and singers were wonderful to work with and the result was hugely successful. I am very honored to have been able to participate in this event in honor of this great American leader."

The piece received critical acclaim and was selected for the Grammy Entry list in four classical categories: Best Orchestral Performance, Best Contemporary Classical Composition, Best Long Form Music Video and Best Engineered Classical Album.

Compact discs and DVD videography recordings of the concert are available through the Dixon Welcome Center, 815-284-3496.

In addition to the Sunday, February 5, 2pm broadcast, WTTW will repeat the concert on President Reagan's 101st birthday, on Monday, February 6, 4am.

