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Contact Truly Render, 734-647-4020
trender@umich.edu
www.ums.org/news

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES APRIL 2014 EVENTS

ANN ARBOR, MI (March 7, 2014) —The **University Musical Society** (UMS) presents a diverse April line-up featuring four uplifting performances to close out the 2013/2014 season of live performances. The first weekend marks the return of the UMS Choral Union and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Jerry Blackstone, in a powerful rendition of **Brahms' German Requiem** (Friday, April 4).

The following week, **The Los Angeles Guitar Quartet** brings its energetic stage presence to Ann Arbor with their interpretation of both traditional and contemporary works (Thursday, April 10). A few days later, the internationally recognized **Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin** will enchant audiences in their UMS debut program, featuring works by J.S. Bach and two of his sons (Sunday, April 13).

National Theatre Live closes the 2013-2014 UMS season with the high-definition broadcast of **War Horse**, a searing drama embellished with a stirring musical score and life-size puppets by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company (Wednesday, April 23). Additional theater cinema broadcasts by both the National Theatre London and the Royal Shakespeare Company will take place through July.

Tickets to All Events On Sale Now

How to Order:

- www.ums.org
- **734-764-2538**
- **In person:** Michigan League (911 North University Avenue)

- **At the performance venue:** beginning 90 minutes before performance start time
- **Hours:** Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., closed Sunday

Performances & Events

UMS CHORAL UNION: BRAHMS'S GERMAN REQUIEM

UMS CHORAL UNION

ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Jerry Blackstone, conductor

Nadine Sierra, soprano

John Relyea, bass

Friday, April 4, 8:00 pm

Hill Auditorium (825 N. University Ave, Ann Arbor)

Tickets: ums.org / 734.764.2538

A year after his mother died, Johannes Brahms began to compose a requiem in the German language. Within three years, the work had grown from a choral piece into a cantata and then a seven-movement Requiem for chorus, orchestra, and soprano and bass soloists. It is now considered one of his pinnacle works. Unlike other Requiems, the Brahms work was not composed as a mass for the dead but, rather, as a consolation for those left behind. The UMS Choral Union and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra perform this momentous work in Ann Arbor for the first time in over a decade under the leadership of UMS Choral Union music director Jerry Blackstone.

UMS Choral Union:

Formed in 1879 by a group of people with ties to both the University and the city of Ann Arbor who gathered together to study Handel's *Messiah*, the 175-voice UMS Choral Union is known for its definitive performances of large-scale works for chorus and orchestra. In collaboration with the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance ensembles in 2004, they released a three-disc set of William Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, which won four Grammy Awards in 2006. The ensemble frequently collaborates with the

Detroit Symphony Orchestra in addition to its annual *Messiah* performances and concerts of other choral works in Ann Arbor.

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra:

Founded as a community orchestra in 1928, then as a fully professional orchestra in 1986, the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra celebrated its 85th year in 2013. The orchestra currently performs in the historic Michigan Theater under the direction of conductor Arie Lipsky, known for his popular lectures prior to each performance.

Jerry Blackstone:

Two-time Grammy Award winning conductor Jerry Blackstone serves as Director of Choirs and Chair of the Conducting Department at the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance. Devoted to education, he and his students have received first place awards in both the graduate and undergraduate divisions of the ACDA biennial National Choral Conducting Awards competition.

Nadine Sierra:

A graduate of the Mannes College of Music and the Adler Fellowship program at the San Francisco Opera, Nadine Sierra became the youngest soprano to ever win the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She has gone on to perform across the nation, winning first prize at both the 2013 Neue Stimmen International Singing Competition and the 2013 Montserrat Caballé International Singing Competition.

John Relyea:

The expansive repertoire of bass John Relyea has performed under the auspices of the world's most celebrated opera houses, orchestras, and recordings. An alumnus of the Merola Opera Program and a former Adler fellow, he is also the winner of the 2009 Beverly Sills Award and the 2003 Richard Tucker Award. He comes from a musical family; his father is the Canadian baritone Gary Relyea, and his aunt, Deanna Relyea, runs the Kerrytown Concert House in Ann Arbor.

Previous UMS appearances: The UMS Choral Union and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra return following their most recent December 2013 performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Nadine Sierra makes her UMS debut. John Relyea has performed twice before under UMS auspices, both times in 2001.

LOS ANGELES GUITAR QUARTET

Thursday, April 10, 7:30 pm

Michigan Theater (603 E. Liberty St, Ann Arbor)

Tickets: ums.org / 734.764.2538

The Los Angeles Guitar Quartet is one of the most multifaceted groups in any genre. Comprised of four uniquely accomplished musicians who bring a new energy to the concert stage with programs ranging from bluegrass to Bach, they consistently play to sold-out houses worldwide. Their inventive, critically acclaimed programs feature both transcriptions of concert masterpieces and new works from the contemporary and world music realm. Their program includes works by Praetorius, Stravinsky, Liszt, and a second half "world tour" that feature several works written specifically for them.

Artist Info: <http://www.lagq.com/>

Previous UMS appearances: This performance marks the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet's third UMS appearance. They most recently performed in 2007.

AKADEMIE FÜR ALTE MUSIK BERLIN

Sunday, April 13, 4 pm

Hill Auditorium (825 N. University Ave, Ann Arbor)

Program

J.S. Bach	Orchestral Suite No. 1 in C Major, BWV 1066
J.C. Bach	Concerto in f minor for Harpsichord, Strings, and Basso Continuo
C.P.E. Bach	Sinfonia No. 5 in b minor for Strings and Basso Continuo Wq. 182
C.P.E. Bach	Concerto in E-Flat Major for Oboe, Strings, and Basso Continuo Wq. 165
J.C. Bach	Symphony in g minor Op. 6, No. 6 for Strings, Two Oboes, Two Horns, and Basso Continuo

Tickets: [ums.org / 734.764.2538](http://ums.org/734.764.2538)

Media Partner: **WGTE 91.3 FM**

The Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin began as a courageous display of musical sovereignty against the East German socialist regime some 30 years ago and now enjoys recognition as one of Europe's greatest musical success stories. Their UMS debut program traces the Bach family line from the famous Johann Sebastian himself to his youngest son, Johann Christian. The program is a chronological audio guide, taking audiences from the gorgeous, Italian-inspired Baroque era all the way to foreshadowing the works of Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Artist Info: <http://www.akamus.de/index.cfm>

Previous UMS appearances: This performance marks Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin's UMS debut.

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: *WAR HORSE*

NOVEL BY MICHAEL MORPURGO

ADAPTED BY NICK STAFFORD

Wednesday, April 23, 7:00 pm

Michigan Theater (603 E. Liberty St, Ann Arbor)

Tickets: [ums.org / 734.764.2538](http://ums.org/734.764.2538)

Based on Michael Morpurgo's novel and adapted for the stage by Nick Stafford, the high-definition broadcast of *War Horse* takes audiences on an extraordinary journey from the fields of rural Devon to the trenches of First World War France. With its stirring musical score, this powerfully moving and imaginative drama is a show of phenomenal inventiveness. At its heart are astonishing life-size puppets by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, who bring breathing, galloping, charging horses to thrilling life on stage.

Artist Info: <http://ntlive.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

FAMILIES, TAKE NOTE: *UMS Kids Club* allows students in grades 3-12 to attend any UMS event with their parents at significantly reduced ticket prices. UMS will set aside a limited quantity of Kids Club tickets for every event in the season. Tickets are \$10 per student and \$20 per adult.

Kids Club tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis for every event in the season. Seating is subject to box office discretion. UMS guarantees at least 30 tickets for each event (select performances for multiple performance runs). Kids Club tickets must be picked up at will-call with the student present. Unless the Kids Club allotment is sold out, Kids Club tickets will be offered at the door; however, we recommend ordering in advance.

Comprehensive April 2014 Calendar of Events

Friday, April 4, 8 pm	UMS Performance: Brahms' German Requiem Hill Auditorium, \$
Thursday, April 10, 7:30 pm	UMS Performance: Los Angeles Guitar Quartet Michigan Theater, \$
Sunday, April 13, 4 pm	UMS Performance: Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin Hill Auditorium, \$
Wednesday, April 23, 7 pm	UMS Performance: National Theatre Live: War Horse Michigan Theater, \$

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