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UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES OCTOBER 2014 EVENTS

ANN ARBOR, MI (August 7, 2014) — The **University Musical Society (UMS)** continues its 2014-2015 season in October with six must-see performances. The month opens with *Kiss & Cry*, a stage work by Belgian dance company **Charleroi Danses**, in the Power Center Friday-Sunday, October 10-12. Two sets of hands serve as the main characters of this narrative, colliding and intertwining in a series of “nano-dances” amidst a delicate, miniature set. The action is filmed live and projected onto a large cinema screen to tell a touching story of love and loss.

The month continues with Grammy Award winning jazz and soul vocalist **Gregory Porter**, making his UMS debut in the Michigan Theater on Wednesday, October 15. The following night, Thursday, October 16, mandolin virtuoso **Chris Thile** (of Punch Brothers) and bassist **Edgar Meyer** will present a diverse program of largely original music at the Michigan Theater. While this is not a debut performance for either of these MacArthur Fellows, it will be their first performance together on the UMS stage. On Saturday, October 18 in Rackham Auditorium, the acclaimed **Belcea Quartet** will perform a program of Mozart, Berg, and Brahms.

In the second theater performance of the month, Paris’s **Théâtre de la Ville** performs Luigi Pirandello’s absurdist classic, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, in the Power Center Friday-Saturday, October 24-25. Visual and sound artist **Ryoji Ikeda** explores the world of micro-data using a rich sonic soundscape, synchronized content feeds on twin cinema screens, and human performers to execute the data streams in real-time with his production *superposition*, on Friday, October 31 and Saturday, November 1 in the Power Center..

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

KISS & CRY

Charleroi Danses, Belgium

Michèle Anne de Mey and Jaco Van Dormael, creators

Friday, October 10, 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 11, 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 12, 2 p.m.

Power Center (121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor)

Tickets start at \$26

Supported by: **David and Phyllis Herzig**, and by the **Renegade Ventures Fund**, established by **Maxine and Stuart Frankel**

Hosted by: **Susan and Richard Gutow Renegade Ventures Fund**

Funded in part by: the **Herbert S. and Carol L. Amster Fund** in memory of Herb Amster and from the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment**

Media Partner: **WDET 101.9 FM**

A poetic piece that blurs artistic disciplines, *Kiss & Cry* brings together a diverse group of Belgian artists to create a sweeping, romantic work that explores the question “Where do people go when they disappear from our life, from our memory?” This is the question haunting a woman as she waits alone on the platform of a train station. She thinks of the men she’s loved and lost, vanished in the haze of existence. Hands visually portray the main characters with a beautifully engaging sensual presence, moving around miniature sets with absolute precision while a camera crew projects the finger ballet, or “nano-dance,” on a large screen. In this blend of film, dance, text, and theater, the audience witnesses a film screened and simultaneously made in front of their eyes. A unique event told with tender and poignant eloquence, *Kiss & Cry* is an unforgettable experience.

Related Events:

Tune In: *Kiss & Cry*

Tune in with UMS for a brief pre-performance talk before select Renegade series performances, including this *Kiss & Cry* performance. 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. Location and speaker to be announced.

Getting to know *Kiss & Cry*: 5 Fast Facts

1. Created by power couple Michèle Anne de Mey (an Associate Artist at Charleroi Danes) and Jaco Van Dormael (a film writer/director, best known for *Mr. Nobody* starring Diane Kruger and Jared Leto).
2. To date, *Kiss & Cry* has been performed in cities worldwide including Athens, London, Boston, and Seoul, and has been translated into eight languages.
3. The piece has a different resonance wherever it plays—audiences in Chile saw the main character’s lost lovers as a metaphor for those who disappeared with Pinochet.
4. The five love stories in *Kiss & Cry* are represented by the five fingers on a hand.
5. *Kiss & Cry* is an ambitious show created and supported by a group of artists who blur the boundaries between artistic disciplines—including nano-choreographies, theatre, and film—to create a different and unique work every day.

Artist Info: <http://www.charleroi-danes.be/>

Great Video Asset: A short contextual video with interviews by Gregory Grosjean (dancer) and Jaco Van Dormael (co-creator): <http://bit.ly/1jRPvVB>

Previous UMS appearances: This is Charleroi Danes’ UMS debut.

GREGORY PORTER

Wednesday, October 15, 7:30 p.m.

Michigan Theater (603 East Liberty Street, Ann Arbor)

Gregory Porter, vocals
Chip Crawford, piano
Yosuke Sato, saxophones
Aaron James, bass
Emanuel Harrold, drums

Tickets start at \$20

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

Funded in part by: **JazzNet Endowment Fund**
Media Partner: **WEMU 89.1 FM**

At the start of 2010, the buzz about Los Angeles-born, Brooklyn-based jazz and soul vocalist Gregory Porter was a strong, steady murmur, fueled by a growing crowd of fans. When Wynton Marsalis selected the then-unknown singer to perform a residency with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, people took notice. Now, just a few years later, NPR Music has hailed him as “the next great male jazz singer.” A disarmingly sincere performer, the Blue Note recording artist is that rare jazz vocalist with true star power, combining the big heart of a gospel shouter with the honeyed tone of a crooner. His album *Liquid Spirit*, which has gospel, blues, and R&B influences, was recently awarded the 2014 Grammy Award for “Best Vocal Jazz Album.”

Getting to know Gregory Porter: 6 Fast Facts

1. Porter won the 2014 Grammy Award for Best Vocal Jazz Album for his album *Liquid Spirit*.
2. Attended San Diego State University with a full-ride football scholarship, but seriously injured his shoulder during his first semester and was unable to play.
3. He began performing in local jazz clubs after his football injury, where he met pianist Kamau Kenyatta, who became his mentor.
4. Porter always wears a modified flat cap for public appearances, which he calls his “jazz hat.”
5. On his first album, *Water*, the song “1960 What?” looks back at the devastation of the Detroit Riots. Porter shot the video for the song in Detroit. Watch: <http://bit.ly/1mx1yu>
6. Performed on Broadway as an original cast member of the musical revue *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*.

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

Great Video Asset: Gregory Porter discusses his album *Liquid Spirit*
<http://bit.ly/UmYrgs>

Previous UMS appearances: This is Gregory Porter’s UMS debut.

AN EVENING WITH CHRIS THILE AND EDGAR MEYER

Thursday, October 16, 8 p.m.

Michigan Theater (603 East Liberty Street, Ann Arbor)

Tickets start at \$24

Supported by: **Gil Omenn and Martha Darling**

Funded in part by: **Herbert and Doris Sloan Endowment Fund**

Media Partners: **Ann Arbor’s 107one FM, WEMU 89.1 FM**

Bassist Edgar Meyer and mandolin virtuoso Chris Thile (of Punch Brothers) began performing together about a decade ago, a relationship built on mutual admiration and respect. Meyer has been called “the most remarkable virtuoso in the relatively unchronicled history of his instrument” (*New Yorker*), while Thile has taken the mandolin from its origins as a folk and bluegrass instrument and placed it beautifully in the world of jazz improvisation and classical performance. The two MacArthur Fellows have collaborated on several critically acclaimed projects, including the Grammy-winning *Goat Rodeo Sessions*, a 2008 recording of original compositions, and more recently, Chris Thile’s 2013 solo recording of Bach sonatas and partitas. Meyer and Thile present a diverse program of largely original music that will coincide with a new release on Nonesuch Records.

Getting to know Chris Thile & Edgar Meyer: 4 Fast Facts

1. Chris Thile is also a mandolinist/singer for the progressive acoustic trio Nickel Creek and the acoustic folk/progressive bluegrass quintet Punch Brothers.
2. Both musicians have been awarded the MacArthur “Genius Grant.” Meyer earned his in 2002 and Thile in 2012.
3. On Meyer’s self-titled 2006 album, he performs pieces that he wrote and performed on the piano, double bass, guitar, banjo, viola da gamba, mandolin, and dobro, in various combinations achieved through overdubbing and multi-track recording.
4. The pair’s most recent collaboration was on the 2011 album *Goat Rodeo Sessions*, which they recorded with cellist Yo-Yo Ma and fiddler Stuart Duncan.

Artist Info:

<http://edgarmeyer.com/http://www.nonesuch.com/artists/chris-thile>

Great Video Asset: Chris Thile and Edgar Meyer performing together at the University of Central Arkansas
<http://bit.ly/1p7PHGk>

Previous UMS Appearances: This is Edgar Meyer’s fourth appearance and Chris Thile’s third appearance on the UMS stage. Chris Thile made his UMS debut in October 2009 with Punch Brothers and most recently appeared in a Bach program in 2013. Edgar Meyer made his UMS debut in 1995 with Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and most recently appeared with the same ensemble in 1998.

BELCEA QUARTET

Saturday, October 18, 8 p.m.

Rackham Auditorium (915 East Washington Street, Ann Arbor)

Program:

Mozart Quartet in F Major, K. 590
Berg Lyric Suite
Brahms Quartet No. 1 in c minor, Op. 51

Tickets start at \$24

Hosted by: **Linda Samuelson and Joel Howell**
Media Partners: **WGTE 91.3 FM**

Founded at the Royal College of Music in London 20 years ago, the Belcea Quartet is based in Great Britain but comprises diverse cultural backgrounds (French, Romanian, Polish) that contribute to their dynamic and free interpretive style. Their diverse influences are reflected in repertoire that pairs contemporary works with the Quartet's profound connection to the great repertoire of the Classical and Romantic periods.

Getting to know the Belcea Quartet: 4 Fast Facts

1. Although the quartet is based in Great Britain, the musicians hail from Romania, Poland, and France.
2. The quartet was founded by violinist Corina Belcea at the Royal College of Music in 1994.
3. The Belcea Quartet won the Gramophone Award for best debut recording in 2001.
4. The Belcea Quartet recently formed a new Trust that aims to support and inspire young string quartets through a series of intensive coaching sessions and to support commissioning of new works from today's leading composers.

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

Great Video Asset: The Belcea Quartet discuss their roles as a string quartet
<http://bit.ly/1pw3wNs>

Previous UMS appearances: This is the Belcea Quartet's third performance with UMS. They had their UMS debut in 2006 and most recently appeared in 2012.

THÉÂTRE DE LA VILLE

PIRANDELLO'S SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR

Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota, director

Friday, October 24, 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 25, 8 p.m.

Power Center (121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor)

Tickets start at \$26

Supported by: **Frank Legacki and Alicia Torres**

Funded in part by: **Wallace Endowment Fund** and the **National Endowment for the Arts**

Media Partner: **WDET 101.9 FM**

Luigi Pirandello won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1934 for his “bold and brilliant renovation of drama and the stage.” His *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, which dates from 1921, is an absurdist meta-theatrical play about the relationship between authors and their characters. A dysfunctional family of six bursts into a rehearsal of another Pirandello play with a curious claim: they are characters who have been abandoned by their author and are seeking someone to complete their story. The theater manager is intrigued and agrees to help, but becomes vexed by the interplay of the real actors with the unrealized characters, whose literary limbo causes fiction and reality to overlap. The production is directed by Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota and performed by Théâtre de la Ville, which gave an outstanding performance of Ionesco’s *Rhinocéros* two seasons ago.

Performance note: Contains adult situations. In French with English supertitles.

Getting to know *Six Characters in Search of an Author*: 5 Fast Facts

1. Luigi Pirandello, the playwright of *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, won the 1934 Nobel Prize in Literature for his “bold and brilliant renovation of drama.” He is one of 20 playwrights in the Nobel Prize’s 113-year history to receive the honor.
2. Pirandello claimed that he was “apolitical,” but he had a complex and contradictory relationship with the rising Fascist powers in Italy in the later years of his life and he was frequently under surveillance.
3. The play has inspired an episode of *The Twilight Zone*, an episode of *King of the Hill*, a song by The Magnetic Fields, a phase of *The Simpsons* Game, and a sitcom starring Ed Asner.
4. The play had its American premiere on Broadway in 1922, and was performed off-Broadway for over a year beginning in 1963.
5. U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance student Flores Komatsu spent five weeks this summer interning with Théâtre de la Ville.

Previous UMS appearances: This marks Théâtre de la Ville’s second appearance with UMS after their 2012 debut (Ionesco’s *Rhinocéros*).

***superposition* | RYOJI IKEDA**

Friday, October 31, 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 1, 8 p.m.

Power Center (121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor)

Tickets start at \$22

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

Funded in part by: **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund, The Japan Foundation** through the *Performing Arts JAPAN* program

Media Partner: **WDET 101.9 FM**

superposition explores the world of micro-data using a rich sonic soundscape, synchronized content feeds on twin cinema screens, and human performers to execute the data streams in real-time. The performance is theatrical in nature but does not adhere to a traditional narrative and is experienced as a concert of electronic sound sculptures with stunning coordinated visuals. This work is inspired by mathematics, quantum mechanics, micro-data, and the promising realities found in the grey space between 0 and 1, true and false. In *superposition*, Ikeda poetically harnesses the simplest elements of all data and explodes them outward into the infinite potential of science and art.

Related Events:

Tune In: *superposition*

Friday, October 31, 7:30 pm

Location TBA

Tune In with UMS for a brief pre-performance talk before select Renegade series performances, including the October 31 *superposition* performance. 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. Location and speaker to be announced.

Penny Stamps Distinguished Visitors Series: Ryoji Ikeda

Thursday, October 30, 5:10 pm

Michigan Theater

Established with the generous support of alumna Penny W. Stamps, the Speaker Series brings Ryoji Ikeda to the Michigan Theater to conduct a public lecture and engage with students, faculty, and the larger University and Ann Arbor communities.

Saturday Morning Physics: *superposition*

Saturday, November 1, 10:30 am

Location TBA

UMS and the University of Michigan Department of Physics will explore the properties of superposition through a special edition of the University of Michigan's popular, public Saturday Morning Physics lecture series. Designed for general audiences, Saturday Morning Physics lectures are an opportunity to hear physicists discuss their work in easy-to-understand, non-technical terms.

Getting to know *superposition*: 4 Fast Facts

1. Ikeda won the 2014 Prix Ars Electronica Collide@CERN Artists Residency Prize. The aim of the prize is to take digital creativity to new dimensions by colliding the minds of scientists with the imaginations of artists, in order to accelerate innovation across culture in the 21st century.
2. *superposition* is Ikeda's first production that uses live performers.
3. Ikeda's work explores his longtime obsession with mathematics
4. The word "superposition" can be defined as the combination of two or more physical states that form a new physical state in accordance with this principal. It is a fundamental principal of quantum mechanics.

Artist Info: <http://www.ryojiikeda.com/project/superposition/>

Great Video Assets: a preview of *superposition* <http://vimeo.com/49873167>

Previous UMS appearances: This is Ryoji Ikeda's UMS debut.

Comprehensive October 2014 Calendar of Events

Friday, October 10, 7:30 pm	Tune In: <i>Kiss & Cry</i> Location TBA, Free with Ticket
Friday, October 10, 8 pm	UMS Performance: <i>Kiss & Cry</i> Power Center, \$
Saturday, October 11, 8 pm	UMS Performance: <i>Kiss & Cry</i> Power Center, \$
Sunday, October 13, 2 pm	UMS Performance: <i>Kiss & Cry</i> Power Center, \$
Wednesday, October 15, 7:30 pm	UMS Performance: Gregory Porter Michigan Theater, \$
Thursday, October 16, 8 pm	UMS Performance: Chris Thile and Edgar Meyer Michigan Theater, \$
Saturday, October 18, 8 pm	UMS Performance: Belcea Quartet Rackham Auditorium, \$
Friday, October 24, 8 pm	UMS Performance: Théâtre de la Ville: <i>Pirandello's Six Characters in Search of an Author</i> Power Center, \$
Friday, October 24, Post-Performance	Post-Performance Q&A: Théâtre de la Ville: <i>Pirandello's Six Characters in Search of an Author</i> Power Center, Free with Ticket

- Saturday, October 25, 8 pm **UMS Performance: Théâtre de la Ville: Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author***
Power Center, \$
- Thursday, October 30, 5:10 pm **Penny Stamps Distinguished Visitors Series: Ryoji Ikeda**
Michigan Theater, Free
- Friday, October 31, 7:30 **Tune In: *superposition***
Location TBA, Free with Ticket
- Friday, October 31, 8 pm **UMS Performance: *superposition* | Ryoji Ikeda**
Power Center, \$
- Saturday, November 1, 10:30 am **Saturday Morning Physics: *superposition***
Location TBA, Free
- Saturday, November 1, 8 pm **UMS Performance: *superposition* | Ryoji Ikeda**
Power Center, \$