



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

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES JANUARY 2015 EVENTS

ANN ARBOR, MI (November 21, 2014) —The **University Musical Society (UMS)** kicks off the new year with ***Helen & Edgar***, a hilariously unusual one-man show by raconteur Edgar Oliver in the Arthur Miller Theatre, January 7-11. On January 17, new-music ensemble **eighth blackbird** comes to Rackham Auditorium to perform works by preeminent contemporary music composers. In partnership with the Michigan Theater, UMS presents the National Theatre's HD broadcast of ***JOHN***, directed by Lloyd Newson, on January 18. Montreal-based **Compagnie Marie Chouinard** presents a dynamic and thought-provoking dance program in the Power Center on Friday, January 23, and the **Mariinsky Orchestra**, directed by Valery Gergiev, returns to Hill Auditorium with two pianists -- **Denis Matsuev** and **Behzod Abduraimov** -- to perform two different Russian programs on January 24-25. The concert on Sunday, January 25 is part of the 20th Annual UMS Ford Honors Program; conductor Valery Gergiev and the Mariinsky Orchestra will receive the 2015 UMS Distinguished Artist Award at a gala fundraiser following the concert. The month wraps up with electro-acoustic band **Dawn of Midi**, performing music off their new album *Dysnomia* in concert at Trinosophes in Detroit's Eastern Market.

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

January 2015 Performances & Events

HELEN & EDGAR

Wednesday, January 7, 7:30 pm

Thursday, January 8, 7:30 pm

Friday, January 9, 8 pm

Saturday, January 10, 2 pm and 8 pm [SATURDAY MATINEE ADDED!]

Sunday, January 11, 2 pm and 6 pm [ADDED PERFORMANCES!]

Arthur Miller Theatre (1226 Murfin Avenue, Ann Arbor)

Sponsored by the **University of Michigan Health System**

Supported by **Emily W. Bandera**

Media partner: **WDET 101.9**

The creative team behind storytelling juggernaut The Moth joined with acclaimed raconteur Edgar Oliver in October 2012 to present the world premiere of *Helen & Edgar*, Oliver's mesmerizing, hilarious, and heartbreaking tale of his strange childhood with his sister Helen in Savannah as they dealt with their mother's struggle with madness and her smothering paranoia. An expanded version of a story he has been weaving piece by piece since his debut at The Moth in 1998, "Edgar Oliver's stories of Savannah family witchery and madness give a new meaning to Southern Gothic." (Neil Gaiman, author)

Related Events:

Opening Night Post-Performance Q&A

Wednesday, January 7

Where does inspiration come from? What makes an artist tick? Get a glimpse into the lives and minds of the artists who bring their creativity to the stage. Hosted by UMS Director of Education and Community Engagement Jim Leija. Must have a ticket to that evening's performance to attend.

Getting to Know Edgar Oliver: 4 Fast Facts

1. Born Oct. 31 1956 in Savannah Georgia, Oliver has lived and worked in NYC since 1977.
2. Edgar Oliver is considered a legend in the NYC theater scene, known for his distinctive accent and diction.
3. Oliver has published three poetry collections: *A Portrait of New York by a Wanderer There, Summer*, and *The Man Who Loved Plants*
4. Oliver has frequently been produced at La MaMa ETC, most notably the 2000 production of his play *The Drowning Pages* starring Deborah Harry (of Blondie fame)

Video Asset: The Moth presents Edgar Oliver: Apron Strings of Savannah:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNJWHwTUvwU>

Previous UMS Appearances: UMS debut.

EIGHTH BLACKBIRD

Michael J. Maccaferri, clarinets; Tim Munro, flutes; Yvonne Lam, violin and viola; Doug Perkins, percussion; Lisa Kaplan, piano; Nicholas Photinos, cello

Saturday, January 17, 8 pm

Rackham Auditorium (915 East Washington Street, Ann Arbor)

PROGRAM

Bryce Dessner	Murder Ballads
Lisa Kaplan	whirligig

Songs of Love and Loss

Richard Reed Parry	Duo for Heart and Breath
Claudio Monteverdi	Lamento della Ninfa (arr. Munro)
Carlo Gesualdo	Moro, lasso al mio duoro (arr. Munro)
Bon Iver	Babies (arr. Kaplan)

Gabriella Smith	Number Nine
Tom Johnson	Counting Duets
György Ligeti	Études

Supported by **Ken and Penny Fischer** and by the **Renegade Ventures Fund, established by Maxine and Stuart Frankel**

Media Sponsor: **WGTE 91.3 FM, WDET 101.9 FM, WRCJ 90.9 FM, and Ann Arbor's 107one FM**

eighth blackbird combines the finesse of a string quartet, the energy of a rock band, and the audacity of a storefront theater company. The Chicago-based ensemble delivers provocative and mind-bending performances, combining bracing virtuosity with an alluring sense of irreverence. The ensemble's performances sparkle with wit and pound with physical energy, inhabiting and exploring the sound world of new music with comfort, conviction, and infectious enthusiasm. "The blackbirds are examples of a new breed of super-musicians. They perform the bulk of their new music from memory. They have no need for a conductor, no matter how complex the rhythms or balances... [They are] stage animals, often in motion, enacting their scores as they play them." (*Los Angeles Times*) Their program includes three works by composers who made their mark in indie band circles: Bryce Dessner of The National, Bon Iver, and Richard Reed Perry from Arcade Fire.

Related Events:

Tune in with UMS

Saturday, January 17, 7:30 pm

Rackham Auditorium - Earl Lewis Room, 3rd Floor

Tune In with UMS for a brief pre-performance talk before select Renegade series performances. Just 15 minutes long, each Tune In will offer interesting information and provocative questions for thinking about, listening to, and watching the performance. The Renegade series celebrates artistic innovation, experimentation, and discovery. Hosted by Garrett Schumann, UMS Guest Scholar.

Post-Performance Q&A

Where does inspiration come from? What makes an artist tick? Join us for a post-performance Q&A and get a glimpse into the lives and minds of the artists who bring their creativity to the stage. Hosted by UMS Guest Scholar Garrett Schumann. Must have a ticket to the performance to attend.

Getting to know eighth blackbird: 3 Fast Facts

1. Their name comes from Wallace Stevens's poem *13 ways of looking at a blackbird*.
2. A lot of new works are composed/arranged specifically for them because of their unusual instrumentation. They have commissioned composers like Steve Reich, George Perle, Frederic Rzewski, Joseph Schwanter, Paul Moravec, Stephen Hartke, Jennifer Higdon, Derek Bermel, Nico Muhly, Daniel Kellogg, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, and the Minimum Security Composers Collective.
3. The group is made up of Oberlin alumni.

Previous UMS Appearances: eighth blackbird debuted with UMS in 2008. This is the second UMS performance for the group.

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE:

LLOYD NEWSON'S *JOHN*

LLOYD NEWSON, director

Sunday, January 18, 7 pm

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

An HD cinema broadcast from National Theatre, London.
Presented in partnership with the Michigan Theater.

Internationally renowned DV8 Physical Theatre brings its powerful new production to the National Theatre. Lloyd Newson, DV8's Artistic Director, interviewed more than 50 men asking them frank questions, initially about love and sex. One of those men was John. His story spans years of crime, drug use, and struggle to survive, and soon, he finds his life converging with others, in an unexpected place, unknown by most. *Performance note: JOHN* contains adult themes, strong language, and nudity.

See Also: <http://ntlive.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

COMPAGNIE MARIE CHOUINARD

MARIE CHOUINARD, artistic director

Friday, January 23, 8 pm

Power Center (121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor)

Funded in part by the **New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project.**

Described by the *New York Times* as “a hurricane of unbridled imaginativeness,” Marie Chouinard brings her Montreal-based troupe back to Ann Arbor with two works that display her compelling imagination. The visually arresting *Henri Michaux: Mouvements* features dancers dressed in black costumes on a white floor to create a choreographic version of India ink drawings and poetry by Belgian poet and artist Henri Michaux. The company also performs *Gymnopédies*, a ballet created around the theme of the duet. The 11 dancers, who worked daily with a piano teacher during the creation of the work, each take their places at a piano to play Erik Satie’s intriguing piano works of the same name. In both of these works, Chouinard “travels to the very depths of our collective psyche and bring what she finds there out in to the open for all to see.” (bachtrack.com)

Performance note: performance contains nudity and adult situations.

Related Event

Post-Performance Q&A

Where does inspiration come from? What makes an artist tick? Join us for a post-performance Q&A and get a glimpse into the lives and minds of the artists who bring their creativity to the stage. Hosted by U-M Assistant Professor of Dance Clare Croft. Must have a ticket to the performance to attend.

Getting to know Compagnie Marie Chouinard: 3 Fast Facts

1. Marie Chouinard’s work *Crystallization* (1978) earned her an international reputation for her originality
2. Marie Chouinard created Compagnie Marie Chouinard in 1990.
3. Chouinard’s work *The Golden Mean* won the 2012 Prix du CALQ award from the Arts Council of Quebec

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

Previous UMS Appearances: In 2009, Compagnie Marie Chouinard presented *Orpheus and Eurydice*, as well as *The Rite of Spring* and *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* in two separate performances.

MARIINSKY ORCHESTRA

VALERY GERGIEV, music director

Behzod Abduraimov, piano [Saturday]

Denis Matsuev, piano [Sunday]

Saturday, January 24, 8 pm

Sunday, January 25, 3 pm [NOTE CONCERT TIME]

Hill Auditorium (825 N. University, Ann Arbor)

Program 1/24:

Prokofiev Piano Concerto No.3 in C Major, Op. 26 w/ Behzod Abduraimov, piano

Shostakovich Symphony No.4 in c minor, Op. 43

Program 1/25 (Ford Honors Program Concert – 3 pm Concert):

Shchedrin Concerto for Orchestra No.1 (“Naughty Little Limericks”)

Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 in b-flat minor, Op. 23 w/ Denis Matsuev, piano

Mussorgsky *Pictures at an Exhibition* (arr. Ravel)

Concertmaster Sponsors: **Bank of Ann Arbor; Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone, P.L.C.** and the **University of Michigan Health System**

Endowed support from the **Catherine S. Arcure Endowment Fund** and the **William R. Kinney Endowment Fund**.

The Ford Honors Program recognizes the longtime and generous support of UMS’s Education & Community Engagement program by **Ford Motor Company Fund**.

The DTE Energy Foundation Educator and School of the Year Awards are made possible by **DTE Energy Foundation**.

Media Partners: **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **WRCJ 90.9 FM**

The Mariinsky Orchestra and Valery Gergiev return for two performances of Russian orchestral masterpieces. Saturday evening’s program features 24 -year-old pianist Behzod Abduraimov, the grand prize winner of the 2009 London International Piano Competition, in a performance of Prokofiev’s dazzling Piano Concerto No.3. Sunday afternoon’s performance features pianist Denis Matsuev in Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No.1 alongside Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*, originally written for piano but performed by the orchestra in an arrangement by Maurice Ravel. Valery Gergiev and the Mariinsky Orchestra will also receive the 2015 UMS Distinguished Artist Award at the gala dinner after Sunday’s Ford Honors Program concert, which raises funds to support UMS education programs.

Getting to know Valery Gergiev and the Mariinsky Orchestra: 5 Fast Facts

1. The Mariinsky Orchestra is one of the oldest symphonies in Russia, with a history dating back over 200 years.
2. The orchestra has been conducted by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, and Mahler, among others, and has premiered some of the most famous works in Russian music by Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Rimsky-Korsakov, Shostakovich, and others.
3. Valery Gergiev won the Herbert von Karajan Conducting Competition in Berlin at age 23, while still a student, and was invited to join the Kirov Theatre (now the Mariinsky).
4. Denis Matsuev was the winner of the 11th International Tchaikovsky Competition and is a Laureate of the prestigious Shostakovich Prize in Music and State Prize of Russian Federation in Literature and Arts.
5. Behzod Abduraimov won first prize in the 2009 London International Piano Competition at the age of 18.

Artist Info: <http://www.mariinsky.ru/en/company/orchestra1/orchestra/>

Video Asset: Denis Matsuev and Mariinsky orchestra – Prokofiev's Piano concerto No.3:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duSLXY5uTus>

Previous UMS Appearances: Valery Gergiev has been involved in 11 UMS appearances with the Mariinsky Orchestra. Denis Matsuev made his UMS debut with the Mariinsky in October 2010 and returned for a recital in January 2012. He was forced to cancel a January 2014 recital due to illness.

FORD HONORS GALA

A FUNDRAISER FOR UMS EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Sunday, January 25, 5 pm

Michigan League (911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor)

Tickets start at \$350 per person; advance registration required.

Details and Tickets: Rachele Lesko at 734.764.8489 or ralesko@umich.edu

RSVP deadline: January 9, 2015

Ford Honors Program Sponsor: **Ford Motor Company Fund**

Educator and School of the Year Award Sponsor: **DTE Energy Foundation**

UMS will present Valery Gergiev and the Mariinsky Orchestra with this season's UMS Distinguished Artist Award at the 20th Ford Honors Gala held in the Michigan League immediately after Sunday's concert. The event, a fundraiser with lead support from Ford Motor Company Fund, also includes the presentation of the DTE Energy Foundation's School of the Year and Educator of the Year awards. The gala is organized by the UMS Ambassadors (formerly known as the UMS Advisory Committee).

The Ford Honors Gala features a reception and dinner with the artists. Proceeds from the Ford Honors Gala support the UMS Education & Community Engagement programs, which include over

125 free or low-cost activities focusing on K-12 students, teachers, teens, university students, families, adults, and cultural communities each season. This comprehensive program seeks to create multiple entry points that encourage audiences of all ages to explore the diversity of artists, art forms, ideas, and cultures represented within the UMS season.

Tickets to the Ford Honors Gala are \$350 and advance reservations are required. For details and tickets, contact Rachelle Lesko at 734.764.8489 or ralesko@umich.edu

Gala Info at: <http://ums.org/performance/ford-honors-program-mariinsky-orchestra/>

DAWN OF MIDI: *DYSNOMIA*

Saturday, January 31, 9 pm

Trinosophes (1464 Gratiot Ave, Detroit)

Co-presented by Trinosophes and UMS

Supported by the **Renegade Ventures Fund**, established by **Maxine and Stuart Frankel**

Pre-show event presented by **UMS, Signal Return Press**, and **EnjoyTheD.com**

Media Partner: WDET 101.9FM

Listenable *and* insane. That's the electro-acoustic sound Dawn of Midi spent years shaping, culminating in their most mesmerizing work to date: *Dysnomia*. The Brooklyn-based trio, a multinational group that includes bassist Aakaash Israni (India), pianist Amino Belyamani (Morocco), and drummer Qasim Naqvi (Pakistan), performs sets that are as rhythmic as a seamlessly mixed DJ set, casting spells on crowds in the same way the group's favorite modern classical and electronic artists have for decades. Their carefully cultivated aesthetic incorporates such wildly divergent influences and interests as Aphex Twin, the Police, Can, and the video game Ms. Pac-Man. "A work of lunatic genius." (*Village Voice*)

Performance Note: General admission standing-room ticket. Limited seating available on a first come, first serve basis. *Dysnomia* is approximately 50 minutes in duration.

Related Event

Pre-Show Event/Ticket Package

Eat, Explore, Enjoy: Eastern Market Experience

Saturday, January 31, 5-8:30 pm

Signal Return Press (1345 Division St, Detroit)

The Dawn of Midi concert will be held at Trinosophes, an Eastern Market event space, café, and gallery. Interested parties can purchase an Eastern Market Experience ticket package that will help make the most of an evening out in this historic Detroit neighborhood. The Eastern Market Experience includes a pre-show a guided strolling supper through beloved Eastern Market eateries, a dessert and wine

reception at Signal Return Press, and a ticket to the Dawn of Midi concert. Transportation is not included in the package.

Ticket Package details at: ums.org/easternmarket.

Ticket package cost: \$90

Limited capacity, must be reserved by January 12, 2015

Getting to know Dawn of Midi: 4 Fast Facts

1. An electro-acoustic band, Dawn of Midi is an acoustic trio whose music has been compared to Electronica, American Minimalism, and free jazz.
2. The Brooklyn-based group has members of Moroccan (pianist Amino Belyamani), Indian (bassist Aakaash Israni) and Pakistani (drummer Qasim Naqvi) descent.
3. The band met playing tennis in college at Cal Arts.
4. Their initial style was based on improvisation based, before eventually evolving into their current style.

Artist Info: <http://dawnofmidi.com/>

Video Asset: Dawn of Midi Dysnomia trailer: <http://vimeo.com/59969222>

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. Kids Club tickets are made possible with the generous support of Toyota.

Comprehensive January 2015 Calendar of Events

Wednesday, January 7, 7:30 pm	UMS Performance: <i>Helen & Edgar</i> Arthur Miller Theatre, \$
Wednesday, January 27 Post-Performance	Opening Night Q&A: <i>Helen & Edgar</i> Arthur Miller Theater, Free with Ticket
Thursday, January 8, 7:30 pm	UMS Performance: <i>Helen & Edgar</i> Arthur Miller Theatre, \$
Friday, January 9, 8 pm	UMS Performance: <i>Helen & Edgar</i> Arthur Miller Theatre, \$

Saturday, January 10, 2 pm	UMS Performance: <i>Helen & Edgar</i> Arthur Miller Theatre, \$
Saturday, January 10, 8 pm	UMS Performance: <i>Helen & Edgar</i> Arthur Miller Theatre, \$
Sunday, January 11, 2 pm	UMS Performance: <i>Helen & Edgar</i> Arthur Miller Theatre, \$
Sunday, January 11, 6 pm	UMS Performance: <i>Helen & Edgar</i> Arthur Miller Theatre, \$
Saturday, January 17, 7:30 pm	Tune in with UMS: eighth blackbird Rackham Auditorium , 3 rd Floor, Free with Ticket
Saturday, January 17, 8 pm	UMS Performance: eighth blackbird Rackham Auditorium, \$
Saturday, January 17 Post-Performance	Post-Performance Q&A: eighth blackbird Rackham Auditorium, Free with Ticket
Sunday, January 18, 7 pm	NT Live Screening: JOHN Michigan Theater, \$
Friday, January 23, 8 pm	Compagnie Marie Chouinard Power Center, \$
Friday, January 23 Post-Performance	Post-Performance Q&A: Compagnie Marie Chouinard Power Center, Free with Ticket
Saturday, January 24, 8 pm	Mariinsky Orchestra Hill Auditorium, \$
Sunday, January 25, 3 pm	Mariinsky Orchestra Hill Auditorium, \$
Sunday, January 25, 5 pm	Ford Honors Gala Michigan League, \$
Saturday, January 31, 5:30 pm	Pre-Show Dawn of Midi Event Eat, Explore, Enjoy: Eastern Market Experience Signal Return, Eastern Market - Detroit, \$
Saturday, January 31, 9 pm	Dawn of Midi: <i>Dysnomia</i> Trinosophes, Eastern Market - Detroit, \$

--30--