Michigan fiction anthology celebrates 10-year anniversary of the Made in Michigan Writers Series

“In Bob Seger’s House and Other Stories, the editors honor the great tradition of Michigan storytelling and mythmaking—the tales we tell each other to help us understand our world, to keep us alive. These stories cover a diverse range of characters, times, places, and styles, displaying the abundant wealth of writing talent with Michigan connections. No matter where these stories take place, they’re grounded in spirit and heart.”
—Jim Daniels, author of Eight Mile High, Birth Marks, and other books

DETROIT, January 22, 2016—Bob Seger’s House and Other Stories is a collection of short stories written by some of Michigan’s most well-known fiction writers. This collection of twenty-two short stories serves as a celebration not only of the tenth anniversary of the Made in Michigan Writers Series in 2016 but also of the rich history of writing and storytelling in the region. As series editors Michael Delp and M. L. Leibler state in their preface, “the stories contained in this anthology are a way to stay connected to each other. Think of them as messages sent from all over the map, stitching readers and writers together through stories that continue to honor the ancient art of the fire tale, the hunting epic, and all of the ways language feeds the blood of imagination.”

In his foreword, Charles Baxter asks, “Does a region give rise to a particular kind of literature? Michigan is so fiercely diverse in its landscapes, its economy, and its population demographics that it presents anybody who wants to write about it with a kind of blank slate. You can’t summarize the state easily.” These storytellers exude a “Michigan aesthetic” in their writing, something that cannot be learned in a textbook or taught in a classroom but can be felt through the tales of these storytellers. It is something that just is.

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About the editors: Michael Delp recently retired from the Interlochen Arts Academy, where he was the director of creative writing for many years. He is the author of numerous collections of prose and poetry, with his most recent collection of short stories being As If We Were Prey (Wayne State University Press, 2010). He is also mentor and advisor to the Front Street Writers Program in Traverse City, which operates under the auspices of the National Writers Series. He lives in Interlochen with his wife, Claudia, and splits his time between there and Reeling Waters, his cabin on the Boardman River.

M. L. Liebler is an award-winning poet, literary arts activist, and professor. He is the author of several books of poetry, including I Want to Be Once (Wayne State University Press, 2016), and an editor of the ground-breaking anthology Working Words: Punching the Clock and Kicking Out the Jams. He is also editor of Heaven Was Detroit: Detroit Music from Jazz to HipHop and Beyond (Wayne State University Press, 2016). He has taught at Wayne State University since 1980.

Contributors: Ellen Airgood, Natalie Bakopoulos, Matt Bell, Michael Byers, Bonnie Jo Campbell, Desiree Cooper, Peter Ho Davies, Michael Delp, Jack Driscoll, Loren D. Estleman, Bill Harris, Gordon Henry, Laura Kasischke, Janet Kauffman, Mardi Jo Link, Thomas Lynch, Ander Monson, Thisbe Nissen, Thibe Nissen, Eileen Pollack, John Smolens, Gloria Whelan, Michael Zadoorian

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