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ORIGINAL UMS DOCUMENTARY WINS MICHIGAN EMMY AWARD

2013 UMS ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY ON THE CENTENNIAL OF HILL AUDITORIUM WINS 2013 EMMY IN “BEST HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY” CATEGORY

Ann Arbor, MI (June 16, 2014) —The **University Musical Society (UMS)** celebrated the centenary of Ann Arbor’s Hill Auditorium in 2013 by creating an original, 56-minute documentary entitled *A Space for Music, A Seat for Everyone: 100 Years of UMS Performances in Hill Auditorium*. **The film won a 2013 Michigan Emmy Award in the “Best Historical Documentary” category at the 36th Michigan Emmy Award Celebration held on June 14, 2014.**

The documentary premiered in Hill Auditorium on February 2, 2013 and was met with glowing reviews after its television debut on May 19, 2013 on Detroit Public Television (WTVS - Channel 56.1). The documentary went on to six national film festivals in 2013 and was broadcast on four Michigan PBS affiliates, including **WKAR** in Lansing, **WNMU** in Marquette, **WGVU** in Grand Rapids, and **WCMU** in Mt. Pleasant.

The documentary is available to watch in its entirety online at <http://ums.org/about/hill-documentary>

About the documentary:

One of the most storied venues in the United States, Hill Auditorium opened on May 14, 1913. Designed by the renowned architect Albert Kahn and boasting one of the world’s finest acoustical designs, Hill Auditorium has been a true cultural incubator for the arts community in southeast Michigan for the past 100 years. With a rich history of performances by the world’s top artists, Hill Auditorium, located on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor, is a shining example of how investment in the arts cultivates a vibrant, engaged community. In many ways, Hill Auditorium is more than a gathering place

for music enthusiasts; it has been the beating heart of civic life in Ann Arbor for a century and has created a self-perpetuating reputation for attracting top talent to the venue, the university, and the city itself. Through concert recordings, news articles, and anecdotal interviews, *A Space for Music, A Seat for Everyone: 100 Years of UMS Performances in Hill Auditorium* provides historical context for the auditorium's role as a UMS anchor venue and highlights its evolving community function.

"Researching and producing *A Space for Music, A Seat for Everyone* was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the history of my own community," said documentary producer Sophia Kruz. "I grew up in Ann Arbor, and have fond memories both performing on Hill's stage and attending concerts in the hall. Prior to starting this project, I was certainly familiar with how important Hill Auditorium has been to the southeastern MI community over the past 100 years. What I didn't realize, however, was how many other members of our community share such deeply personal relationships with the hall, and how important Hill Auditorium is to them as well."

"The role that UMS has played in the formation and evolution of Hill Auditorium over the last 100 years is something that we are very proud of," said UMS President Kenneth Fischer. "The strong feelings of connectedness that Ann Arbor residents feel with Hill Auditorium are just as enthralling as the great artists who have performed here. And we are incredibly proud to have a communications team at UMS that was able to tell this story for us with such integrity and impact."

UMS Original Documentary Film

A Space for Music, A Seat for Everyone: 100 Years of UMS Performances in Hill Auditorium

Length and format: 56 minutes, widescreen, HD

Synopsis:

Hill Auditorium, a building incredible not only due to its rich history and remarkable acoustics but also due to its function as a cultural incubator for the arts community in southeastern Michigan, has united a diverse community of music enthusiasts for 100 years. Through concert recordings, news articles, and anecdotal interviews, this documentary will provide historical context for UMS performances in Hill Auditorium while highlighting the evolving community function of the venue.

Sponsored by **MLive Media Group**. Funded in part by the **Michigan Humanities Council**.

Hill Auditorium (825 North University Avenue) stands tall and proud in the heart of the University of Michigan campus, serving as an anchor venue for University Musical Society (UMS) Choral Union events and other major public events at the university. Former U-M regent Arthur Hill bequeathed \$200,000 to construct an auditorium for lectures, concerts, and other university events. Hill Auditorium's unique, parabolic shape allows a speaker or musician to have an intimate rapport with 3,500 people.

Hill Auditorium's most famous association is with the best performing artists the world has to offer. Since its opening in 1913, this impressive structure has served as a showplace for important debuts from a wide variety of the arts, and also has provided the locale for long relationships between artists and Ann Arbor audiences. With superb acoustics that highlight everything from the softest high notes to the most thunderous climaxes, Hill Auditorium is known and loved throughout the musical world.

The hall was designed by the Detroit firm of Albert Kahn and Associates, who have conceived of many notable structures, including the Rouge River plant in Dearborn, Michigan.

About a decade ago, Hill Auditorium underwent a major renovation and closed for a period of 18 months, reopening in January 2004. Developed by Albert Kahn Associates with Quinn Evans Architects, the renovation provided for air conditioning, elevators, expanded bathroom facilities, a Lower Level Lobby with a concessions area, and many other improvements and patron conveniences. To learn more about the renovation, visit the [Hill Auditorium Renovation website](#).

Sophia Kruz is the co-writer, producer, and director of the 2013 original documentary, *A Space for Music, A Seat for Everyone: 100 Years of UMS Performances in Hill Auditorium*. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Sophie Kruz served in the UMS Marketing Department as a full-time Video Producer & Editor until August 2013, when she accepted a position in the documentary unit at Detroit Public Television.

Ms. Kruz's 2011 documentary, *Time Dances On*, was awarded "Best Documentary Feature" at the Made In Michigan Festival and "Best Editing-Short" at the 2012 Michigan Film Awards. It was also nominated for "Best Gay/Lesbian Film" at the Great Lakes International Film Festival and "Best Director-Short" and "Best Documentary-Short" at the 2012 Michigan Film Awards. She is currently a producer at Detroit

Public Television and hard at work on *Creating4Change*, an independent documentary about the role of art in global women's empowerment.

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