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'The Soloist' connects E.L. residents, students

Text size:

KATHRYN PRATER • KPRATER@LSJ.COM • SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 • FROM LANSING STATE JOURNAL

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EAST LANSING - Thousands of East Lansing residents and Michigan State University [students](#) will have their noses stuck in copies of the same book this month during the seventh annual One Book, One Community program.

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Participants are reading "The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of [Music](#)," a best-seller by Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez. The book this year was made into a movie starring Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr.

Lopez made several local appearances this week to kick off the program.

"We're trying to make connections between the permanent residents and the students," said city spokeswoman Ami Van Antwerp, who is on the program's organizing committee. "The main goal is really to kind of bring the community together over this common theme of reading a [book](#) together."

Incoming MSU freshmen are required to read the book, and East Lansing Public Schools teachers are encouraged to integrate the book or its themes into the classroom, she said.

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Rod Sanford/Lansing State Journal

Ready to read: MSU freshmen listen Monday during the University Welcome program at the Breslin Center.



Journalist and author Steve Lopez speaks during the program. MSU freshmen will read his book "The Soloist" as part of the One Book, One Community program.

ON THE WEB

For more information about the One Book, One Community program, go to www.onebook.msu.edu.

Get involved

- Author Steve Lopez spoke Sunday at East Lansing High School. A video recording of his visit will be played on East Lansing's government channel (Channel 22 WELG) at noon and 8 p.m. Sundays and Mondays from Sept. 6 to Sept. 28. The recording also will be available at the East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, beginning Sept. 4.

- Lopez will appear via video conference at 7 p.m. Sept. 17 at the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road., East Lansing. Participants must register for the event by calling 351-2420.

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