

UMS ANNOUNCES 2016-2017 SEASON

138TH SEASON CONTINUES LONGSTANDING TRADITION OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE AND GROUNDBREAKING PERFORMANCES

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ANN ARBOR, MI (April 8, 2015) – The **University Musical Society** (UMS) announces its 2016-2017 season, which runs from September 2016 through April 2017. The season features 62 live performances by 39 different artists and ensembles; a schedule of HD theater broadcast will be announced later. In addition to presenting world-class performances, UMS is also committed to creating unique and engaging ways for audiences to connect with the artists on stage through a robust offering of education and community engagement activities.

On April 14, 2016, UMS will also launch a new website that combines its three online properties — including ums.org, umslobby.org, and umsrewind.org — all into **ums.org**. Users will now be able to access archival information and contextual information all in one place, and will be able to comment on individual performances in the same space. The new site uses responsive design and was designed by Phire Group with accessibility and mobile use as top priorities.

This 138th season of UMS will also be Ken Fischer's 30th and final year as President of UMS; he announced his intention to retire from UMS at the end of the 2016-17 season last week. Ken is only the

sixth president UMS has had since it was founded in 1879, and during his tenure the organization has grown tremendously with expanded programming in theater, dance, jazz, classical, and world music, as well as a highly-regarded education program that serves the entire community. Several events in the 2016-17 season were programmed with Ken's final season in mind, including a Beethoven String Quartet cycle (only the third time one has been performed in a single season in UMS's history); the continuation of UMS's orchestral residency program, which Ken has championed over the past two decades, this time featuring the Berlin Philharmonic; performances by some of Ken's favorite artists and friends, including the King's Singers, Yo-Yo Ma, and Wynton Marsalis; a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in February, which was coincidentally the final concert when the late Gail Rector retired in 1987 and hasn't been performed at UMS since; and the winner of the inaugural M-Prize competition, representing Ken's constant championing of young artists as well as his ongoing collaborations with many University departments, including the School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Fischer said: "It's a bittersweet moment to be announcing my last season as President of UMS. But what a season it will be! I couldn't be more delighted with the robust set of performances that we are offering in 2016-17, including some return appearances, some debut performances, and many, many surprises along the way. I am so proud of this organization, and of the incredible support from our devoted community of audiences and donors. I look forward to enjoying every single event on the season, surrounded by what I believe to be the most passionate and adventurous audience around."

The season includes:

138TH ANNUAL CHORAL UNION SERIES

Within the signature Choral Union Series, UMS presents 10 concerts in historic Hill Auditorium.

- Siberian pianist Denis Matsuev will launch the 2016-2017 UMS Choral Union Series on Sunday,
 October 16 at 4 pm with a robust solo recital program that features Beethoven, Schumann,
 Liszt, and Tchaikovsky, as well as Prokofiev's fervent "Stalingrad" Sonata.
- Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic will come to Ann Arbor for an orchestral residency, including two public performances. On Saturday, November 12 at 8 pm, the orchestra will perform Pierre Boulez' Éclat a tribute to the late titan's death earlier this year and

Mahler's seldom-performed **Symphony No. 7**. On **Sunday, November 13 at 4 pm,** they perform works by **Schoenberg**, **Webern**, **Berg**, and **Brahms**, combining German Romanticism with early works from composers in the Second Viennese School to provide an exploration of Viennese musical evolution over the course of 40 years.

- On Thursday, January 19 at 7:30 the Prague Philharmonia and Sarah Chang will perform an all-Czech program including Smetana's "Die Moldau" from Má vlast, Dvořák's Symphony No. 8, and Dvořák's Violin Concerto featuring Chang as soloist.
- Dennis Russell Davies will lead the Bruckner Orchester Linz with Angélique Kidjo (vocalist) and Martin Achrainer (baritone) on Thursday, February 2 at 7:30 pm. The orchestra will kick off Black History Month with a program featuring works by composers who wrote about the experience of Africans and African-Americans, including Alexander Zemlinsky's Africa Sings, which was written in 1929 and features poetry by Langston Hughes and other prominent writers from the Harlem Renaissance. The program also features Phillip Glass's recent collaboration with featured Beninese singer Angélique Kidjo based on three poems of Ifé, as well as Duke Ellington's Black, Brown, and Beige Suite and Gershwin's Porgy and Bess Suite, arranged by Morton Gould.
- On Friday, February 10 at 8 pm, the Budapest Festival Orchestra will perform an all-Beethoven program with Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, featuring Richard Goode as soloist, as well as Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, featuring the UMS Choral Union. Budapest Festival Orchestra founder Iván Fischer will conduct.
- Third Coast Percussion and eighth blackbird will perform Steve Reich's *Music for 18 Musicians* on Saturday, March 18 at 8 pm, celebrating the composer's 80th birthday in 2016 and marking the 40th anniversary of the piece.
- Pianist Mitsuko Uchida will return to UMS on Friday, March 24 at 8 pm for the first time since her 1998 debut. The recital program includes Mozart's Sonata in C Major, Schumann's Kreisleriana, Schumann's Fantasy, and the US premiere of a new work by the German

composer Jörg Widmann.

- Renowned tenor and U-M alumnus **Michael Fabiano** will take the stage with **Martin Katz** (U-M's Artur Schnabel Collegiate Professor of Collaborative Piano) on **Saturday**, **April 1 at 8 pm**.
- Powerhouse mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato will make her UMS debut starring in a concert
 version of Handel's Ariodante on Tuesday, April 25 at 7:30 pm. Featuring The English Concert
 and led by conductor Harry Bicket, this concert opera will be performed in only two places in
 the country: Hill Auditorium and Carnegie Hall.

54TH ANNUAL CHAMBER ARTS SERIES & BEETHOVEN STRING QUARTET CYCLE

The 54th Annual Chamber Arts Series includes seven concerts by four of today's leading chamber ensembles performing both traditional and contemporary repertoire. The concerts all take place in **Rackham Auditorium**.

- The Takács Quartet will perform the complete Beethoven String Quartet Cycle over six concerts
 in three weekends: October 8-9, January 21-22, and March 25-26. The first two and last two
 concerts are included in the 54th Chamber Arts Series; the middle two concerts are available as
 a subscriber add-on. Patrons may also purchase all six performances as a stand-alone
 subscription.
- On Sunday, January 29 at 4 pm, Inon Barnatan (piano), Anthony McGill (clarinet), and Alisa Weilerstein (cello) will perform a concert of clarinet trios, including familiar pieces by Beethoven and Brahms, and a new work by Joseph Hallman, which was co-commissioned by UMS as part of the Music Accord commissioning consortium.
- The 17-member self-conducted chamber music collective A Far Cry and vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth will perform a joint concert on Wednesday, April 12 at 7:30. The program opens with 2013 Pulitzer Prize winner Caroline Shaw's Music in Common Time and Prokofiev's Visions Fugitives, with the second half devoted to two works by Ted Hearne.

• The grand prize winner of the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance's inaugural M-Prize will be featured on the UMS Chamber Arts series. M-Prize is an international chamber arts competition for musicians under the age of 40, launched by new School of Music, Theatre & Dance Dean Aaron Dworkin. The ensemble will be identified at the M-Prize finals on May 19, and a date for their UMS concert in the 2016-17 season announced in late June.

INTERNATIONAL THEATER SERIES

This year's International Theater Series features six productions, five of which will unfold in **Power**Center for the Performing Arts and one at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre.

- The TEAM will perform artistic director Rachel Chavkin's new work, RoosevElvis, at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre from Thursday, September 29 through Saturday, October 1. RoosevElvis is a playfully pointed new work about icons, gender appetite, and the multitudes we contain. The spirits of Elvis Presley and Theodore Roosevelt accompany Ann, a painfully shy meat-processing plant worker, on a hallucinatory road trip from the Badlands to Graceland, battling over her soul and what kind of man or woman she should become.
- Meredith Monk and her Vocal Ensemble will perform Monk's newest work, On Behalf of
 Nature, at the Power Center on Friday, January 20 at 8 pm. Drawing inspiration from writers
 and researchers who have sounded the alarm on the precarious state of our global ecosystem,
 the work offers a poetic meditation on our intimate connection to the natural world and the
 fragility of its ecology.
- Ping Chong + Company will bring Beyond Sacred: Voices of Muslim Identity to the Power Center on Saturday, February 18 at 8 pm. The work is an interview-based theater production (part of Chong's 25-year series entitled Undesirable Elements) that explores the diverse experiences of young Muslim New Yorkers. The five participants in Beyond Sacred share the common experience of coming of age in a post-9/11 New York City, at a time of increasing Islamophobia. Participants come from a range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds and include young men and women that reflect a range of Muslim identities, including those who converted to Islam, those who were raised Muslim but have since left the faith, those who identify as "secular" or "culturally" Muslim, and those who are observant on a daily basis. Beyond Sacred:

Voices of Muslim Identity was written by Ping Chong and Sara Zatz, with Ryan Conarro.

- From Thursday, March 9 through Saturday, March 11 at the Power Center, UMS presents Druid Theater Company in Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. As tragically funny as it is horrific, the play takes place in an economically depressed Irish village in the early 1990s, with a vicious and relentless war of wills between a manipulative, aging mother, Mag, and her plain and lonely 40-year-old daughter, Maureen. After years of caring for her ungrateful mother, Maureen has little hope of happiness or escape, especially after Mag ruins her first and perhaps only, chance of a loving relationship. Directed by Garry Hynes, this new production casts Marie Mullen as the scheming mother; she won a Tony Award for the role of the daughter in the 1996 Broadway production.
- Crystal Pite will return to UMS with her 2015 work for Kidd Pivot and Electric Company Theatre: Betroffenheit. This work has its roots in a deeply personal tragedy: the deaths of writer Jonathon Young's teenage daughter and two cousins in a fire. It touches on themes of loss, trauma, addiction, and recovery through a boundary-stretching hybrid of theater and dance. Betroffenheit will be presented at the Power Center on Friday, March 17 and Saturday, March 18 at 8 pm. This performance is also included on UMS's 26th Annual Dance Series.
- UMS presents Complicite's *The Encounter*, which is directed and performed by Complicite artistic director Simon McBurney. This new work is based on National Geographic photographer Loren McIntyre's 1969 journey to a remote part of the Brazilian rainforest in search for the Mayoruna people. Threading scenes of his own life with details of McIntyre's journey, Simon McBurney incorporates objects and sound effects into this solo performance to evoke a rainforest landscape. Transmitted directly to the audience through provided headphones, the show's groundbreaking technology and sound design plugs into the power of the imagination, questioning our perceptions of time, communication, and our own consciousness. McBurney transports us into the humid depths of the Amazon, with the intense soundscape creating a new approach to site-specific theater. *The Encounter* will be presented at the **Power Center** from **Thursday, March 30 through Saturday, April 1**.

26TH ANNUAL DANCE SERIES

The UMS Dance Series includes six events in several different venues.

- Mark Morris will return with his company and the Silk Road Ensemble to present Layla and Majnun, his new large-scale production, which receives its world premiere in September. Layla and Majnun is an Arabian love story that originated as a poem in ancient Persia. In love from childhood, Layla and Majnun are not allowed to unite. Majnun is perceived to be mad in his obsession with Layla, becoming a hermit when she is married off to another man. He devotes his life to writing verses about his profound love for Layla, and although they attempt to meet, they die without ever realizing their relationship. The music for this collaboration is by Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Hajibeyli (arranged by Alim Qasimov, Johnny Gandelsman, and Colin Jacobsen) and will feature the revered singer Alim Qasimov and his daughter Fergana Qasimova. Layla and Majnun will be presented from Thursday, October 13 through Saturday, October 15 at the Power Center. Co-presented with Michigan Opera Theater. This performance is also included on UMS's Global Music Series.
- Former STOMP member and 2015 MacArthur "Genius" Grant awardee Michelle Dorrance
 makes her UMS debut with her company Dorrance Dance, at the Power Center on Friday,
 October 21 at 8 pm. This explosive show blasts open our notions of tap with every stomp,
 stamp, and shuffle.
- Zimbabwean choreographer Nora Chipaumire made her UMS debut as a member of Urban Bush Women in 2008 and will return to perform alongside Senegalese dancer Kaolack in her latest work, portrait of myself as my father. In this blood-pumping performance, which takes place in a makeshift boxing ring, the two performers explore the pressures facing African men, Chipaumire's own relationship with her father, and the creation of a black African man-woman superhero. portrait of myself as my father will be presented from Thursday, November 17 through Sunday, November 20. The venue location for this performance will be announced at a later date.
- UMS will present the North American premiere of Last Work, a new evening-length work by
 Ohad Naharin, performed by Batsheva Dance Company on Saturday, January 7 at 8 pm and

Sunday, January 8 at 2 pm at the **Power Center**. Using the company's iconic Gaga technique, a movement language developed by Naharin, *Last Work* offers a political meditation on futility, shifting from sustained and meditative movement to frenzied, destabilizing bursts of energy that run through a huge range of emotion.

- Direct from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Igor and Moreno will perform Idiot-Syncrasy at Arthur Miller Theatre from Thursday, January 12 through Saturday, January 14. Igor Urzelai and Moreno Solinas say that when they set out to create Idiot-Syncrasy they wanted to "change the world." Recognizing that this would likely not be possible through a performance, they started jumping, singing, and testing different things that require perseverance, while exploring the immediacy of action as a vehicle for meaning, ideas, and desires.
- Crystal Pite will return to UMS with her 2015 work for Kidd Pivot and Electric Company
 Theatre: Betroffenheit. This work has its roots in a deeply personal tragedy: the deaths of writer
 Jonathon Young's teenage daughter and two cousins in a fire. It touches on themes of loss,
 trauma, addiction, and recovery through a boundary-stretching hybrid of theater and dance.
 Betroffenheit will be presented at the Power Center on Friday, March 17 and Saturday, March
 18 at 8 pm. This performance is also included on UMS's International Theater Series.

23RD ANNUAL JAZZ SERIES

With four different events, the UMS Jazz Series celebrates the diversity of jazz, highlighting contemporary trailblazers while honoring jazz's legacy.

- Kamasi Washington and his band The Next Step will come to Michigan Theater on Friday, September 23 at 8 pm. The 35-year-old tenor saxophonist collaborated and appeared on rapper Kendrick Lamar's platinum album *To Pimp a Butterfly* and has also performed with Snoop Dogg, Gerald Wilson, Mos Def, Quincy Jones, and Chaka Khan. Earlier this year, Washington's recently released solo album, *The Epic*, was awarded the inaugural American Music Prize, which recognizes the best debut album of the previous year across all genres.
- Jazz pianist and arranger Aaron Diehl and 26-year-old vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant will join forces to revisit and revitalize the works George Gershwin and Jelly Roll Morton in Jelly &

George at the Michigan Theater on Sunday, February 19 at 4 pm. Aaron Diehl was the 2014 Monterey Jazz Festival Commission Artist and spearheads a unique union of traditional and fresh artistry. Though practically unknown to any of the judges or participants, McLorin Salvant walked away with first place at the 2010 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocals Competition and was a Grammy award-winning artist in 2016 for "Best Jazz Vocal Album." She regularly invokes comparisons to the Big Three — Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan, and Ella Fitzgerald. The two will be joined by a six-piece band.

- Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra return to Hill Auditorium on
 Saturday, March 4 at 8 pm. Since 1988, Wynton Marsalis has led the 15-piece orchestra, which
 simultaneously honors the rich heritage of Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong while presenting
 a stunning variety of new works from illustrious names, many of whom perform regularly with
 the ensemble.
- Snarky Puppy will perform at Hill Auditorium on Thursday, March 16 at 7:30 pm. The once
 Texan, now New York-based quasi-collective followed up its first Grammy in 2014 ("Best R&B
 Performance") with its second this past February for "Best Contemporary Instrumental Album."
 Formed in 2004 at the acclaimed music school of the University of North Texas, the group was
 voted "Best Jazz Group" in Downbeat's 2015 Reader's Poll as well as "Best New Artist" in
 JazzTimes's 2014 Reader's Poll.
- In addition to these four events, UMS will present a special season opening event in early
 September; specific details to be announced this summer.

GLOBAL MUSIC SERIES

This season, UMS will celebrate music from Pakistan, West Africa, Ukraine, and more with four stunning performances at Hill Auditorium, Michigan Theater, and Rackham Auditorium, including:

Mark Morris will return with his company and the Silk Road Ensemble to present Layla and
Majnun, his new large-scale production, which receives its world premiere in September. Layla
and Majnun is an Arabian love story that originated as a poem in ancient Persia. In love from

childhood, Layla and Majnun are not allowed to unite. Majnun is perceived to be mad in his obsession with Layla, becoming a hermit when she is married off to another man. He devotes his life to writing verses about his profound love for Layla, and although they attempt to meet, they die without ever realizing their relationship. The music for this collaboration is by Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Hajibeyli (arranged by Alim Qasimov, Johnny Gandelsman, and Colin Jacobsen) and will feature the revered singer Alim Qasimov and his daughter Fergana Qasimova. *Layla and Majnun* will be presented from Thursday, October 13 through Saturday, October 15 at the Power Center. Co-presented with Michigan Opera Theater. This performance is also included on UMS's 26th Annual Dance Series.

- Ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro will take the Hill Auditorium stage on Wednesday,
 November 16 at 7:30 pm. In addition to traditional ukulele material, Shimabukuro's singular approach combines elements of jazz, blues, funk, rock, bluegrass, classical, swing, and flamenco to create a sound that's uniquely his own, but still firmly grounded in Hawaiian tradition, which was informed by Portuguese immigrants.
- The hit Ukrainian folk-punk quartet DakhaBrakha will perform at Michigan Theater on
 Wednesday, March 29 at 7:30 pm. With one foot in the urban avant-garde and the other in
 Ukrainian village culture, the group melds traditional Ukrainian folk music, African grooves,
 Eastern colors, and a contemporary, trans-national sensibility the band calls "ethno-chaos."
- Pakistan's next inspiring diviner of South Asia's humanist, folk, and Sufi texts, Sanam Marvi will
 perform her well-loved repertoire of sufi, ghazal, qawwali, and folk songs in Rackham
 Auditorium on Saturday, April 15 at 8 pm. An in-demand performer rarely heard outside émigré
 circles, she makes her first extended tour to the US.
- Modern global music pioneer King Sunny Adé will take the stage at Michigan Theater on Friday,
 April 21 at 8 pm. Adé is credited with modernizing the evolution of jùjú music the Nigerian popular music, rooted in traditional Yoruban percussion and rhythms.

CHORAL/VOCAL MUSIC SERIES

The UMS Choral Music Series includes five performances, three at Hill Auditorium and two at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church:

- With music director Paul McCreesh at the helm, Gabrieli (formerly known as the Gabrieli Consort & Players) performs A Venetian Coronation 1595. The featured program is Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli's reconstruction of the 16th century Coronation Mass for the 89th Doge of Venice, Marino Grimani. Their recording of the work won the Gramphone Early Music Award in 2013. Gabrieli's A Venetian Coronation 1595 will be presented at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on Tuesday, November 15 at 7:30 pm.
- The Grammy Award-winning UMS Choral Union and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's annual performance of Handel's Messiah will be presented on Saturday, December 3 at 8 pm and Sunday, December 4 at 2 pm at Hill Auditorium. This tradition dates back to the organization's founding and first concerts in the 1879-80 season. Choral Union music director Scott Hanoian will conduct. Soloists to be announced.
- On Saturday, December 10 at 8 pm at Hill Auditorium, The King's Singers will return to UMS with a special holiday program, including works by Tchaikovsky, Lawson, and Pärt, as well as traditional seasonal songs drawn from the King's Singers Christmas Songbook.
- The Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir will return to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on
 Friday, February 3 at 8 pm. Newly-named artistic director Kaspars Putnins will lead the choir in
 a program of music by Pärt, Shnittke, Ligeti, Brahms, and Tormis.
- On Saturday, March 11 at 8 pm at Hill Auditorium, the UMS Choral Union and Ann Arbor
 Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Scott Hanoian, will bring Beethoven's monumental
 Missa Solemnis to UMS audiences for the first time in 40 years. The mass was written to honor
 Rudolph, the Archduke of Austria, who was Beethoven's foremost patron and was to be
 invested as Archbishop in March of 1820. Soloists to be announced.

SPECIAL EVENT

At the end of the 2016-17 season, UMS presents a special concert by **Yo-Yo Ma** (cello), **Edgar Meyer** (bass), **and Chris Thile** (mandolin) in **Hill Auditorium** on **Saturday**, **April 22 at 8 pm**. This special concert includes transcriptions of excerpts from **Bach's** *The Art of the Fugue* and various keyboard works, as well as organ and viola da gamba trio sonatas. *This concert is currently available only to subscribers;* remaining tickets go on sale on August 15, 2016.

RENEGADE

This season, UMS presents six performances that celebrate artists whose creative enterprise is full of risk-taking, experimentation, and boundary pushing. Renegade is about artists who, in their own time and context, color outside the lines, changing our expectations and our world. These events are also listed on other series; full descriptions can be found in the corresponding series line-up above.

Nora Chipaumire: portrait of myself as my father

Thursday-Sunday, November 17-20 (Dance, Series:You)

• Batsheva Dance Company: Last Work

Saturday-Sunday, January 7-8 (Dance, Series:You)

• Igor and Morena: Idiot-Syncrasy

Thursday-Saturday, January 12-14 (Dance, Series:You)

• Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble: On Behalf of Nature

Friday, January 20 (Theater, Series:You)

• Steve Reich @ 80: Music for 18 Musicians with eighth blackbird and Third Coast Percussion

Saturday, March 18

(Choral Union, Series:You)

• Complicite/Simon McBurney: The Encounter

Thursday-Saturday, March 30-April 1

(Theater, Series:You)

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

During the 2016-2017 season, the UMS Education and Community Engagement department will be paying special attention to UMS Renegade performances, UMS Theater Series performances, and a UMS Berlin Philharmonic orchestral residency (November 12-13, Hill Auditorium). Specific educational events will be announced later this summer and throughout the year.

TICKETING & SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Subscription packages go on sale to the general public on Monday, April 18 and will be available through Friday, September 23. Current subscribers will receive renewal packets in April and may renew their series upon receipt of the packet. Subscribers may add on additional performances at any point during the subscription period.

UMS also offers **Series:You**, a "custom-fit" series for patrons with a diverse range of interests looking to attend five or more performances in the 2016-2017 season. Series:You offers a 10% discount and access to the best seats in the house, along with all other subscriber benefits. Series:You is available through Friday, September 23.

Tickets to individual events will go on sale to the general public online, in person, and by phone on Monday, August 15; UMS donors of \$250+ may purchase beginning Monday, August 1. Groups of 10 or more may reserve tickets beginning Monday, July 11. To be added to the mailing list, please contact the UMS Ticket Office at **734.764.2538** or visit **ums.org**. UMS also has an e-mail list that provides up-to-date information about all UMS events; sign-up information is available on the website.

A complete listing of UMS events in chronological order is included as a separate attachment.

ABOUT UMS

One of the oldest performing arts presenters in the country, UMS (also known as the University Musical Society) contributes to a vibrant cultural community by connecting audiences with performing artists from around the world in uncommon and engaging experiences. UMS is an independent non-profit organization affiliated with the University of Michigan, presenting over 70 music, theater, and dance performances by professional touring artists each season, along with over 100 free educational activities. UMS is part of the University of Michigan's "Victors for Michigan" campaign, reinforcing its commitment to bold artistic leadership, engaged learning through the arts, and access and inclusiveness. UMS was awarded the 2014 National Medal of Arts by President Obama.

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