



UMS OFFERS FREE SENSORY FRIENDLY EXPERIENCE WITH TAKÁCS QUARTET

ANN ARBOR, MI (December 8, 2016) — The **University Musical Society** (UMS) invites children, adults, and families affected by sensory-input disorders to a free open rehearsal featuring the **Takács Quartet** on Saturday, January 21 from 12 noon - 1 pm in Ann Arbor's Rackham Auditorium (915 E Washington St, Ann Arbor, MI 48109). The free event offers a welcoming environment for audience members with autism spectrum disorder, sensory or communication disorders, or memory loss, as well as anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed concert environment. Advance registration is recommended, but not required, at (734) 764-2538 or ums.org/openrehearsal. UMS will follow up via email the week of the event with those who register in advance with detailed materials.

During the open rehearsal, the Takács Quartet will present excerpts from the Beethoven string quartets that will be performed that weekend in two public performances at Rackham Auditorium. The Quartet is performing all 16 Beethoven quartets over the course of six performances in Rackham Auditorium this season.

The open rehearsal event will offer a relaxed attitude toward noise and movement, with ambient lighting raised to a higher level than a typical performance. A quiet room will be made available as needed. Prior to the open rehearsal, registrants will be able to access a social story with photos and extensive detail about what to expect, allowing audience members to become familiar with the environment before they arrive.

"UMS is committed to making the arts accessible to the widest possible audience and we cherish the opportunity to create an environment that is welcoming to all," noted UMS president Ken Fischer.

"Music has a profound impact on the human spirit so we're thrilled to create a space where community members who may benefit from a more relaxed experience can enjoy music from these world-class artists."

Visit ums.org/openrehearsal for more information or to register.

ABOUT UMS

A recipient of the 2014 National Medal of Arts, 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. One of the oldest performing arts presenters in the country, 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.

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