



# 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!

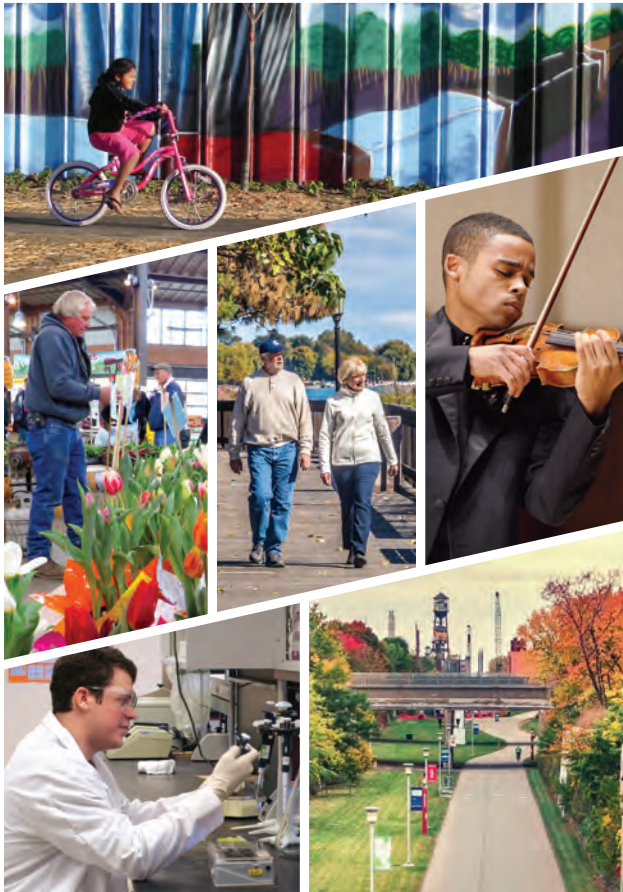
## The UMS Family

# 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

PRESENTING  
PIANO MASTERS  
& RISING STARS

BOX OFFICE  
269.359.7311  
[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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## 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—

*Where your intellectual curiosity meets  
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.”



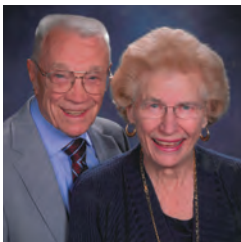
**MAURICE AND LINDA BINKOW**

“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.”



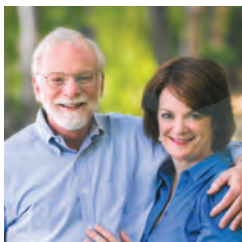
### DAVID LEICHTMAN AND LAURA MCGINN

“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.”



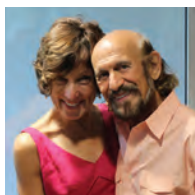
Ford Motor Company Fund



**DAVID N. PARSIGIAN**

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

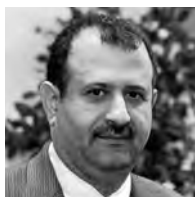
“In our firm’s tradition of supporting major cultural institutions, Honigman has been a long-time supporter of UMS. Our Ann Arbor office is proud to carry on that tradition on behalf of all of our attorneys, especially those who work and live in the Ann Arbor area. We all view the exceptional cultural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

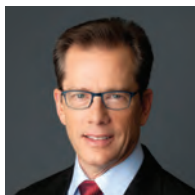
LEVEL X TALENT


**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 —  
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





Friday Evening, January 20, 2017 at 8:00  
Power Center, Ann Arbor

# ON BEHALF OF NATURE

*Performed by  
Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble*

*A production of  
The House Foundation for the Arts*

## RENEGHUE

31st Performance of the 138th Annual Season  
International Theater Series

This evening's presenting sponsor is the Renegade Ventures Fund, established by Maxine and Stuart Frankel.

This evening's supporting sponsor is the Ilene H. Forsyth Theater Endowment Fund.

This evening's performance is funded in part by the Building Audiences for Sustainability initiative of The Wallace Foundation.

Media partnership is provided by Ann Arbor's 107one and *Metro Times*.

Special thanks to Grace Lehman and the Ann Arbor Y, Christina Hamilton and the U-M Penny Stamps Speaker Series, and Clare Croft for their participation in events surrounding this evening's performance.

Special thanks to Tiffany Ng, assistant professor of carillon and university carillonist, for coordinating the pre-concert music on the Charles Baird Carillon.

*On Behalf of Nature* appears by arrangement with Rena Shagan Associates, Inc.

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**

### **On Behalf of Nature**

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

## **PERFORMERS**

Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble

*Voices* / Sidney Chen, Ellen Fisher, Katie Geissinger, Meredith Monk,  
Bruce Rameker, Allison Sniffin

*Winds* / Bohdan Hilash

*Percussion* / John Hollenbeck

*Keyboards, Violin, French horn* / Allison Sniffin

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

*Music and Direction* / Meredith Monk

*Lighting Design* / Elaine Buckholtz

*Sound Design* / Jody Elff

*Costumes and Scenography* / Yoshio Yabara

*Score Preparation and Music Director* / Allison Sniffin

*Production Manager* / Philip Sandström

*Technical Director* / Johnny Chanthavong

*Video Editing* / Meredith Monk and Michael Grenadier

*Production Coordinator and Company Manager* / Peter Sciscioli



Following this evening's performance, please feel free to remain in your seats and join us for a post-performance discussion with Ms. Monk.

## ARTIST STATEMENT: MEREDITH MONK

As I began working on *On Behalf of Nature*, I asked myself the question: “how would one create an ecological art work that didn’t make more waste in the world?” Live performances leave no traces except, hopefully, in the minds of audience members. This ephemeral aspect is both poignant and exhilarating. Sometimes though, the desire for novelty and surface excitement leads to buying a lot of new things, spending a great deal of money for an experience that lasts only a few hours. I wondered how one could make an alternative to that.

I started thinking about the French anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss and his notion of “bricolage”: the process of assembling or making something from what is already at hand. In pre-industrial societies, one object could function in many different ways by an act of imagination. We now speak of this process as re-purposing. Yoshio Yabara, the costume designer for *On Behalf of Nature*, implemented this concept by creating new garments with unique shapes for each performer, fashioned from his or her old clothing. Each costume inherently included aspects of that performer’s personal history contained in the original garments. This idea of spiraling around to the past to make something completely new is also a way of appreciating what is here in the present and working with what we have. The same principle extends to other elements in *On Behalf of Nature*.

One of the early inspirations for *On Behalf of Nature* was an essay by the poet Gary Snyder, entitled “Writers and the War Against Nature.” In it he writes about the role of an artist being that of a “spokesperson for non-human entities communicating to the human realm through dance or song.” This act of compassion, of “speaking on behalf of nature,” embodies and gives voice to those forces that often go unrecognized. *On Behalf of Nature* is a meditation on our intimate connection to nature, its inner structures, the fragility of its ecology, and our interdependence.

## ARTISTS

**Meredith Monk** is a composer, singer, director/choreographer, and creator of new opera, music-theater works, films, and installations. Recognized as one of the most unique and influential artists of our time, she is a pioneer in what is now called “extended vocal technique” and “interdisciplinary performance.” Ms. Monk creates works that thrive at the intersection of music and movement, image and object, light and sound, discovering and weaving together new modes of perception. Her groundbreaking exploration of the voice as an instrument, as an eloquent language in and of itself, expands the boundaries of musical composition, creating landscapes of sound that unearth feelings, energies, and memories for which there are no words. Over the last 50 years, she has been hailed as “a magician of the voice” and “one of America’s coolest composers.” Celebrated internationally, her work has been presented by BAM, Lincoln Center Festival, Houston Grand Opera, London’s Barbican Centre, and at major venues around the world. Among her many accolades, she was recently named an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Republic of France and the 2012 “Composer of the Year” by *Musical America*. In conjunction with her 50th season of creating and performing, she was appointed the 2014–15 Richard and Barbara Debs Composer’s Chair at Carnegie Hall. In September 2015, Ms. Monk received the National Medal of Arts from President Obama.

In 1968 Ms. Monk founded The House, a company dedicated to an interdisciplinary approach to performance. In 1978 she founded Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble to expand her musical textures and forms. As a pioneer in site-specific performance,

she has created such works as *Juice: A Theatre Cantata In 3 Installments* (1969) and *Ascension Variations* (2009) for the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and *American Archeology #1: Roosevelt Island* (1994). Ms. Monk’s award-winning films, including *Ellis Island* (1981) and her first feature, *Book of Days* (1988), have been seen throughout the world. Her music can also be heard in films by such directors as Jean-Luc Godard, David Byrne, and the Coen Brothers.

Since graduating Sarah Lawrence College in 1964, Ms. Monk has received numerous honors including the prestigious MacArthur “Genius” Award, two Guggenheim Fellowships, three “Obies” (including an award for Sustained Achievement), and two “Bessie” awards for Sustained Creative Achievement. More recently Ms. Monk was named one of National Public Radio’s “50 Great Voices,” and received a 2012 Doris Duke Artist Award, a 2011 Yoko Ono Lennon Courage Award for the Arts, and an inaugural USA Prudential Fellow award in 2006.

Among the many highlights of Ms. Monk’s performances from the last 20 years is her *Vocal Offering* for His Holiness the Dalai Lama as part of the World Festival of Sacred Music in Los Angeles in October 1999. Several marathon performances of her work have taken place in New York at the World Financial Center (1991), Lincoln Center Music Festival (2000), Carnegie’s Zankel Hall (2005 and 2015), Symphony Space (2008), and the Whitney Museum (2009). In February 2012, Ms. Monk was honored with a remix and interpretations CD, *MONK MIX*, featuring 25 artists from the jazz, pop, DJ, and new music worlds. In March 2012, she premiered *Realm Variations* for six voices and small ensemble, commissioned by the San Francisco





Symphony, and performed in John Cage's *Song Books* as part of the Symphony's American Mavericks Festival. She is the subject of two new books of interviews, *Conversations with Meredith Monk*, by arts critic and *Performing Arts Journal* editor Bonnie Marranca, and *Une voix mystique*, by French author Jean-Louis Tallon. A recording of *On Behalf of Nature* was released in November 2016 on ECM Records.

**Sidney Chen** (*vocals*) is a founding member of The M6, a vocal sextet dedicated to Meredith Monk's music. *On Behalf of Nature* is his first production as a member of Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble, after performing in Monk's *Realm Variations* with the San Francisco Symphony. Previously, Mr. Chen sang in the Meredith Monk Young Artists Concert at Carnegie's Zankel Hall in 2006, and in *Songs of Ascension* at BAM in 2009. He has also performed Monk's music for solo voice at Oakland's Garden of Memory. More recently, Mr. Chen performed in the 45th anniversary celebration of Terry Riley's *In C* organized by the Kronos Quartet at Carnegie Hall, a staged production of David Lang's *the little match girl passion* by San Francisco Lyric Opera which toured to Denmark, and in Berio's *Sinfonia* for eight soloists and orchestra with the San Francisco new music ensemble Volti. He has recorded with The M6 and Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble on *Songs of Ascension*.

**Ellen Fisher** (*vocals*) is an interdisciplinary artist whose work combines dance with visual components. She began performing with Meredith Monk/The House in the 1970s, in such works as *The Plateau Series* and *Recent Ruins*, and more recently has appeared in *mercy*, *impermanence*, and *Songs of Ascension*. Ms. Fisher's performance work is informed

by ethnographic research in trance dance and rituals of South Asia, particularly Sri Lanka. Since 1981, she has toured solo work throughout Europe and the US, also directing large ensemble work reinterpreting myths and legends. Her film work, including documentaries, has been included in festivals throughout the world. She has received funding through the NEA, Art Matters Inc., Jerome Foundation, NYFA, and the Asian Cultural Council, winning a 2004 Humanities Fellowship and a 2005 Travel Grant. Ms. Fisher continues to teach and collaborate with artists on community intergenerational and intercultural projects, both domestically and internationally, and recently served as a Fulbright Scholar in Sri Lanka.

**Katie Geissinger** (*vocals*) has performed with Meredith Monk worldwide in concert and theater pieces such as *ATLAS, mercy*, the Grammy-nominated *impermanence*, *Songs of Ascension*, *On Behalf of Nature*, and *The Politics of Quiet*, which received a Bessie award. Career highlights include the premiere of Bang on a Can's Obie-winning *The Carbon Copy Building* (Canteloupe), appearing in Philip Glass and Robert Wilson's *Einstein on the Beach* (Elektra Nonesuch), and performances as a soloist in Bach's *Magnificat*, Honegger's *Le Roi David*, and Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar* at Carnegie Hall. Other credits include Jonathan Miller's staging of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* at BAM, John Tavener's *The Veil of the Temple* at Lincoln Center, and Ann Hamilton's *the event of a thread*, with music by David Lang, at the Park Avenue Armory. Her Broadway credits include Baz Luhrmann's production of *La Bohème* and *Coram Boy*. Recent performances include Julia Wolfe's *Steel Hammer* in collaboration with Anne Bogart's SITI Company and The Bang on a Can All-Stars.



**Bohdan Hilash** (*winds*) is a clarinetist and multi-instrumentalist who joined the Vocal Ensemble in 2002. As part of his diverse career he has performed on four continents throughout the world as a performer of orchestral and chamber music, opera, contemporary music, jazz, musical theater, and as a soloist. Mr. Hilash has appeared as a chamber and orchestral musician and as a soloist at many of the world's pre-eminent concert venues and music festivals including those of Bayreuth, Spoleto, Tokyo, Evian, Lincoln Center, Rome, and Aspen. As an orchestral musician, Mr. Hilash has performed with some of the world's leading orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic with conductors including Leonard Bernstein, Kurt Masur, Zubin Mehta, Alan Gilbert, and Leonard Slatkin. He is particularly active in the field of contemporary music and has worked with many of its leading practitioners including Speculum Musicae, Bang on a Can, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. He has performed with jazz artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Phil Woods, Dave Holland, Lee Konitz, and Kenny Wheeler. In the theater Mr. Hilash has worked as a featured performer in collaboration with several leading theater companies, playwrights, and directors of the New York stage including Arthur Miller and Lee Breuer. Mr. Hilash's recordings may be heard on the ECM, Chandos, RCA Victor, CRI, Mode, CBC, Finlandia, RCA, New World, CCNC, TBM, Capstone, and RP labels.

Genre-crossing composer and percussionist **John Hollenbeck** (*percussion*), renowned in both the jazz and new music worlds, has been working with Meredith Monk since 1998 and has appeared in *Magic Frequencies*, *mercy*,

*impermanence*, and *Songs of Ascension*. He received degrees in percussion (BM) and jazz composition (MM) from the Eastman School of Music and moved to New York City in the early 1990s. Since then, he has gained widespread recognition as the driving force behind the unclassifiable Claudia Quintet and the ambitious John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble, groups with roots in jazz, world music, and contemporary composition. He has earned four Grammy nominations: for his Large Ensemble's releases *A Blessing* (Omnitone, 2005) and *eternal interlude* (Sunnyside Records, 2009); for his composition *Falling Men* commissioned by the Orchestre National de Jazz and funded by the Chamber Music America French-American Jazz Exchange (2010); and for his arrangement of Jimmy Webb's *The Moon's a Harsh Mistress* commissioned by the hr-BigBand of Frankfurt, Germany (2013). His most notable awards include a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship, a 2010 ASCAP Jazz Vanguard Award, and a 2012 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award. His recent works include commissions by Bang on a Can and the People's Commissioning Fund; Ethos Percussion Group funded by the Jerome Foundation; Youngstown State University; Melbourne Jazz Festival; Scotland's Edinburgh Jazz Festival; University of Rochester, New York; and Ensemble Cairn of France. He was a professor of jazz drums and improvisation at the Jazz Institute Berlin from 2005–16 and in 2015 joined the faculty of McGill University's Schulich School of Music.

**Bruce Rameker** (*vocals*) began performing with Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble in 2008. He has appeared as both a baritone and a countertenor on the stages of Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Town Hall, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and the

Edinburgh and Spoleto Festivals in a diverse repertoire that includes ancient music, operetta, oratorio, tango, and new music. A frequent collaborator with many composers, he has premiered new vocal works of Ben Yarmolinsky, John Kennedy, Richard Pearson Thomas, Anna Dembska, William George, Holly Herndon, Roberto Scarcella Perino, and Luna Pearl Woolf. Mr. Rameker has sung with the Skylight Opera Theatre, Chicago Opera Theater, New York City Opera, Anchorage Opera, San Francisco Ballet, Sacred Music in a Sacred Space, Waverly Consort, Voices of Ascension, Musica Sacra, and New York Ensemble for Early Music. Recordings include *A Seeker's Faith, One Body* by John Kennedy, *Just Another Hour* with Trillium Ensemble, *¡Iberia!* with Waverly Consort, Klaas de Vries' opera *A King, Riding*, and Meredith Monk's *Songs of Ascension*. Born in Wisconsin, he is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

**Allison Sniffin** (*vocals and instruments*), a multi-instrumentalist, singer, and composer, has been a member of Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble since 1996, performing in *The Politics of Quiet, A Celebration Service, Magic Frequencies, mercy, Turtle Dreams, Book of Days, impermanence, and Songs of Ascension*. She has collaborated with Meredith Monk in the orchestration of Monk's *Possible Sky, Night, WEAVE, Realm Variations, and Backlight*; edited an album of her piano music; and prepared numerous *a capella* and instrumental works for publication. Ms. Sniffin has received grants from Meet the Composer and Concert Artists Guild for her compositions and has recently composed commissioned pieces for Melodia Women's Choir and Union Theological Seminary. She is organist and pianist at Middle Collegiate Church and Temple Shaaray Tefila in NYC.

**Elaine Buckholtz** (*lighting designer*) is a multimedia artist living in Boston, Massachusetts. Her work combines the mediums of moving light, video, and sculpture. She has shown work at the Electric Works Gallery in San Francisco, ROCA, Nyack New York, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Pierogi Leipzig, The San Francisco Arts Commission, New Langton Arts, and The Wexner Center for the Arts. She attended The California College of the Arts on a Jacob K. Javits Fellowship from 2002–04 and received her MFA from Stanford University in 2006. She currently teaches at Mass Art in the Studio for Interrelated Media program as an associate professor. She has worked as a lighting and visual designer in the Bay area for 20 years and has also worked with Merce Cunningham and Meredith Monk recreating their visual environments internationally.

**Jody Elff** (*sound designer*) is an audio engineer and sound artist living and working in New York City. His live audio production and recording credits include work with Yo-Yo Ma, Laurie Anderson, Bang on a Can, Tan Dun, and many others. He is the resident sound designer for the National Theater of the United States of America, and has also composed and performed music for film and dance. He has mixed and mastered albums for Osvaldo Golijov, including the soundtrack for the Francis Ford Coppola film *Tetro*. He designed and engineered the sonic landscape for the *Theater of the New Ear*, a stage presentation written by Charlie Kaufman, featuring Meryl Streep. He recorded, mixed, and mastered the album *Off The Map* by the Silk Road Ensemble, which received a 2011 Grammy nomination in the "Best Album – Classical Crossover" category. His fine art sound installations have been shown in various

galleries and museums internationally, including a commissioned sound piece permanently installed in a public parking facility in Lyon, France.

**Philip Sandström** (*lighting realization/production manager*) is a New York-based visual artist and producer, specializing in theatrical producing/operations, theater consulting, event planning, and entertainment design since 1980. An award-winning designer with *Designing with Light*, Mr. Sandström has created lights and visuals for hundreds of theater, dance, and performance events including Bill Irwin, Whoopi Goldberg, Mark Morris Dance Group, David Parsons, David Van Tieghem, David Gordon, David Lindsay Abaire, John Jasperse, Sandra Bernhard, Eric Bogosian, Tanya Barfield, Urban Bush Women, American Ballet Theatre, the Joffrey Ballet, The Flying Karamazov Brothers, and Valeria Vasilevski. His consulting company SOLUTIONS provides in-depth analysis and project management for theater design and construction, planning, and operations.

**Yoshio Yabara** (*costume designer/scenographer*) received a BA in linguistics in his native Japan, and studied stage design at the German state art universities in Stuttgart and West Berlin. He began his professional career as a costume designer for the Oscar-winning film *The Tin Drum*, directed by Volker Schlöndorff. His first work for stage was in the 1970s and early 1980s at the Schaubühne, West Berlin, where he first met Ms. Monk and collaborated on her opera *Vessel*. Their subsequent collaborations include *ATLAS*, the feature film *Book of Days*, *impermanence*, and *Songs of Ascension*. Mr. Yabara has also worked as a costume designer, stage designer, or art director for many theatrical and film

productions in Europe, the US, and Asia, including the *Civil Wars*, Robert Wilson's *King Lear*, *Oedipus Rex*, *Madamme de Sade* by Tadashi Suzuki, *Don Giovanni*, *Le Nozze di Figaro* produced and conducted by Daniel Barenboim at the Staatsoper Unter Den Linden Berlin, *Bin ich Schoen?*, *Nackt*, and *Bliss* by Doris Doerrie. For more information please visit [www.yoshioyabara.com](http://www.yoshioyabara.com).

## **THE HOUSE FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS, INC.**

www.meredithmonk.org

Incorporated in 1971, The House Foundation for the Arts provides production and management services for Meredith Monk, Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble, and The House Company.

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All music compositions © Meredith Monk 2012 (ASCAP).

Meredith Monk would like to acknowledge and thank the performers and designers for their invaluable contributions in the development of *On Behalf of Nature*.

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## UMS ARCHIVES

This evening's performance marks **Meredith Monk**'s fifth appearance under UMS auspices, following her UMS debut in October 1996 in performances of *The Politics of Quiet* at the Power Center. She returned in February 2000 for a performance of *Magic Frequencies: A Science Fiction Chamber Opera* at the Power Center. Ms. Monk most recently appeared at UMS as part of the San Francisco Symphony's American Mavericks Festival in March 2012 in a performance of John Cage's *Song Books* at Hill Auditorium, and in a performance of her work *Realm Variations* at Rackham Auditorium with the Vocal Ensemble and members of the San Francisco Symphony.

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- 1/21 Pre-Concert Lecture Series: Exploring Beethoven's String Quartets  
(Rackham Amphitheatre, Fourth Floor, 915 E. Washington Street, 7:00 pm)
- 2/16 Penny Stamps Speaker Series: Ping Chong  
(Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty Street, 5:10 pm)
- 3/18 You Can Dance: Kidd Pivot  
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*Educational events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.*



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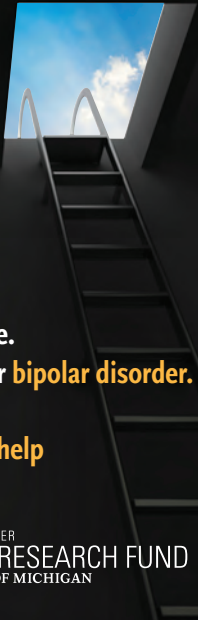


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