



2016-17 WINTER PROGRAM BOOK

138TH SEASON // UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN | ANN ARBOR

You have a part to play.

Uncommon and engaging experiences. A sense of connection between audience and artist. Moments of clarity, inspiration, and reflection. The performing arts provide us with these elemental experiences, offering a shortcut to our creative selves.



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Your gift will help in the following areas:

ACCESS AND INCLUSIVENESS

Helping make tickets more affordable. Helping create free educational events and community-building activities. Providing opportunities for all to experience the transformative power of the arts.

ENGAGED LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS

Integrating performing arts into the student experience. Creating meaningful connections between the arts and life. Encouraging creative thinking, collaboration, and experimentation.

BOLD ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

Commissioning work that reflects our commitment to tradition and innovation. Solidifying and elevating our position as a recognized national and international artistic leader. Unique and bold programming.

As a Leader and Best among arts presenters, UMS wants anyone and everyone, students and community alike, to experience the transformative power of the performing arts. We seek generous partners who want to help us achieve our goal.

Visit us online or call the UMS Development Office to make your gift today.

Be Present

UMS unleashes the power of the performing arts in order to engage, educate, transform, and connect individuals with uncommon experiences. The Winter 2017 season is full of exceptional, world-class, and truly inspiring performances.

Welcome to the UMS experience. We're glad you're present. Enjoy the performance.



When you attend a UMS performance,
you're part of a larger equation:

nonprofit **ARTS**
+ **CULTURE**
= **ECONOMIC**
PROSPERITY
in the greater Ann Arbor Area
\$100 million annually

Together, we invest in our local community's vibrancy.



Ann Arbor Area
Community Foundation

aaacf.org



Thank You, Ken...

Welcome to this UMS performance! We are delighted that you are joining us in our 138th season, a season that is bittersweet for the UMS staff and family; UMS President Ken Fischer will retire at the end of June, following 30 years of leadership and service to UMS, the University of Michigan, and to our community.

Ken has fostered a culture of openness, honesty, and out-of-the-box thinking at UMS — a supportive professional environment that can be measured in part by the 21-year average tenure of the UMS management team.

Beyond Ken's lasting contributions to UMS, which include an organizational commitment to Education and an increased focus on commissioning new work, Ken has had an impact that isn't always apparent outside of the organization. His dedication to mentorship and service is vast, and includes hosting weekend tours to prospective University students interested in the arts; tirelessly serving on boards of directors within the arts industry regionally, nationally, and internationally; and generously offering his time and knowledge in connecting others.

He has achieved some of the highest recognitions in our field, including the 2016 Chamber Music America Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award, the 2011 Association of Performing Arts Presenters Fan Taylor Distinguished Service Award, and UMS's recognition as a 2014 National Medal of Arts recipient. From the Vienna Philharmonic concerts led by Leonard Bernstein in 1988, to the first Royal Shakespeare Company residency in 2001, through the remounting of *Einstein on the Beach* in 2012, Ken has held true to his lifelong motto: "Everybody In, Nobody Out."

Ken, we wish you all of the best in the final few months of your tenure. Thank you for all that you've done for our community!

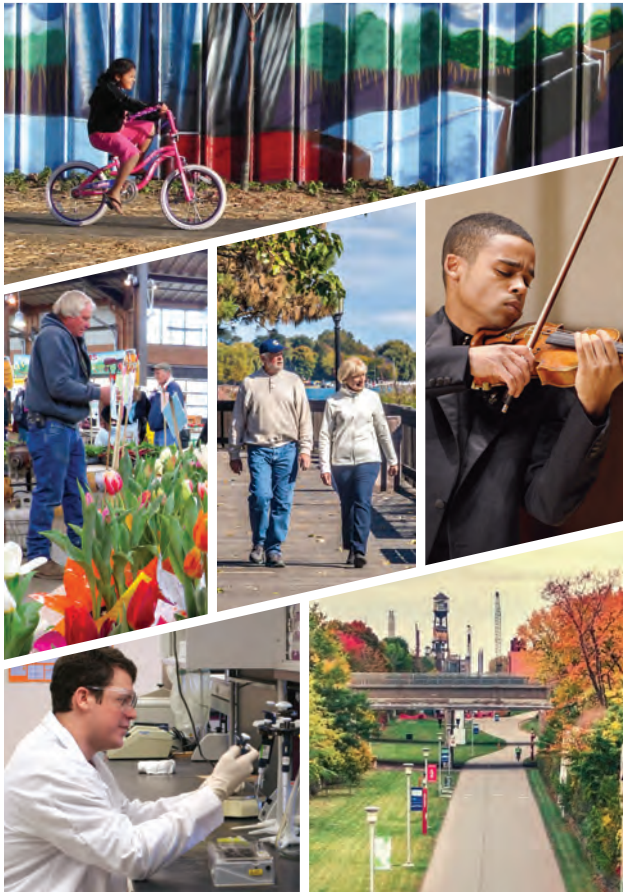
The UMS Family

Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Thanks to thousands of generous individuals, families and businesses, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is a permanent source of community capital, dedicated to creating lasting positive benefit in our region. Through grantmaking, education and leadership on community issues, we help improve the quality of life for all residents of Southeast Michigan.

cfsem.org. 1-888-WeEndow





“I have found a place where I can continue to grow and expand my horizons.”



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Druid



Bruckner Orchester Linz
with Angélique Kidjo

Sarah Chang



Batsheva Dance Company

Snarky Puppy



Winter 2017 Season

January

- 1/7-8** Batsheva Dance Company
- 1/12-14** Igor and Moreno
Idiot-Syncrasy
- 1/15** NT Live: Harold Pinter's
No Man's Land
- 1/19** Prague Philharmonia with
Sarah Chang, violin
Andrew Von Oeyen, piano
- 1/20** Meredith Monk &
Vocal Ensemble
On Behalf of Nature
- 1/21-22** Takács Quartet
Beethoven String Quartet
Cycle, Concerts 3 & 4
- 1/22** NT Live: *The Audience*
- 1/29** Inon Barnatan, piano
Anthony McGill, clarinet
Alisa Weilerstein, cello

February

- 2/2** Bruckner Orchester Linz
with Angélique Kidjo
- 2/3** Estonian Philharmonic
Chamber Choir
- 2/5** M-Prize Winner:
Calidore String Quartet
- 2/10** Budapest Festival Orchestra
with Richard Goode, piano
- 2/18** Ping Chong + Company
*Beyond Sacred: Voices of
Muslim Identity*
- 2/19** *Jelly and George*
Aaron Diehl and
Cécile McLorin Salvant

March

- 3/4** Jazz at Lincoln Center
Orchestra with
Wynton Marsalis
- 3/9-11** Druid
*The Beauty Queen of
Leenane*
- 3/11** Beethoven's
Missa Solemnis
- 3/16** Snarky Puppy
- 3/17-18** Kidd Pivot and
Electric Company Theatre
Betroffenheit
- 3/18** Steve Reich @ 80
Music for 18 Musicians
- 3/24** Mitsuko Uchida, piano
- 3/25-26** Takács Quartet
Beethoven String Quartet
Cycle, Concerts 5 & 6
- 3/29** DakhaBrakha
- 3/30-4/1** Complicite
The Encounter

April

- 4/1** Michael Fabiano, tenor
Martin Katz, piano
- 4/12** A Far Cry with
Roomful of Teeth
- 4/15** Sanam Marvi
- 4/21** King Sunny Adé
- 4/22** Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer &
Chris Thile
- 4/25** Handel's *Ariodante*:
Opera in Concert

May

- 5/21** NT Live: Ibsen's
Hedda Gabler



Ann Arbor, we're
In Your Corner.®

Chris Ballard
Christine Phillips
Tom Forster

Not pictured:
Rick Manczak
Jack Panitch

300 North 5th Avenue ■ Suite 230 ■ Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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University Musical Society

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Education & Community Engagement

Educational experiences for everyone.



Berliner Philharmoniker principal flutist Emmanuel Pahud leads a master class at the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance; photo: Peter Smith/UMS.

At UMS, our mission goes beyond performance. We want you to create, to explore, and to experience extraordinary new things. That is why we offer a fascinating lineup of artist Q&As, conversations, workshops, and interactive experiences, each designed to bring you closer to performance and creation, and to expand your comfort zone. If you want to experience something new, different, highly engaging, and eye-opening, we invite you to participate in events inside and outside of the theater.



THE
GILMORE
2016-2017
SEASON

PRESENTING
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& RISING STARS

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SUPPORTING THE ARTS

As longtime patrons of the arts,
Honigman and its Ann Arbor attorneys
are proud to support UMS.

For more information, please contact David Parsigian
at 734.418.4250 or DParsigian@honigman.com.

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EDUCATION

Pre-Concert Lecture Series: Exploring Beethoven's String Quartets

Saturday, January 21 // 7 pm

Rackham Amphitheatre
915 E. Washington St.
Fourth Floor

Join Beethoven scholar and U-M professor of musicology Steven Whiting for a series of lectures in conjunction with the Takács String Quartet's complete Beethoven cycle.

Saturday, March 25 // 7 pm

Michigan League
Koessler Room
911 N. University Ave.
Third Floor

In collaboration with the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



EDUCATION

You Can Dance

Ever wonder what it's like to be a dancer? Join dancers from each company on the UMS season for beginner movement workshops exploring each of the company's movement styles. No dance training or experience necessary, and all levels, ages 13 and up, are welcome. Free, but first come, first served until studio reaches capacity. Sign-up begins at the Y 45 minutes prior to the start of class.

Educational events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Batsheva Dance Company

Saturday, January 7 // 12 noon–1:30 pm
Ann Arbor Y
400 W. Washington St.

Igor and Moreno

Saturday, January 14 // 2-3:30 pm
Ann Arbor Y
400 W. Washington St.

Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble

Saturday, January 21 // 2-3:30 pm
Ann Arbor Y
400 W. Washington St.

Kidd Pivot

Saturday, March 18 // 2-3:30 pm
Ann Arbor Y
400 W. Washington St.



WELCOME TO GRADUATE ANN ARBOR—

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ANN ARBOR

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ANN ARBOR | 48104
M I

Tradition Builds the Future



In our 138th season, we continue to showcase traditional performances alongside contemporary artists for an offering that is unlike anything available in the Midwest. UMS grew from a group of local members of the University and townspeople in the 1870s who gathered together for the study of Handel's *Messiah*. Led by Professor Henry Simmons Frieze and conducted by Professor Calvin Cady, the group assumed the name The Choral Union. Many Choral Union members were also affiliated with the University, and the University Musical Society was established soon after in December 1880.

Since that first season, UMS has expanded greatly and now presents the very best from a wide spectrum of the performing arts: internationally renowned recitalists and orchestras, dance and chamber ensembles, jazz and global music performers, and contemporary stagework and classical theater. Through educational programming, the commissioning of new works, youth programs, artist residencies, and collaborative projects, we continue to strengthen our reputation for artistic distinction and innovation.

Leadership Donors

We recognize the donors who have made multi-year campaign commitments of \$100,000 or more during the last year.



**BERTRAM ASKWITH (1911-2015)
PATTI ASKWITH KENNER**

“The arts made a significant difference in my father’s life and in my life, too. My father wanted every U-M student to have the opportunity to experience the impact of the performing arts at UMS. This is why I am continuing to offer every first- and second-year student one free ticket — Bert’s Ticket — to introduce them to a cultural experience at Michigan and keep my father’s passion for the arts alive.”



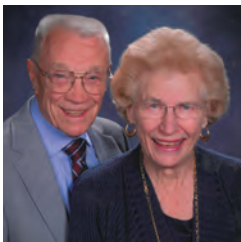
MAURICE AND LINDA BINKOW

“Our love of opera and the human voice, rivaled only by our affection for the Brooklyn Dodgers and Jackie Robinson, began nearly 70 years ago as teenagers in New York City. That’s why we are so pleased to create an endowment that will bring song recitals to UMS audiences for generations to come.”



STEVE AND ROS FORREST

“As students, we benefited from low-cost student tickets, fostering a lifelong love of the performing arts. Our donation will help to ensure that affordable tickets will be available to today’s students.”



ILENE FORSYTH AND KARL HAUSER

“An endowment is a gift which keeps on giving forever, so it is rewarding to know — while we are yet living — that our gift will still be giving when we’re not here.”



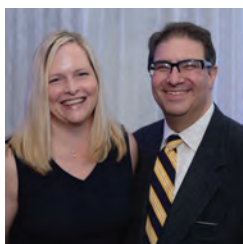
MAXINE AND STUART FRANKEL

“We are delighted to partner with UMS for the sixth year of Renegade. Supporting Renegade programming allows UMS to provide experiences for the curious, adventurous, and experimental audience member — allowing us to challenge our existing beliefs and push our own boundaries.”



EUGENE AND EMILY GRANT

“We are proud to support UMS and the many programs they offer University students. It is great to know that students will have access to the greatest performing artists from around the world. The arts are an important part of a Michigan education.”



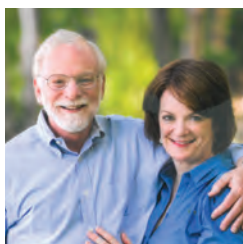
DAVID LEICHTMAN AND LAURA MCGINN

“UMS is an inspiration — from the Big House of the Arts to the master classes taught to University students. This organization contributes significantly to the culture of Ann Arbor and to the University we love. We are pleased to support its mission.”



STUART AND LINDA NELSON

“Our connection to the University of Michigan is through our grandson’s incredible experience as a student. We are dazzled by the array of cultural events available to everyone on campus and beyond. At the heart of this phenomenon is UMS, where Ken Fischer’s legacy will continue its magic long after his retirement. We feel privileged to participate in the UMS Endowment Fund in his honor.”



MAX WICHA AND SHEILA CROWLEY

“We are delighted and proud to support UMS and the rich, diverse programs they offer each season. The arts play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life in our community, while bringing beauty and meaning to everyday life. UMS is a gem we treasure and will continue to do so, for many years to come.”

Corporate Champions

We thank the following businesses for their commitments of \$5,000 or more for the 2016–17 season.



ALICIA M. TORRES

Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Altarum Institute

“The arts stimulate the mind and inspire creativity. Hence, we at Altarum are thrilled to support UMS and provide inspiring and enjoyable cultural opportunities for our team and our community. Altarum Institute serves the public good by solving complex systems problems to improve human health through objective research, technology, analysis, and consulting leadership skills.”



SCOTT DAWSON

Vice President of Engineering, Arbor Networks

“Ann Arbor is a thriving hub for both the arts and technology. With the arts playing such a critical role fostering innovation and creativity, we are delighted to support UMS this season.”



TIMOTHY G. MARSHALL

President and CEO, Bank of Ann Arbor

“We take seriously our role as a community bank. While there have been sizable cuts in arts funding over the years by both the private and public sectors, Bank of Ann Arbor is delighted to continue to sponsor UMS year after year. We are firm believers that the arts are vital to the vibrancy of our cities, both culturally and economically.”



ALMAZ LESSANEWORK

Owner, Blue Nile Restaurant

“At the Blue Nile, we believe in giving back to the community that sustains our business. We are proud to support an organization that provides such an important service to Ann Arbor.”





LARRY BRYANT

Ann Arbor Region President, Comerica Bank

“As a company with a long-standing commitment to diversity and our community, Comerica is proud to continue its support of UMS. We salute UMS on its efforts to enrich our community by showcasing the talents of performing artists from around the world. Congratulations to the leader and best in the performing arts.”



CHRIS CONLIN

President, Conlin Travel, Inc.

“Conlin Travel has been a proud supporter of UMS for over 50 years. I will never forget attending one of my first UMS concerts in 1975, listening to Vladimir Horowitz perform Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Schumann, and others. UMS makes Ann Arbor the most vibrant cultural community in Michigan today.”



FAYE ALEXANDER NELSON

President, DTE Energy Foundation

“The DTE Energy Foundation is pleased to support exemplary organizations like UMS that inspire the soul, instruct the mind, and enrich the community.”



NANCY AND RANDALL FABER

Founders, Faber Piano Institute

“We are proud to support UMS in its tradition of program excellence and outreach that enriches our thoughts, our families, and our community.”



JAMES G. VELLA

President, Ford Motor Company Fund

“Experiencing the world through music and the arts makes us better as individuals while bringing us together as a community. We are proud to support UMS and the important role it plays in enriching our lives.”



Ford Motor Company Fund



DAVID N. PARSIGIAN

Ann Arbor Office Managing Partner, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP

“In our firm’s tradition of supporting major cultural institutions, Honigman has been a long-time supporter of UMS. Our Ann Arbor office is proud to carry on that tradition on behalf of all of our attorneys, especially those who work and live in the Ann Arbor area. We all view the exceptional cultural experiences that UMS provides as key to the success of our community and our firm.”



JOHN AND JACKIE FARAH

Owners, Imagine Fitness & Yoga

“My wife Jackie and I share a deep devotion to our hometown of Ann Arbor and all the opportunities it presents. UMS is a huge part of this community. The programming that UMS offers is internationally recognized and Ann Arbor would not be the same without it. Imagine Fitness & Yoga is honored to support such a great organization and community.”



MOHAMAD ISSA

Director, Issa Foundation

“The Issa Foundation is sponsored by the Issa family, which has been established in Ann Arbor for the last 30 years, and is involved in local property management as well as area public schools. The Issa Foundation is devoted to the sharing and acceptance of culture in an effort to change stereotypes and promote peace. UMS has done an outstanding job bringing diverse and talented performers to Ann Arbor.”

ISSA FOUNDATION



ROBIN WEBER POLLAK

President, Journeys International

“Journeys International and UMS have a lot in common: we both provide opportunities for powerful and impactful experiences. Founded and based in Ann Arbor, Journeys has been crafting life-changing international travel adventures for nearly four decades. We are thrilled to support UMS and its programs that change people through the performing arts.”



JAMES HOFFMAN

Michigan Market President, KeyBank

“KeyBank remains a committed supporter of the performing arts in Ann Arbor and we commend UMS for bringing another season of great performances to the community. Thank you, UMS, for continuing the tradition.”





MICHAEL CONLIN

Director of Business Development, Level X Talent

“Level X Talent enjoys supporting UMS and its ongoing success bringing world-class artistic talent to the community. Please join us in congratulating UMS. As with the arts, consistently finding and attracting exceptional talent in Advanced Technology can be difficult. Level X Talent partners with our clients to meet that challenge.”

LEVEL X TALENT

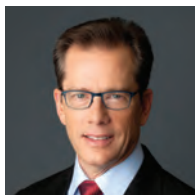


DENNIS SERRAS

Owner, Mainstreet Ventures, Inc.

“As restaurant and catering service owners, we consider ourselves fortunate that our business provides so many opportunities for supporting UMS and its continuing success in bringing internationally acclaimed talent to the Ann Arbor community.”

MAIN STREET
— DELICIES —
DISTINGUISHED CATERING



KEITH ALLMAN

President and Chief Executive Officer, Masco

“Masco is proud to support UMS and salutes its commitment to providing excellent and diverse programs that spark a lifelong passion for creativity. Thank you, UMS, for allowing all of us to experience the transformative power of the performing arts!”

MASCO



THOMAS B. MCMULLEN

President and CEO, McMullen Properties

“A Michigan–Ohio State football ticket is still the best ticket in all of sport. However, a UMS ticket always provides the best in educational and artistic entertainment.”

MCMULLEN
PROPERTIES
FOUR GENERATIONS IN ANN ARBOR REAL ESTATE



STEVE ARWOOD

CEO, Michigan Economic Development Corporation

“We are proud to support UMS, an outstanding organization bringing world-class artists to Michigan. By partnering with UMS to bring the Berlin Philharmonic to our state, we are showing once again the wide variety of offerings Michigan has that enhance our quality of life and help to make our state an amazing place to live, work, and do business.”

M E D C
MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PURE MICHIGAN



STEPHEN G. PALMS

Principal, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C.

“Miller Canfield proudly supports UMS for enhancing our quality of life by bringing the unfiltered immediacy of live performing arts to our community.”



TODD CLARK

Regional President, Old National Bank

“At Old National Bank, we’re committed to community partnership. That’s why, last year alone, we funded over \$5 million in grants and sponsorships and our associates donated almost 100,000 volunteer hours. It’s also the reason we’re pleased to once again support UMS as a corporate sponsor for the 2016–17 season.”



RICHARD L. DEVORE

Detroit and Southeast Michigan Regional President, PNC Bank

“PNC Bank is proud to support the efforts of UMS and the Ann Arbor community.”



TODD KEPHART

Managing Partner, Retirement Income Solutions

“With strong roots in the community for more than 30 years, our team of investment advisors is proud to support UMS. We salute Ken Fischer on his marvelous stewardship and applaud his team’s ongoing commitment to presenting authentic, world-renowned artists to the Ann Arbor community.”



SAVA LELCAJ

Chief Executive Officer, Savco: Hospitality

“One of Ann Arbor’s greatest assets is UMS, which brings amazing, best-in-class performances to our city season after season. Savco Hospitality is honored to support UMS and its mission of engaging, educating, transforming, and connecting the arts to our community.”





JOE SESI

President, Sesi Lincoln Volvo Mazda

“UMS is an important cultural asset for our community. The Sesi Lincoln Volvo Mazda team is delighted to sponsor such a fine organization.”



JOHN FITZPATRICK

President, StoryPoint

“At StoryPoint we strive to inspire and enable seniors to shine every day. Our mission to create the absolute best experiences does not end within our buildings; we aim to enrich the communities we serve. Music is a language that every person — young and old — understands and enjoys. We are proud to support UMS, who inspires our community through artistic expression and talented performers.”

STORYPOINT
Shine. Everyday.



JOHN W. STOUT

President, Stout Systems

“Supporting UMS is really a labor of love — love of music and the performing arts and love of arts advocacy and education. Everyone at Stout Systems knows we cannot truly be successful without helping to make our community a better place. It is an honor to be part of the UMS family.”



TOM THOMPSON

Owner, Tom Thompson Flowers

“Judy and I are enthusiastic participants in the UMS family. We appreciate how our lives have been elevated by this relationship.”



OSAMU “SIMON” NAGATA

President, Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America, Inc.

“Toyota Technical Center is proud to support UMS, an organization with a long and rich history of serving diverse audiences through a wide variety of arts programming.”





TIFFANY FORD

President and CEO, University of Michigan Credit Union

"The University of Michigan Credit Union is excited to launch 'Arts Adventures' with UMS and UMMA! With this endowment, we promote the celebration of the arts through amazing experiences and exceptional learning opportunities for the entire community."

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
CREDIT UNION



MARK SCHLISSSEL

President, University of Michigan

"The University of Michigan is proud to support UMS as a natural extension of our academic enterprise. UMS's outstanding performances and educational programs add tremendous value for our students, faculty, alumni, and regional community."



MARSCHALL RUNGE

Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Michigan, and CEO, University of Michigan Health System

"We are proud to partner with UMS for its 2016–17 season. Music improves the quality of life for all of us, and, increasingly, is recognized as an important ingredient for better health."

M | HEALTH SYSTEM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity

A production of

Ping Chong + Company

Ping Chong and Sara Zatz, with Ryan Conarro
Writers

Ping Chong

Director

in collaboration with performers

Tiffany Yasmin Abdelghani, Ferdous Dehqan, Kadin Herring, Amir Khafagy,
Maha Syed

Saturday Evening, February 18, 2017 at 8:00

Power Center

Ann Arbor

39th Performance of the 138th Annual Season
International Theater Series

Tonight's supporting sponsor is the Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum of the Islamic Studies Program, University of Michigan International Institute.

Funded in part by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund at UMS and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Media partnership provided by Michigan Radio 91.7 FM.

Tonight's performance and Q&A will be livestreamed, with an archived version available online at ums.org.

Special thanks to Shenell McCrary; Chrisstina Hamilton and the Penny Stamps Lecture Series; Marysia Ostafin, Ariel Mallett, and the International Institute, the Islamic Studies Program, the Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum, and the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia; Pam Reister and the U-M Museum of Art; Jessica Hill and the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies; Jaye Starr, Nihad Dukhan, Eid Alawan, Bryon Maxey, Ellen Meyers, Professor Samer Ali, Kelly Joyce Fielder, and Jenna Spinei for their participation in events surrounding this evening's performance.

Special thanks to American Sign Language interpreters James Cech and Jamie Fidler, who appear by arrangement with Synergy on Stage.

In consideration of the artists and the audience, please refrain from the use of electronic devices during the performance.

The photography, sound recording, or videotaping of this performance is prohibited.

CAST

Performers / Tiffany Yasmin Abdelghani, Ferdous Dehqan, Kadin Herring,
Amir Khafagy, Maha Syed

CREATIVE TEAM

Director / Ping Chong

Writers / Ping Chong and Sara Zatz, with Ryan Conarro

Production Supervisor / Courtney Golden

Projection Designer / Katherine Freer

Projections Supervisor / Brendan Chapin

Lighting Designer / Marika Kent

Company Manager / Kristina Varshavskaya

Executive Director, Ping Chong + Company / Bruce Allardice

This evening's performance is approximately 75 minutes in duration and is performed without intermission.



Following this evening's performance, please feel free to remain in your seats and join us for a post-performance Q&A with members of the company. **Tonight's Q&A will be livestreamed, with an archived version available online at ums.org.**

BEYOND SACRED: VOICES OF MUSLIM IDENTITY

Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity is part of an ongoing series of community-specific oral history theater works known as the *Undesirable Elements* series. Begun in 1992 by Ping Chong + Company, each production is made in a specific community, with local participants testifying to their real lives and experiences. The script is based on interviews with the participants who then share their own true stories in the final production. Since 1992, over 50 productions have been made across the US and abroad. Recent productions have explored themes as far-ranging as the disability experience, Native American identity, the experiences of refugees in the US, and the experiences of survivors of sexual abuse. Ping Chong + Company has created documentaries, toolkits, training workshops, and arts education programs for communities who wish to use the arts to address social justice issues in their own work.

Beyond Sacred was commissioned by LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, where it premiered in April 2015. The premiere production was made possible by a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters Building Bridges: Campus Community Engagement Grants Program, which is funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

ARTISTS

Ping Chong + Company produces theatrical works addressing the important cultural and civic issues of our times, striving to reach the widest audiences with the greatest level of artistic innovation and social integrity. The company was founded in 1975 by leading theatrical innovator Ping Chong with a mission to create works of theater and art that explore the intersections of race, culture, history, art, media, and technology in the modern world. Today, Ping Chong + Company produces original works by a close-knit ensemble of affiliated artists under the artistic leadership of Ping Chong. Productions range from intimate oral history projects to grand-scale cinematic multidisciplinary productions featuring puppets, performers, and full music and projection scores. The art reveals beauty, precision, and a commitment to social justice.

For more information about Ping Chong + Company, visit: www.pingchong.org and www.undesirableelements.org.

Ping Chong (*director/co-writer*) is an internationally acclaimed theater artist and pioneer in the use of media in the theater. Since 1972, he has created over 100 works for the stage, which have been presented at major festivals and theaters worldwide. He is the recipient of the 2014 National Medal of Arts, the highest honor specifically given for achievement in the arts to an individual artist in the US. He has also been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, a USA Artist Fellowship, two Bessie awards, two Obie awards, and the 2013 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award. In 1992, he created the first work in the *Undesirable Elements* series of community-based oral history projects of which there have now been over 50 productions. His puppet theater work *CATHAY: Three Tales*

of China was commissioned by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for its Festival of China in 2005 and was presented at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, New Victory Theatre, the Vienna Festival, and the World Puppetry Festival in Chengdu, PRC. His adaptation of Kurosawa's *Throne of Blood* was presented at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival in 2010. Theatre Communications Group has published two volumes of his plays, including *The East West Quartet* and a volume on *Undesirable Elements*. Recent projects include *PUSH: Real Athletes, Real Stories, Real Theatre*, about the experiences of elite athletes with disabilities for the 2015 ParaPanAmGames in Toronto, and *Collidescope: Further Adventures in Pre- and Post-Racial America*, exploring the complex history of racial violence in the US, which premiered at the University of Maryland in 2014, with subsequent productions at UMass Amherst (2016) and Wake Forest University (2017).

Sara Zatz (*co-writer*) is the associate director of Ping Chong + Company. Since 2002, she has overseen the *Undesirable Elements* series, working with a wide range of partner organizations, from regional theaters to community-based arts organizations. She has had the honor of interviewing hundreds of individuals from around the world, served as co-author with Ping Chong on over a dozen productions, and has overseen the creation of an in-school arts education program and training institute to share the methodology of *Undesirable Elements* with other artists and community members. She is the writer and director of *Secret Survivors*, which explores the experiences of survivors of child sexual





abuse, and oversees the Secret Survivors National Initiative, which partners with non-arts organizations to use theater to end child sexual abuse. Most recently she co-created *Say My Name, Say My Name: Stories of LGBTQ Youth of New Orleans*, featuring true stories of transgender youth of color fighting criminalization in New Orleans. She has spoken and presented workshops on community-engaged theater at many conferences and universities.

Ryan Conarro (*artistic collaborator/writer*) is a theater-maker who has lived and made work for 13 years in several communities in Alaska, where he is a member of Perseverance Theatre, a co-founder of Generator Theater, an occasional documentary radio producer, and a teaching artist and adjunct professor with the University of Alaska, the Alaska

Arts Education Consortium, and several school districts. He is a resident artist with New York's Theater Mitu with whom he co-created and performed in the internationally touring interview-based play *Juarez: A Documentary Mythology*. His work as a director/deviser has been seen at the Kennedy Center, Maine's Stonington Opera House, the University of Oregon, and the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian. He is currently developing *Where the Sea Breaks its Back* with Ping Chong + Company, a new multidisciplinary theater work exploring the complex histories, cultures, and environments of Alaska.

Tiffany Yasmin Abdelghani (*performer*) I would like to dedicate my performance to my loving and dearest family. I love you all dearly. My journey through Islam has been



Digital Islamic
Studies Curriculum

digitalislam.umich.edu

The Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum (DISC) is a U-M initiative that strives to define and implement a shared curriculum across the Big Ten through dynamic virtual learning. The program offers a broad set of courses that investigate Islamic religion, cultures, ideologies, and historic traditions. DISC is housed at the U-M International Institute and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



a beautiful one, and it's just beginning. Bless my family and friends. To my mom: I love you, you are my biggest support system, and my heart is content to call you my mother. To my dad: I will always be your favorite. Professor Habiba and Professor Joni Schwartz, you are an inspiration and you are beautiful, and to everyone who has encouraged and supported me, you are definitely on the "Cool" list.

Ferdous Dehqan (*performer*) I am glad to be part of this amazing program. One of the main reasons why I joined to this program is that I wanted to give a different image of Muslims for non-Muslim communities, particularly at the time when Islamophobia is rising in this country, and to deliver a message of peace and love for other people from Islam. I hope this program and my story can create more understanding among non-Muslim people about Muslim identity and Islam, in general. I dedicate this show to my family and especially my dear mother whom I really love.

Kadin Herring (*performer*) Due to my African-American and Caribbean descent, I always had to confront people on their prejudiced views on Islam; I never "looked" like the Muslims people feared. My father practiced the Islamic faith, which made me and my two brothers gravitate to the religion at a young age. Both the faith as well as the Islamic community developed in me a strength in appreciating my customs and features unlike what America liked to show as beautiful or voice as intelligent. I wanted to be involved in this production because although I don't consider myself a Muslim in the traditional sense, I wanted to show people that this community has shown me nothing but support and love which is a far cry from what the world views as a community of lawless savages. This

performance is for my father who found so much peace in the faith.

Amir Khafagy (*performer*) I am extremely grateful to be a part of this important performance. It is about time that we have an open and honest conversation about Islam and the Muslim experience in the US from the people who know about it best: Muslims. During the last few years we have witnessed an increasing hostility towards people who identify as Muslim. The Muslim community as a whole is being portrayed as a potential threat to this country in the media, which influences public opinions and policies. Our communities are under surveillance, while our motherlands are in flames. I hope this show will help to expand the conversation and humanize Muslims in a way that we are not used to seeing. Finally, I want to dedicate this performance to every Muslim child who has grown up believing that there was something wrong with them or that they didn't "belong." I hope my story can help them to believe otherwise.

Maha Syed (*performer*) I am a human rights and gender equity advocate in New York City, continuing my lifelong efforts to destroy the patriarchy. I am excited to share my story with you and hope you take away something from our performance. I would like to dedicate this performance to my parents who have always allowed me the freedom to form and manipulate my own identity and perceptions of culture and faith. I have done nothing but present them with challenges and received only love in return. And thank you to bell hooks.



UMS Education & Community Engagement

Artist Residency: Ping Chong + Company at the University of Michigan

At UMS, we carry our mission beyond the stage by engaging artists in conversations, workshops, and other interactive experiences. During their time in Ann Arbor, members of Ping Chong + Company had the opportunity to connect with members of the public and the academic community alike through a series of class visits, conversations, and workshops.

On **Thursday** morning, members of the company visited the UMS signature course “Engaging Performance,” team-taught by Anita Gonzalez and Madhumita Lahiri. Later that day, they visited Carol Bardenstein’s “Introduction to Arab Culture” course. Both classes are attending the performance tonight as part of their curriculum this semester. On Thursday evening, Ping Chong delivered a talk entitled “All Islands Connect Underwater” at the Michigan Theater as part of the Penny Stamps Lecture Series, presented by the U-M Stamps School of Art & Design.

On **Friday**, the company performed a School Day Performance of *Beyond Sacred* for an audience of local high school students; after the performance, the cast held a Q&A for students from the Plymouth-Canton Community School Arts Academy, Pioneer High School, Ypsilanti High School, and the

Early College Alliance of Eastern Michigan University, who have been engaging in an intensive residency process to create original theater works inspired by Ping Chong + Company’s artistic methods. On Friday afternoon, cast members Kadin Herring and Amir Khafagy participated in a panel “Investigating Islamophobia: A Community Forum” alongside members of the U-M and Michigan State University faculty, co-sponsored by the U-M International Institute’s Islamic Studies Program, the Digital Islamic Curriculum, and the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia. Elsewhere on campus, Ping Chong, company executive director Bruce Allardice, and UMS 21st Century Artist Intern Shenell McCrary conducted a Q&A for theater students at the U-M School of Music, Theatre, & Dance.

On **Saturday**, Ping Chong + Company’s associate director Sara Zatz led a workshop on the company’s interview-based creation methods with the Medical Arts program from the U-M Medical School, which provides medical students and house officers with experiences with the performing arts and interactions with visiting artists.

To learn more about UMS Education and Community Engagement, visit ums.org/education.

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Associate Director / Sara Michelle Zatz

*Artistic Collaborator In Residence and Community Projects Associate /
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Ping Chong + Company is grateful for the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The Howard Gilman Foundation, New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Project, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation, The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Jim Henson Foundation, The Lucille Lortel Foundation, and many generous individual donors.

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Tickets available at www.ums.org.

ON THE EDUCATION HORIZON...

- 3/18 You Can Dance: Kidd Pivot
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- 3/25 Pre-Concert Lecture Series: Exploring Beethoven's String Quartets
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 7:00 pm)

Educational events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

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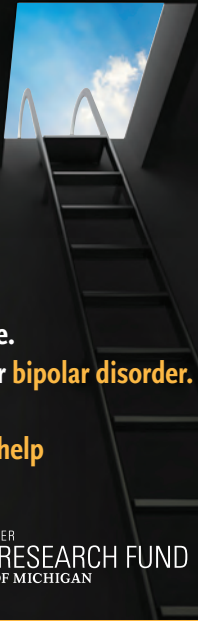


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Rossini *Semiramide Overture*
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