



## UMS ANNOUNCES 2017-18 SEASON

### 139<sup>TH</sup> SEASON CONTINUES LONGSTANDING TRADITION OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE AND GROUNDBREAKING PERFORMANCES

#### NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC RETURNS FOR A THREE-CONCERT WEEKEND AND ORCHESTRAL RESIDENCY

ANN ARBOR, MI (April 14, 2017) – The **University Musical Society (UMS)** announces its 2017-18 season, which runs from September 2017 through April 2018. The season features 66 live performances by 43 different artists and ensembles; a schedule of HD theater broadcasts 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.

This 139<sup>th</sup> season will be incoming UMS president Matthew VanBesien’s inaugural season. VanBesien, who has served as president of the New York Philharmonic since 2012, will take the reins from Kenneth C. Fischer, who retires at the end of June after 30 years in the job. He will become only the seventh president in UMS’s history.

UMS’s orchestral residency program will continue as the **New York Philharmonic** returns for three public performances at **Hill Auditorium**. The concert programs will focus on Leonard Bernstein, the celebrated New York Philharmonic music director and composer who was born 100 years ago. On **Friday, November 17 at 8 pm**, **Jaap van Zweden** will lead the orchestra in a performance of **Mahler’s Symphony No. 5**. The orchestra will perform a special **Young People’s Concert** on **Saturday, November 18 at 2 pm** with Detroit Symphony Orchestra music director **Leonard Slatkin** at the helm. The weekend closes with **Leonard Slatkin** leading the orchestra in a concert that features **Richard Strauss’s Don Quixote** and **Bernstein’s Symphony No. 3 (“Kaddish”)**. A subscription package that includes all three

performances is available. Full details about related educational activities will be announced this fall.

The full season includes:

### **139<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHORAL UNION SERIES**

Within the signature Choral Union Series, UMS presents 11 concerts in historic **Hill Auditorium**.

- UMS's 139<sup>th</sup> Choral Union Series launches with pianist **Daniil Trifonov's** UMS recital debut. The 26-year old performed for UMS audiences in 2016 with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and returns on **Wednesday, October 25 at 7:30 pm** with a recital program that explores **Chopin** and other composers he inspired, including **Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, and Mompou**.
- The **China National Center for the Performing Arts Orchestra** will make its UMS debut on **Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30 pm with** a new work commissioned by **Qigang Chen**, the music director of the 2008 Summer Olympics. Also on the program is American composer **Lou Harrison's** pipa concerto featuring the world's reigning pipa virtuoso and Silk Road Ensemble member, **Wu Man**. **This performance is also on UMS's Traditions & Crosscurrents Series.**
- The **New York Philharmonic** returns to Ann Arbor for their second major UMS orchestral residency, including three public performances that celebrate the beloved New York Philharmonic music director and composer Leonard Bernstein. **Jaap van Zweden** leads the orchestra in a performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 5 on **Friday, November 17 at 8 pm**. On **Sunday, November 19 at 3 pm**, they perform **Richard Strauss's *Don Quixote*** and **Bernstein's Symphony No. 3 ("Kaddish")** with Detroit Symphony Orchestra music director **Leonard Slatkin** at the helm. The third concert, a recreation of Bernstein's Young People's Concert, is not on the Choral Union Series but is available as part of the New York Philharmonic Weekend Package.
- On **Friday, December 8 at 8 pm**, conductor and music director **Masaaki Suzuki** will lead the **Bach Collegium Japan** in a performance of **Johann Sebastian Bach's Christmas Oratorio**. Founded by Suzuki in 1990, the ensemble performed Bach's full list of more than 200 church cantatas in chronological order between 1995 and 2013, including two performances in Ann

Arbor. [This performance is also on UMS's Choral Music Series.](#)

- Violinist **Maxim Vengerov** returns for his first UMS recital in nearly 20 years on **Sunday, January 28 at 4 pm**. Pianist **Roustem Saïtkoulov** will accompany Vengerov on a program featuring works by **Schubert, Beethoven, Ravel, Ysaÿe, Ernst, and Paganini**.
- Former Detroit Symphony Orchestra music director **Neeme Järvi** returns to Southeast Michigan on **Saturday, February 3 at 8 pm** with the **Estonian National Symphony Orchestra**. Järvi will lead the orchestra in its UMS debut with a program steeped in the music of Estonian composers, including **Eduard Tubin's Symphony No. 5** and **Heino Eller's Dawn**. **Garrick Ohlsson** joins the orchestra for **Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1**.
- Violinist **Joshua Bell** returns for a UMS recital performance on **Saturday, February 10 at 8 pm** accompanied by pianist **Sam Haywood**. The program will be announced at a later date.
- On **Saturday, February 17 at 7:30 pm** UMS and the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance (SMTD) will present the University of Michigan's Gershwin Initiative's scholarly edition of **George and Ira Gershwin's Porgy and Bess**. **Kenneth Kiesler** will lead the **U-M School of Music, Theatre, & Dance Choruses** and **University Symphony Orchestra** in the performance of this landmark score. In addition to the concert, UMS and SMTD will host related symposia and other educational activities as part of an ongoing scholarly examination of the art of George and Ira Gershwin.
- On **Sunday, April 15 at 4 pm**, **Jeannette Sorrell** will lead **Apollo's Fire / The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra** in a semi-staged concert version of **Monteverdi's L'Orfeo**. The concert will be performed in Italian with English supertitles and feature period dancers. The role of Orfeo will be performed by tenor **Karim Sulayman**, with soprano **Erica Schuller** performing the role of Eurydice.

- Pianist **Murray Perahia** returns with a recital performance on **Sunday, April 22 at 4 pm**. The performance marks his 13<sup>th</sup> UMS appearance since his debut over 40 years ago. The program will be announced at a later date.

## **55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHAMBER ARTS SERIES**

The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Chamber Arts Series includes eight concerts by nine of today's leading chamber ensembles performing both traditional and contemporary repertoire. The concerts all take place in **Rackham Auditorium**.

- On **Thursday, October 5 at 7:30 pm** members of the **Calidore String Quartet**, the inaugural M-Prize winner who made their UMS debut in February, will join their mentors, the **Emerson String Quartet**, in a program that features works for larger string ensembles. The program includes works by **Bruckner, Shostakovich, Mendelssohn, and Richard Strauss**.
- In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Sphinx Organization, the **Sphinx Virtuosi** will perform a special program that offers a collection of concerti through the ages on **Sunday, October 29 at 4 pm**. The program will feature beloved masterpieces by **Vivaldi, Beethoven, and Vaughan Williams** as well as new works by **Michael Abels** and **Jimmy López**. The group's 18-members are all alumni of the Sphinx Competition, which supports racial diversity in classical music.
- On **Sunday, November 12 at 4 pm**, the Israeli mandolin virtuoso **Avi Avital** and Syrian clarinetist and composer **Kinan Azmeh** will team up with **The Knights** and Silk Road Ensemble violinist **Colin Jacobsen** for an extraordinary performance grounded in the classical tradition and crossing boundaries into the worlds of Middle Eastern, Balkan, klezmer, and jazz. **This performance is also on UMS's Traditions & Crosscurrents Series.**
- The **St. Lawrence String Quartet** will perform a Haydn mega-concert on **Sunday, January 14 at 2 pm**. In this immersive concert, the quartet will perform **all six of Haydn's Op. 20 string quartets**, with two intermissions (including a meal break).

- Flutist **Emmanuel Pahud** makes his UMS debut recital performance on **Wednesday, February 14 at 7:30 pm**, accompanied by pianist **Alessio Bax**. The program includes arrangements of sonatas written for other instruments by **Mozart, Schubert, Schumann**, and **Mendelssohn**, allowing audiences to experience the works from a completely different soundscape.
- On **Sunday, March 11 at 4 pm** the **Elias Quartet** will perform a program that explores how composers after Beethoven lived up to his monumental legacy. This particular program will focus on the work of **Schubert (Quartettsatz and Quartet No. 14)** and **Dvořák (Quartet No. 14)**.
- The Artemis Quartet will perform **Mozart's Quartet No. 23, Bartók's Quartet No. 2**, and **Schumann's Quartet** on **Sunday, April 8 at 4 pm**.
- The **grand prize winner of the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance's M-Prize** will be featured on the UMS Chamber Arts series. The ensemble will be identified at the M-Prize finals on May 4, and a date for their UMS concert announced in late June. M-Prize is an international chamber arts competition for ensembles of up to eight musicians all under the age of 40. Details will be posted at [ums.org](http://ums.org) as soon as a date is determined for the winning ensemble's UMS appearance.

### INTERNATIONAL THEATER SERIES

This year's International Theater Series features three productions, which will unfold in the **Power Center for the Performing Arts** and the **Arthur Miller Theatre**.

- **Paines Plough** and **Pentabus Theatre Company's** production of ***Every Brilliant Thing*** will run **Tuesday, September 12 through Sunday, September 17** in the **Arthur Miller Theatre**. Starring **Jonny Donahoe**, ***Every Brilliant Thing*** is a new play about depression and the lengths we will go to for those we love.
- **Théâtre de la Ville** will bring **Albert Camus's *L'État de siege (State of Siege)*** to the **Power Center** on **Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14 at 8 pm**. The play takes place in a nightmarish future city that is reduced to the silence and submission of authority under the leadership of a character called "Le Peste" (The Plague). The Plague brings order, administration,

lists, records, statistics, and persecution — until a young man, Diego, organizes a revolt. Written in 1948, *State of Siege* takes place in Cádiz, Spain and reflects the creation of a corrupt, totalitarian regime and the necessity of resistance. This production is directed by **Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota** and will be performed in French with English supertitles.

- ***Cold Blood***, a show by **Michèle Anne De Mey, Jaco Van Dormael, and The Collectif Kiss and Cry**, will run **Thursday, April 19 through Saturday, April 21** in the **Power Center**. With a hypnotic story laced with offbeat humor, the production combines film, dancing fingers, music, and theater to explore the uncertain, yet inevitable, last moments we experience before we die. **This performance is also part of UMS Renegade.**

In addition to these events, UMS will present *No Safety Net: Theater for Unsafe Conversations in Safe Spaces*, a three-week series featuring three stage productions that embrace the long theatrical legacy of both intervening in pressing social issues and drawing diverse voices into the conversation. Titles and a full schedule of related residency activities will be announced in the fall. *No Safety Net* will run from January 17-February 4, 2018.

## **27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DANCE SERIES**

The UMS Dance Series includes five performances at the **Power Center for the Performing Arts** and the **Detroit Opera House**.

- **Ragamala Dance Company** will perform ***Written in Water*** on **Friday, October 20 at 8 pm** at the **Power Center**. In *Written in Water*, co-artistic directors **Ranee and Aparna Ramaswamy** explore the concept of spiritual ascension through the 2nd-century Indian board game *Paramapadam* (upon which Snakes & Ladders is based), the 12th century Sufi text *The Conference of the Birds*, and the Hindu mythological story *Ksheerabthi Madanam*. The performance unfolds upon large-scale paintings by Chennai-based visual artist **Keshav**, projected on the stage floor. Dancers activate the space by negotiating snakes and ladders, representing the heights of ecstasy and the depths of longing in Hindu and Sufi thought. The live music for *Written in Water* is composed and performed by **Amir ElSaffar**, interwoven with original South Indian Carnatic compositions by **Prema Ramamurthy**. **This performance is also on UMS's Traditions & Crosscurrents Series.**

- **Urban Bush Women** will perform *Hair & Other Stories* on **Friday, January 12 at 8 pm** at the **Power Center**. *Hair & Other Stories* is a multidisciplinary evening-length work that addresses matters of race, gender identity, and economic inequality through the lens of hair, primarily that of African-American women.
- **American Ballet Theatre** will bring its signature production of *Romeo & Juliet*, featuring choreography by **Kenneth MacMillan** and the music of **Sergei Prokofiev**, to the **Detroit Opera House Thursday, February 8 through Sunday, February 11**. UMS and **Michigan Opera Theatre** co-present American Ballet Theatre as part of an extended partnership to bring dance to southeastern Michigan. Casting will be announced at a later date. UMS will provide round-trip luxury coach service for a nominal fee on Thursday and Friday.
- **Company Wang Ramirez** will perform *Borderline* on **Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10 at 8 pm** at the **Power Center**. In *Borderline*, six dancers, including co-founders and choreographers **Honji Wang** and **Sébastien Ramirez**, toy with the forces of gravity. Through a subtle and sophisticated use of rigging they will create a powerful evening of breathtaking movement, physical energy, and spiritual serenity. The production features original music by **Jean-Philippe Barrios (aka Lacrymoboy)**.
- **Nederlands Dans Theater** comes to the **Power Center** with two performances on **Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24 at 8 pm**. The program includes “The Statement” by Crystal Pite, as well as Sol León and artistic director Paul Lightfoot’s “Shoot the Moon” and “Singulière Odyssée.” “Shoot the Moon” is a heartbreaking view of three different love stories deteriorating behind closed doors in a revolving set of three rooms, set to music by Philip Glass. “The Statement” features two men and two women dealing with a conflict in a boardroom setting, with Jonathan Young (from the 2016-17 season’s *Betroffenheit*) providing the script/score. **This performance is also part of UMS Renegade.**

## 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JAZZ SERIES

With five concerts in various venues, the UMS Jazz Series celebrates the diversity of jazz, highlighting contemporary trailblazers while honoring jazz’s legacy.

- **Zakir Hussain**, a living master of the 3,000-year-old tabla percussion tradition, and distinguished bassist and 2017 NEA Jazz Master **Dave Holland** will perform on **Wednesday, November 1 at 7:30 pm** at the **Michigan Theater**. The program will explore the many directions of inspiration between the idioms of jazz and Indian music and will feature Shankar Mahadevan, Chris Potter, Sanjay Divecha, Louiz Banks, and Eric Harland. **This performance is also on UMS's Traditions & Crosscurrents Series.**
- Two of the world's foremost improvising artists, guitarists **John McLaughlin** and **Jimmy Herring** will perform on **Wednesday, November 15 at 7:30 pm** at the **Michigan Theater**. After separate sets by the two headliners with their own bands, they join forces for an expansive closing jam, revisiting the pioneering music that McLaughlin introduced in the 1970s with his deeply influential, genre-defying Mahavishnu Orchestra. This tour marks the 75-year-old McLaughlin's first extensive US tour in seven years and his last American performances.
- On **Saturday, March 17 at 9 pm**, composer and saxophonist **Steve Lehman** will take the stage with his international ensemble **Sélébéyone**, which includes rappers **HPrizm**, a legend of New York's underground hip-hop scene, and **Gaston Bandimic**, one of Senegal's most distinctive young rap stars, with a unique hybrid performance that juxtaposes English and Wolof against changing meters and asymmetrical rhythms. This concert will take place at **El Club** (4114 Vernor Highway, Detroit). **This performance is also on UMS's Traditions & Crosscurrents Series and is part of UMS Renegade.**
- The **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** will return to **Hill Auditorium** on **Saturday, March 31 at 8 pm**, this time with jazz pianist and NEA Jazz Master **Chick Corea** at the helm.
- Two of South Africa's iconic jazz legends, pianist **Abdullah Ibrahim** and trumpeter **Hugh Masekela**, will reunite on **Friday, April 13 at 8 pm** at the **Michigan Theater** to perform on the same stage for the first time in 56 years. They come together for a historic concert to tell the story of *The Jazz Epistles*, the first all-black jazz group in South Africa and arguably the most important jazz (bebop) recording in the country's history. The program will include music from



the seminal *Jazz Epistles* recording alongside music from both of the artists' illustrious careers.

**This performance is also on UMS's Traditions & Crosscurrents Series.**

## TRADITIONS & CROSSCURRENTS SERIES

This season, UMS will celebrate music, theater, and dance from across the globe with eight stunning performances in various venues, including:

- Composer, trumpeter, santur player, and vocalist **Amir ElSaffar's Rivers of Sound** will come to the **Power Center** on **Wednesday, October 18 at 7:30 pm**. Rivers of Sound presents 17 musicians from Western and Middle Eastern traditions, from Iraqi *maqam* to American jazz, creating a unique microtonal musical environment that moves beyond the notions of style and tradition into a realm of sound that includes both improvised and composed material. ElSaffar and select members of the group also provide the live music for Ragamala Dance Company's *Written in Water* two nights later.
- **Ragamala Dance Company** will perform *Written in Water* on **Friday, October 20 at 8 pm** at the **Power Center**. In *Written in Water*, co-artistic directors **Ranee and Aparna Ramaswamy** explore the concept of spiritual ascension through the 2nd-century Indian board game *Paramapadam* (upon which Snakes & Ladders is based), the 12th century Sufi text *The Conference of the Birds*, and the Hindu mythological story *Ksheerabthi Madanam*. The performance unfolds upon large-scale paintings by Chennai-based visual artist **Keshav**, projected on the stage floor. Dancers activate the space by negotiating snakes and ladders, representing the heights of ecstasy and the depths of longing in Hindu and Sufi thought. The live music for *Written in Water* is composed and performed by **Amir ElSaffar**, interwoven with original South Indian Carnatic compositions by **Prema Ramamurthy**. **This performance is also on UMS's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Dance Series.**
- **Zakir Hussain**, a living master of the 3,000-year-old tabla percussion tradition, and distinguished bassist and 2017 NEA Jazz Master **Dave Holland** will perform on **Wednesday, November 1 at 7:30 pm** at the **Michigan Theater**. The program will explore the many directions of inspiration between the idioms of jazz and Indian music and will feature Shankar Mahadevan, Chris Potter, Sanjay Divecha, Louiz Banks, and Eric Harland. **This performance is also on UMS's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual**

### Jazz Series.

- The **China National Center for the Performing Arts Orchestra** will make its UMS debut on **Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30 pm** at **Hill Auditorium** with a new work commissioned by **Qigang Chen**, the music director of the 2008 Summer Olympics. Also on the program is American composer **Lou Harrison**'s pipa concerto featuring the world's reigning pipa virtuoso and Silk Road Ensemble member, **Wu Man**. **This performance is also on UMS's 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Choral Union Series.**
- On **Sunday, November 12 at 4 pm**, the Israeli mandolin virtuoso **Avi Avital** and Syrian clarinetist and composer **Kinan Azmeh** will team up with **The Knights** and Silk Road Ensemble violinist **Colin Jacobsen** for an extraordinary performance grounded in the classical tradition and crossing boundaries into the worlds of Middle Eastern, Balkan, klezmer, and jazz. **This performance is also on UMS's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Chamber Arts Series.**
- **Gerald Clayton** and his nine-piece band **The Assembly** will bring their new music-theater production ***Piedmont Blues: A Search for Salvation*** to the **Michigan Theater** on **Wednesday, March 14 at 7:30 pm**. The performance combines music with projected film, new and archival photography, and the stories of those few musical elders who are still keeping the rapidly vanishing folkloric tradition of the Piedmont Blues, a product of the Atlantic Coastal Plain and the Appalachian Mountains, alive. The production makes a testimony of the struggle endured by African Americans in the Southeast during Jim Crow and chronicles the efficacy of the Piedmont Blues as a salve for suffering.
- On **Saturday, March 17 at 9 pm**, composer and saxophonist **Steve Lehman** will take the stage with his international ensemble **Sélébéyone**, which includes rappers **HPrizm**, a legend of New York's underground hip-hop scene, and **Gaston Bandimic**, one of Senegal's most distinctive young rap stars, with a unique hybrid performance that juxtaposes English and Wolof against changing meters and asymmetrical rhythms. This concert will take place at **El Club** (4114 Vernor Highway, Detroit). **This performance is also on UMS's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Series and is part of**

## UMS Renegade.

- Two of South Africa's iconic jazz legends, pianist **Abdullah Ibrahim** and trumpeter **Hugh Masekela**, will reunite on **Friday, April 13 at 8 pm** at the **Michigan Theater** as part of a tour that puts them on the same stage for the first time in 56 years. They come together for a historic concert to tell the story of *The Jazz Epistles*, the first all-black jazz group in South Africa and arguably the most important jazz (bebop) recording in the country's history. The program will include music from the seminal *Jazz Epistles* recording alongside music from both of the artists' illustrious careers. **This performance is also on UMS's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Series.**

## CHORAL MUSIC SERIES

The UMS Choral Music Series includes four performances at **Hill Auditorium** and **St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**:

- **Chanticleer** will perform at **Hill Auditorium** on **Friday, November 10 at 8 pm**. The Grammy Award-winning ensemble, which celebrates its 40th season in 2017-18, is known around the world for the seamless blend of its 12 male voices, ranging from soprano to bass, as well as its original interpretations of vocal literature that run the gamut from Gregorian chant to jazz and popular genres.
- 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 2 at 8 pm** and **Sunday, December 3 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 will be announced at a later date.
- On **Friday, December 8 at 8 pm** at **Hill Auditorium**, conductor and music director **Masaaki Suzuki** will lead the **Bach Collegium Japan** in a performance of **Johann Sebastian Bach's *Christmas Oratorio***. Founded by Suzuki in 1990, the ensemble performed Bach's full list of more than 200 church cantatas in chronological order between 1995 and 2013, including two performances in Ann Arbor. **This performance is also on UMS's 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Choral Union**

## Series.

- **Tenebrae** will team up with the **University of Michigan Chamber Choir** to perform **Joby Talbot's *Path of Miracles*** at **St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church** on **Tuesday, March 13 at 7:30 pm**.

Talbot's composition — the first major work commissioned by the ensemble — is based on the most enduring route of Catholic pilgrimage, the great Pilgrimage to Santiago, and the four movement titles are the four main posts along the route (Roncesvalles, Burgos, León, and Santiago). *Path of Miracles* incorporates medieval texts and Roman Catholic liturgy and is sung in Greek, Latin, Spanish, Basque, French, English, and German.

## UMS SONG REMIX: A BIENNIAL SONGFEST

The UMS Song Remix looks at a collision of song practice with four performances in **Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre**.

- Pianist **Martin Katz** will curate a special performance that examines the components of a song on **Saturday, January 6 at 8 pm**. This second edition of *What's in a Song* will highlight Katz's inimitable knowledge of the vast song repertoire and feature a cast of soloists that will be announced at a later date.
- Soprano and University of Michigan alumna **Janai Brugger** makes her UMS recital debut on **Wednesday, January 31 at 7:30 pm** accompanied by **Martin Katz**. Brugger, who has quickly become one of the Metropolitan Opera's go-to singers with four roles this past season, won the Kennedy Center's 2016 Marian Anderson Vocal Award and was identified by *Opera News* as one of their top 25 "brilliant young artists" in 2015.
- **Gabriel Kahane** will perform his new production *Book of Travelers* on **Friday, February 2 at 8 pm**. The highly anticipated follow-up to his acclaimed stage piece, *The Ambassador*, Kahane's *Book of Travelers* offers an expansive exploration of American history, regionalism, and the history of travel itself, all couched in a collection of songs as personal as any Kahane has written.
- Tenor **Ian Bostridge** will perform **Schubert's *Winterreise*** on **Sunday, February 4 at 4 pm** with pianist **Julius Drake**. A former historian, Bostridge has also written a book, *Schubert's Winter*

*Journey: Anatomy of an Obsession*, that explores this song cycle, which takes listeners on a journey across a landscape of lost love.

## ADDITIONAL EVENTS

- UMS will bring the Big Easy to **Downtown Home & Garden and Bill's Beer Garden** on **Friday, September 8 at 8 pm** with a season-opening event featuring **Butler, Bernstein & the Hot 9**. Led by retro-futurist brass man **Steven Bernstein** and New Orleans pianist and singer **Henry Butler**, the ensemble embodies New Orleans tradition and early 20th-century blues.
- As a part of their three-concert orchestral residency, the **New York Philharmonic** will perform a **Young People's Concert** on **Saturday, November 18 at 2 pm** at **Hill Auditorium**. Detroit Symphony Orchestra music director **Leonard Slatkin** takes the helm for this special hour-long celebration of Leonard Bernstein which, though titled a "Young People's Concert," will be appreciated and enjoyed by audiences of all ages.
- Writer and street performer **Nick Cassenbaum** joins forces with an ensemble of klezmer musicians in **Bubble Schmeisis**, a theatrical piece that will run **Thursday, March 22 through Sunday, March 25** at **The Schvitz** in Detroit (8295 Oakland Street), one of the country's few remaining traditional bath houses, which has been in operation for over 85 years. *Bubble Schmeisis* is full of intimate and personal true stories about identity, home, and getting schmeised (washed) by old men.
- Virtuoso saxophonist **Colin Stetson** will perform **Sorrow — A Reimagining of Górecki's Third Symphony** at the **Michigan Theater** on **Saturday, April 14 at 8 pm**. Henryk Górecki's iconic third symphony's three movements are centered around three laments, each focused in some way about a child being taken away from a mother. Stetson takes on the mammoth task of reimagining Górecki's symphony for an expansive and contemporary sonic palate with an imaginative new interpretation that draws on a uniquely constructed 12-member ensemble

employing electric guitars, synthesizers, drums, strings, woodwinds, and soprano.

## **RENEGADE**

This season, UMS Renegade includes five 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.

- **Steve Lehman & Sélébéyone**  
Saturday, March 17 at 8 pm at El Club (4114 Vernor Highway, Detroit)
- **Nederlands Dans Theater**  
Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24 at 8 pm at the Power Center
- **Bubble Schmeisis**  
Thursday, March 22 – Sunday, March 25 at The Schvitz (8295 Oakland Street, Detroit)
- **Sorrow — A Reimagining of Górecki's Third Symphony**  
**Colin Stetson**  
Saturday, April 14 at 8 pm at the Michigan Theater
- **Cold Blood**  
Thursday, April 19 – Saturday, April 21 at the Power Center

## **EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

During the 2017-18 season, UMS's Education and Community Engagement events will focus on UMS Renegade performances, UMS Theater and Dance Series performances, and a New York Philharmonic orchestral residency (November 17-19, 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 renewing subscribers on Monday, April 17 and to the general public on Monday, April 24. Current subscribers will receive renewal packets in April. 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 2017-18 season. Series:You offers a 10% discount and access to the best seats in the house, along with all other subscriber benefits.

Tickets to individual events will go on sale to the general public online, in person, and by phone on Monday, August 7; UMS donors of \$250+ may purchase beginning Monday, July 31. Groups of 10 or more may reserve tickets beginning Monday, July 10. 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**

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 committed to bold artistic leadership, engaged learning through the arts, and access and inclusiveness. Since 1990, the organization has co-commissioned and supported the production of nearly 80 new or reimagined works.

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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