



## news release

Contact: Diane Steinert, Communications Coordinator  
330-677-4549 or [dsteinert@WesternReservePublicMedia.org](mailto:dsteinert@WesternReservePublicMedia.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Max Raabe Palast Orchester Special to Air on Western Reserve PBS

*Pledge special features tickets to crooner's February performance at E.J. Thomas Hall*

KENT — Nov. 25, 2009 — Western Reserve Public Media is proud to present the U.S. premiere of **Max Raabe Palast Orchester: Tonight or Never**. The special will air on Western Reserve PBS (WNEO/WEAO 45.1/45.2) on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 8 p.m., with an encore presentation on Monday, Dec. 14, at 9:30 p.m. It is a broadcast of the February 2009 performance of crooner Max Raabe and The Palast Orchestra in Berlin, Germany.

The program, which will air as part of the station's December pledge drive, will include the opportunity to purchase tickets for the group's February performance at E.J. Thomas Hall in Akron, which is presented by Tuesday Musical Association as part of its 2009-2010 concert series. The pledge offer is \$90, which includes two tickets to the Feb. 26 performance plus a year's membership to Western Reserve PBS.

On the great concert stages in New York, Shanghai and Tokyo; in Paris, Moscow, Rome and Amsterdam; audiences celebrate Max Raabe and his Palast Orchester with great waves of enthusiasm. International audiences are not bothered by the fact that Max Raabe sings in German – his artistry simply reaches across boundaries.

Not much needs to be said about the music Max Raabe and the Palast Orchester perform; the songs speak for themselves. For the most part, they were written toward the end of the Weimar Republic. During this experimental and contradictory time, composers such as Friedrich Hollaender, Theo Mackeben, Kurt Weill, Mischa Spoliansky, Walter Jurmann and Werner Richard Heymann penned their melodies. The feeling of the times is concentrated within just the few measures of their songs and hits. Some of their compositions were created overnight and then whistled the following day in all of Berlin.

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Max Raabe's artistry lies above all in revealing the dazzling intelligent ambiguity of these songs as well as their musical strength and complexity. The singer with the bewitching gentle voice and his 12-piece orchestra perform the compositions with such a simply precise and yet excitingly present perfection that the 80-year-old songs sound as fresh and lively as they did when they were new. These are not just remakes, but rather new interpretations that bring to light the timeless modernity of these brilliant works.

### **About Western Reserve Public Media**

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

Western Reserve PBS, a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.4 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels, Fusion (WNEO.2/WEAO.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO.3/WEAO.3) and V-me (WNEO.4/WEAO.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit [www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org](http://www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org) or call 1-800-554-4549.

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