



# 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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MICHIGAN

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[UMS.ORG/SUPPORT](https://ums.org/support)  
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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](http://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!

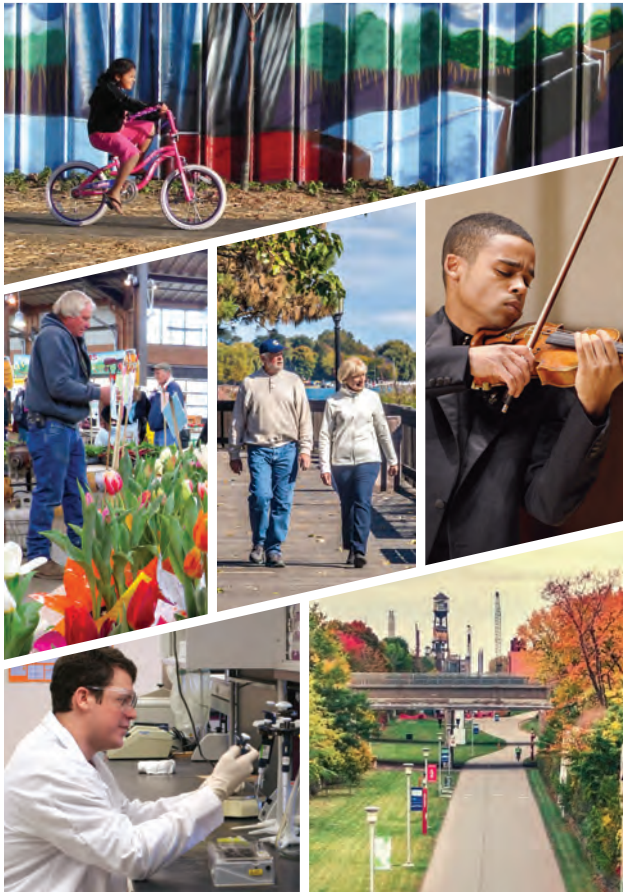
## The UMS Family

# 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*  
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Chris Ballard  
Christine Phillips  
Tom Forster

Not pictured:  
Rick Manczak  
Jack Panitch

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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

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PIANO MASTERS  
& RISING STARS

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[thegilmore.org](http://thegilmore.org)

## 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](mailto:DParsigian@honigman.com).

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[WWW.HONIGMAN.COM](http://WWW.HONIGMAN.COM)

## 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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your favorite place to stay.*

Ideally located across the street from campus, Graduate Ann Arbor has 204 guest rooms and over 11,000 square feet of meeting space for banquets and events. Get ready for experiences like you've never had before, where little moments of surprise and discovery meet you down each corridor and around every corner.



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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.”



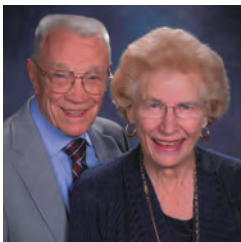
**MAURICE AND LINDA BINKOW**

“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.”



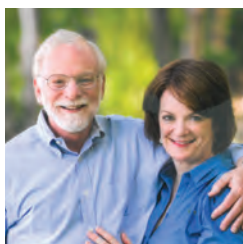
### DAVID LEICHTMAN AND LAURA MCGINN

“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.”



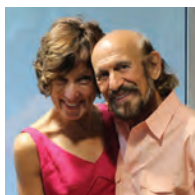
Ford Motor Company Fund



**DAVID N. PARSIGIAN**

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

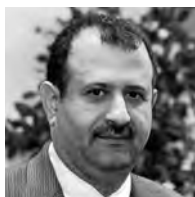
“In our firm’s tradition of supporting major cultural institutions, Honigman has been a long-time supporter of UMS. Our Ann Arbor office is proud to carry on that tradition on behalf of all of our attorneys, especially those who work and live in the Ann Arbor area. We all view the exceptional cultural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

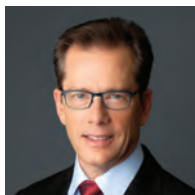
LEVEL X TALENT


**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 —  
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**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





# Yo-Yo Ma Edgar Meyer Chris Thile

Yo-Yo Ma / *Cello*  
Edgar Meyer / *Bass*  
Chris Thile / *Mandolin*

Saturday Evening, April 22, 2017 at 8:00  
Hill Auditorium  
Ann Arbor

Tonight's presenting sponsor is Michigan Medicine.

Tonight's supporting sponsors are the Essel and Menakka Bailey Endowment Fund, Bank of Ann Arbor, Diane and Gary Stahle, James and Nancy Stanley, The Zelenock Family, David Sarns and Agnes Moy-Sarns, and The Medical Community Endowment.

Media partnership provided by Michigan Radio 91.7 FM and WEMU 89.1 FM.

Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, and Chris Thile appear by arrangement with Opus 3 Artists.

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.

## **PROGRAM**

### ***Bach Trios***

*This evening's program will be announced from the stage by the artists and will be performed without intermission.*

## THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM

Put any random combination of musicians in a room together, and no matter their instruments, histories, or personalities, it's more than likely that they'll find common ground playing Bach.

This is partly because Bach addressed so many musical contexts over the course of his lifetime. Though he is revered as a protean creator and obsessive craftsman, he was also equal parts humble artisan and compulsive speed-writer. Suffering was not yet a requirement for 18th-century artists; in Bach's music, one senses instead a musician eager to make himself as useful as possible, to find every outlet for his immense skill and energy.

In a musician's repertoire, therefore, Bach is both a foundation and a pinnacle. You start your training with something from the *Notebooks for Anna Magdalena*, a two-part invention, or simple prelude — music that teaches you not just how to play, but how to listen to harmony, counterpoint, voice-leading, and form. And you gradually ascend to the heights of instrumental and compositional virtuosity — the *Goldberg Variations*, the d-minor Chaconne, or *The Art of the Fugue*.

In these epic pieces, the performer necessarily channels the composer through a kind of individual heroism. But at the core, Bach was an intensely collaborative musician. Part of the utility of his music is its protean adaptability to any number of instrumental combinations; the labor of performing is divided easily into voices or parts, each a satisfying narrative thread on its own.

The more diverse the voices, the more it becomes possible to tease

out the movement of these separate lines. There's always something interesting happening, no matter which frequency you decide to listen to at a given moment. The act of hearing the mercurial a-minor fugue from *The Well-Tempered Clavier Book II* becomes a kind of auditory tennis match, as subjects and sequences volley among players at warp speed.

One of the joys here is the extraordinary chamber group, comprised of three virtuosos: Chris Thile, Yo-Yo Ma, and Edgar Meyer. Mandolin, cello, and double bass are, at face value, an unlikely instrumental combination, but this is an obviously harmonious set of personalities and musical predilections. The history of collaboration between these three is long and wide-ranging.

Each has recorded Bach individually and in 2012, when thoughts turned to encores during the Goat Rodeo Sessions, Bach was a natural choice. There is a huge range of possibility in Bach interpretation, from the revisionist, almost authorial approach (Busoni or Glenn Gould) to the scholarly and historically informed (epitomized by John Eliot Gardiner). There's much to be gained from both schools, and, wisely, the Thile/Ma/Meyer trio finds its voice somewhere in the middle of the spectrum. Here, drawn in by the directness of the music itself, it's entirely possible to lose oneself for long stretches, just listening.

The trio sonatas bookending their album released in April are straightforward and direct, with all the athletic rhythmic snap of the

best period-instrumentalists. In fact, through some sleight-of-hand sonic mimicry, it sounds remarkably baroque. Chris Thile's mandolin takes on the personae of harpsichord, lute, or even something close to a piano; Yo-Yo Ma's cello, a whole chorus of human voices and a few centuries of stylistic string playing besides. Other moments, though, are unmistakable musical signatures. The rollicking arpeggios in *Kommst du nun, Jesu*, jaunty with the barest hint of swing, could only be Mr. Thile; the chorale tune answering it, complete in its shape and phrasing, characteristically Mr. Ma. Mr. Meyer's bass, vaulting far above the instrument's typical continuo register, makes the melody in *Wachet auf* all the more strivingly human. This unique and shifting orchestration brings an unexpected transparency to some familiar music.

Though one thinks of cello and bass as similarly dark-hued instruments, here they tend to take opposite roles in the three-part harmony, with the cello melody soaring above. The mandolin, so idiomatically suited to moving, contrapuntal lines, keeps the pulse while maintaining a crystalline clarity. Similarly, when the mandolin takes the highest voice, as in the bustling *Sonata for Viola da Gamba*, its short reverberation moves aside quickly, allowing the ear to parse the maze of interchanges and switchbacks between cello and bass. Even more complex is the massive *Prelude and Fugue No. 18 in e minor*, originally an organ piece. Far from making things simpler, dividing the soloist's labor among three creates an opportunity for some fun. The central section of the fugue is transformed

into an over-the-top chase scene, cello pouncing on the mandolin's tail in endless barrages of running notes. This technique, called *hocket*, in which musicians interrupt each other at just the right moment to form a continuous musical line, is found in everything from central African Pygmy music to the work of the contemporary Dutch composer Louis Andriessen.

Not everything is quite so rough-and-tumble. Moments of suspended, almost shocking harmonic beauty abound, especially in the chorale-derived works. In the second phrase of *Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ*, the continuo (bass accompaniment) stubbornly clings to the same note two beats longer than the ear expects — interrupting long enough that the arc of the vocal line (here a plangent and nearly vibrato-less cello) turns into a sequence of unstable, dissonant intervals on its downward path, sounding simultaneously inevitable and lost.

The organ chorale *Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott* also features the cello as vocalist, though it is the uncharacteristically stark accompaniment that stands out — plucked bass, with Mr. Thile now joining on guitar, strumming a constant eighth-note pulse. The complete absence of contrapuntal activity draws attention to a sly harmonic ambiguity: beginning seemingly in b minor, constantly feinting at D Major, but never quite sticking the landing. The final phrase ends on b minor's dominant, F-sharp, as if to say, "Again." Light and shade give way to each other in an endless cycle.

Bach's music gives the player a sense of making something tangible, conjuring the physical out of the abstraction of a fugue or chorale. A musical score is, of course, just a set of instructions — the steps to take in construction, with little specified about the finished product. In Bach's catalogue, we have an entire city in plans, its cathedral ringing with organ preludes, its back rooms full of chamber music. That everyone has access to this trove — and can, with a little experience, will these same creations into being — is one of the most profoundly democratic facts I know of, and stands as a great equalizer in an unequal world.

*Program note by composer and pianist Timo Andres, from the recently released album Bach Trios on Nonesuch Records.*

## UMS ARCHIVES

This evening's performance marks **Yo-Yo Ma's** 13th performance under UMS auspices following his UMS debut in April 1982 at Hill Auditorium with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the baton of Eugene Ormandy. Mr. Ma most recently appeared at UMS in March 2013 at Hill Auditorium with the Silk Road Ensemble, where they received the UMS Distinguished Artist Award. This evening's performance marks **Edgar Meyer's** fifth appearance under UMS auspices, following his UMS debut in November 1995 at Rackham Auditorium with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. **Chris Thile** makes his fourth UMS appearance this evening, following his UMS debut in October 2009 at the Power Center with Punch Brothers. Mr. Meyer and Mr. Thile most recently appeared under UMS auspices together in October 2014 at the Michigan Theater.

## ARTISTS

The many-faceted career of **Yo-Yo Ma** (*cello*) is testament to his continual search for new ways to communicate with audiences and to his personal desire for artistic growth and renewal. Mr. Ma maintains a balance between his engagements as soloist with orchestras worldwide and his recital and chamber music activities. His discography includes over 100 albums, including 18 Grammy Award-winners.

Mr. Ma serves as the artistic director of Silkroad, an organization he founded to promote cross-cultural performance and collaborations at the edge where education, business, and the arts come together to transform the world. More than 80 works have been commissioned specifically for the Silk Road Ensemble, which tours annually. Mr. Ma also serves as the Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Negaunee Music Institute. His work focuses on the transformative power music can have in individuals' lives, and on increasing the number and variety of opportunities audiences have to experience music in their communities.

Mr. Ma was born in Paris to Chinese parents who later moved the family to New York. He began to study cello at the age of four, attended The Juilliard School, and in 1976 graduated from Harvard University. He has received numerous awards, among them the Avery Fisher Prize (1978), the National Medal of Arts (2001), and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2010). In 2011, Mr. Ma was recognized as a Kennedy Center Honoree. Most recently, Mr. Ma has joined the Aspen Institute Board of Trustees. He has performed for eight American presidents, most recently at the invitation of President Obama on the

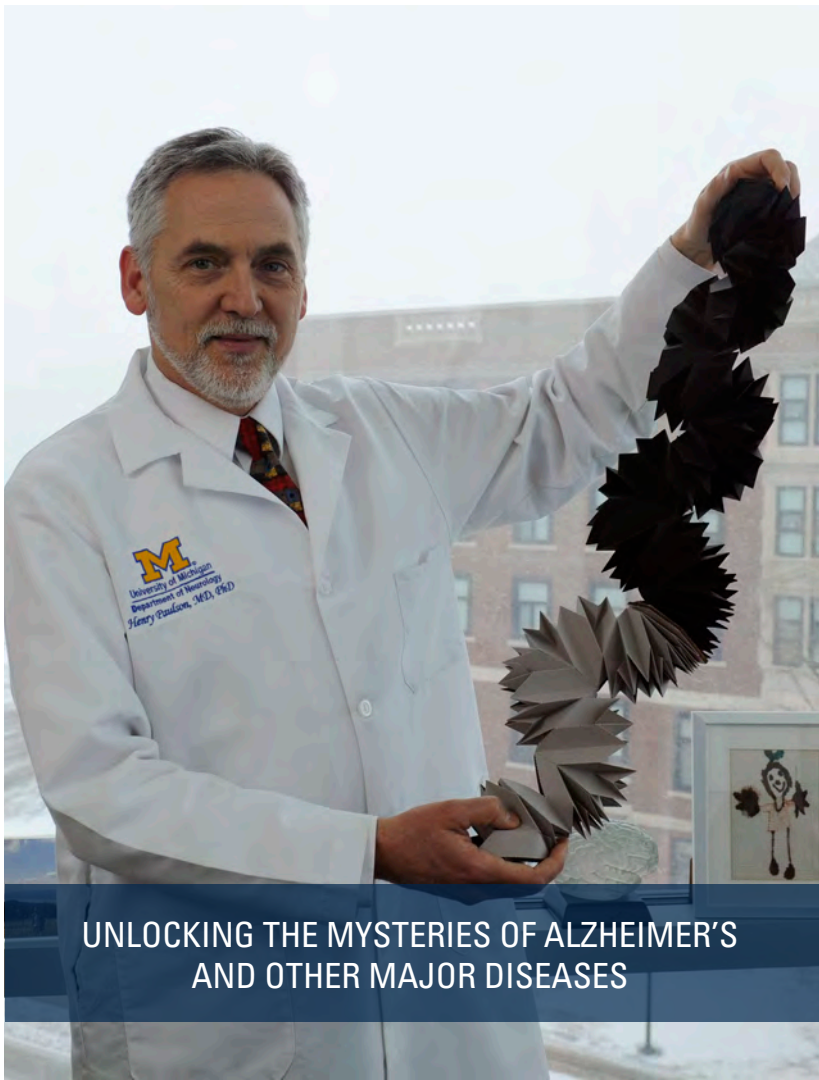
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In demand as both a performer and a composer, **Edgar Meyer** (*bass*) has formed a role in the music world unlike any other. Hailed by *The New Yorker* as "...the most remarkable virtuoso in the relatively unchronicled history of his instrument," Mr. Meyer's unparalleled technique and musicianship in combination with his gift for composition have brought him to the fore. His uniqueness in the field was recognized by a MacArthur Award in 2002.

As a solo classical bassist, Mr. Meyer can be heard on a concerto album with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra conducted by Hugh Wolff featuring Bottesini and Meyer concertos both alone and with Yo-Yo Ma and Joshua Bell. He has also recorded an album featuring three of Bach's *Unaccompanied Suites for Cello*. Mr. Meyer was honored with his fifth Grammy Award in 2015 for "Best Contemporary Instrumental Album" for his *Bass & Mandolin* collaboration with Chris Thile.

As a composer, Mr. Meyer has carved out a remarkable and unique niche in the musical world. His music has been premiered and recorded by Emanuel Ax, Joshua Bell, Yo-Yo Ma, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain, Hilary Hahn, and the Emerson String Quartet.

Collaborations are a central part of Mr. Meyer's work. He has been and remains a member of numerous groups whose members include Chris Thile, Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain, Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas, Mark O'Connor, Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax,



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Joshua Bell, Mike Marshall, and Amy Dorfman. His debut album in 1985 featured the first public appearance of Strength in Numbers, whose members were Mr. Bush, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Fleck, Mr. O'Connor, and Mr. Meyer.

Mr. Meyer began studying bass at the age of five under the instruction of his father and continued further to study with former U-M professor of music Stuart Sankey. In 1994 he received the Avery Fisher Career Grant and in 2000 became the only bassist to receive the Avery Fisher Prize. Currently, he teaches bass in partnership with Hal Robinson at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. For more information, please visit [www.edgarmeyer.com](http://www.edgarmeyer.com).

Multiple Grammy Award-winner and MacArthur Fellow **Chris Thile** (*mandolin*), a member of Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek, and now the host of *A Prairie Home Companion*, is a mandolin virtuoso, composer, and vocalist. With his broad outlook that encompasses classical, rock, jazz, and bluegrass, Mr. Thile transcends the borders of conventionally circumscribed genres, creating a distinctly American canon and a new musical aesthetic for performers and audiences alike.

A child prodigy, Mr. Thile first rose to fame as a member of Grammy Award-winning trio Nickel Creek, with whom he released three albums and sold over two million records. In 2014, along with a national tour, the trio released a new album, *A Dotted Line*, their first since 2005.

As a soloist, Mr. Thile has released five albums including his most recent, *Bach: Sonatas and Partitas, Vol. 1*, which was produced by renowned bassist Edgar Meyer. In February 2013, he won

a Grammy Award for his work on *The Goat Rodeo Sessions*, collaborating with Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, and Stuart Duncan. In September 2014, Mr. Thile and Mr. Meyer released their latest album collaboration, *Bass + Mandolin*, which won the Grammy Award for "Best Contemporary Instrumental Album." Punch Brothers released their latest album, *The Phosphorescent Blues*, in January 2015, and a follow up EP, *The Wireless*, in November 2015. Most recently, Mr. Thile released a double-album with Brad Mehldau titled *Chris Thile & Brad Mehldau* in January 2017.

Beginning in fall of 2016, Mr. Thile took the helm of *A Prairie Home Companion*, a public radio favorite since 1974. Garrison Keillor, the show's creator and host announced: "He is, I think, the great bluegrass performer of our time and he is a beautiful jazz player. There just isn't anything he can't do — and he is very enthusiastic about live radio."

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**Please join UMS in honoring Ken’s 30 years of extraordinary leadership with a gift of any size to the Ken Fischer Legacy Endowment Fund.** As a permanent endowment at UMS, the Fund will support a performance or unique opportunity each season.

**The Ken Fischer Legacy Endowment Fund will not only honor Ken’s legacy, but will also help ensure the continued success of UMS.**

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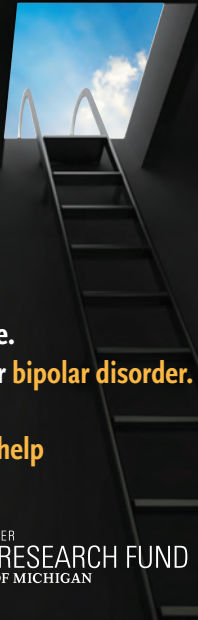


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*UMS patrons gather in the Hill Auditorium lobby prior to Berliner Philharmoniker; photo: Peter Smith/UMS.*

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