

## UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES NOVEMBER 2014 EVENTS

ANN ARBOR, MI (September 19, 2014) — The **University Musical Society (UMS)** continues its 2014-2015 season in November with eight must-see performances. The month opens with *superposition*, a stage work by Japan's leading contemporary artist **Ryoji Ikeda** on Friday, October 31 and Saturday, November 1 in the Power Center; *superposition* explores the world of micro-data using a rich sonic soundscape, synchronized content feeds on twin cinema screens, and human performers who execute real-time data streams.

Also on Saturday, November 1, UMS presents *The Big Squeeze: An Accordion Festival* in Hill Auditorium, a celebratory performance that showcases the accordion and its relatives, including the **Accordion Virtuosi of Russia**, an orchestra of accordion players; Russian bayan phenom **Alexander Sevastian**; **Julien Labro** on bandoneón and accordina **with the Spektral Quartet**; and the Irish Duo of **John Williams** on button accordion and concertina and **Liz Carroll** on fiddle.

The month continues with a performance by **Apollo's Fire & Apollo's Singers**, performing Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 in St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on Thursday, November 6. **Quatuor Ébène** will perform in Rackham Auditorium on Sunday, November 9; known for their spontaneous spirit and their exploration of the concept of "the quartet," Quatuor Ébène deftly shifts gears from classical to jazz to pop within any given performance.

The following week, the **San Francisco Symphony** returns to Hill Auditorium for two different programs. On Thursday, November 13, they perform Mahler's Symphony No. 7, a work that has never been performed at a UMS concert. The next night they perform a program of Liszt, Prokofiev, and Ravel with violin soloist Gil Shaham.

On Saturday, November 15, the acclaimed jazz pianist **Bob James** will perform a UMS debut in Hill Auditorium on the heels of his October 30<sup>th</sup> indoctrination to the University School of Music, Theatre, and Dance Hall of

Fame. A U-M alum who lives in Traverse City, Bob James serves as an incredible example of Michigan's rich cultural legacy.

Hawaiian ukulele wizard **Jake Shimabukuro** makes his first UMS performance in Hill Auditorium on Wednesday, November 19. Shimabukuro made history when his ukulele rendition of George Harrison's "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" became one of YouTube's first viral videos; since then, he has taken the world by storm with music that combines elements of jazz, blues, funk, rock, bluegrass, classical, swing, and flamenco.

Closing out the month, pianist **Yuja Wang** and violinist **Leonidas Kavakos** perform a program of Brahms, Schumann, Stravinsky, and Respighi in a joint recital in Hill Auditorium on Sunday, November 23.

## Tickets to All Events on Sale Now

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### How to Order:

- [www.ums.org](http://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

### ***superposition* | RYOJI IKEDA**

**Friday, October 31, 8 p.m.**

**Saturday, November 1, 8 p.m.**

**Power Center** (121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor)

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

Funded in part by: **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund** and **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:

**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.

**Tune In: *superposition***

**Friday, October 31, 7:30 pm**

**Michigan League Henderson Room (911 N. University Ave.)**

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. Hosted by Shannon Fitzsimons, UMS Campus Engagement Specialist and dramaturg and Justin Joque, U-M Visualization Librarian.

**Saturday Morning Physics: *superposition***

**Saturday, November 1, 10:30 am**

**Power Center**

UMS and the U-M 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 principle of quantum mechanics.

## **THE BIG SQUEEZE: AN ACCORDION FESTIVAL**

*featuring*

### **Accordion Virtuosi of Russia**

Yuri Smirnov, artistic director and conductor

**Julien Labro** (bandoneón and accordina) with the **Spektral Quartet**

**Alexander Sevastian** (bayan)

**Irish Duo: John Williams** (button accordion and concertina) and **Liz Carroll** (fiddle)

**Saturday, November 1, 8 p.m.**

**Hill Auditorium** (825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor)

Supported by: **Paul and Anne Glendon**

Media Partner: **WEMU 89.1 FM**

The accordion takes center stage with this orchestra of accordions of all sizes, performing popular Russian classical music arrangements alongside popular works from American jazz and folk songs. Founded in 1943 by Pavel Smirnov during the siege of Leningrad, the Accordion Virtuosi of Russia continue to astound audiences around the world. Now led by the third generation of the Smirnov family, the Accordion Virtuosi will be joined by special guest artists Julien Labro with the Spektral Quartet, Alexander Sevastian, and the Irish Duo, John Williams and Liz Carroll.

### **Getting to know the accordion: 5 Fast Facts**

1. The accordion is originally from Germany, invented in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to be used in churches that could not afford an organ.
2. The accordion comes from the German word “akkord,” which means “agreement or harmony.”
3. The accordion is played all over the world, in Europe (notably in Poland, Germany, Italy) as well as Brazil, Colombia, Mexico.
4. In the U.S., the accordion appeared regularly in popular music from the 1900s-1960s; this half century is often called “Golden Age of Accordion.”
5. Vaudeville also served to popularize the instrument in the U.S. While most Vaudeville theaters closed during the Great Depression, the accordion lived on. Texan accordion player Tony De La Rosa wanted to experiment with ways to reach a larger audience in the 1950s; he created a new sound that is the distinctly “Tex Mex” dance music sound we know today.

#### **Artist Info:**

Accordion Virtosi of Russia: <http://bit.ly/1tlvVlv>

Julien Labro: <http://julienlabro.com/>

Alexnder Sevastian: <http://www.accordions.com/sevastian/>

**Video asset:** Julien Labro talks to the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y about the accordion [2:01]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Klf3HC4AKVo>

**Previous UMS appearances:** This is UMS debut performance for all artists on the Accordion Summit program, save for Julien Labro who appeared as part of the Hot Club of Detroit performance in October 2010.

## **APOLLO'S FIRE & APOLLO'S SINGERS**

### **MONTEVERDI'S VESPERS OF 1610**

**Thursday, November 6, 7:30 p.m.**

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church** (2250 East Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor)

Jeannette Sorrell, conductor  
Oliver Mercer, tenor  
Karim Sulayman, tenor  
Molly Quinn, soprano  
Nell Snaidas, soprano  
Kristin Dbenion-Smith, mezzo-soprano  
Jesse Blumberg, baritone  
Jonathan Woody, bass

Supported by: **Renegade Ventures Fund, established by Maxine and Stuart Frankel**  
Residency activities supported by the **Wallis Cherniak Klein Endowment for Student Experiences**

The structure and counterpoint of the West. The exotic flamboyance of the East. They met in Venice in 1610, and the splendor resounded. With this choral masterpiece, Monteverdi forged a dramatic and vivid new musical style, evoking the struggle between the archaic and the revolutionary and bridging Renaissance and Baroque styles in what is considered the grandest work of religious music before Bach. Apollo's Fire brings seven vocal soloists, the renowned professional chamber choir Apollo's Singers, and an orchestra of gleaming period instruments to the intimacy of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

Related Events:

#### **Pre-Performance Tune In & Post-Performance Q&A**

**Thursday, November 6, 7 pm**

**St. Francis of Assisi Church Parish Activities Center**

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 UMS Guest Scholar Garrett Schumann.

**Artist Info:** <http://apollosfire.org/>

**Video Asset:** Apollo's Fire performs *Monteverdi Vespers*  
<http://bit.ly/1nJcsOO>

**Previous UMS appearances:** Apollo's Fire has performed twice in Hill Auditorium on the UMS Choral Union Series (2011 and 2013).

## QUATUOR ÉBÈNE

**Sunday, November 9, 4 p.m.**

**Rackham Auditorium** (915 East Washington Street, Ann Arbor)

Funded in part by: **Candis J. and Helmut F. Stern Endowment Fund, which supports an annual presentation on the UMS Chamber Arts series in perpetuity**

Media Partners: **Ann Arbor's 107one FM, WGTE 91.3 FM**

The *New York Times* called them "a string quartet that can easily morph into a jazz band," describing how they first performed Haydn and Debussy before transitioning to their own arrangement of music from the movie *Pulp Fiction*, improvising to Chick Corea, and unveiling their vocal talents as an excellent *a cappella* quartet. There is no doubt that these four French musicians have class, moving with ease and enthusiasm between different styles, always with taste and integrity. Quatuor Ébène makes its UMS debut with a program that begins with Mozart and Mendelssohn before diverging off into an unpredictable path that is sure to delight.

### Getting to know Quatuor Ébène: 3 Fast Facts

1. NPR named Ébène's "Fiction" album one of its 50 favorite albums of 2011.
2. Ébène's most popular performances have been crossover, such a rendition of the music from the score of *Pulp Fiction*, arrangements of classic Beatles hits, and a jazz vocal/instrumental arrangement of "Someday My Prince Will Come" from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.
3. The ensemble is equally accomplished in the classical repertoire, which is what makes them so exciting. Quatuor Ébène is always trying to find new ways to make the string quartet relevant in today's world.

**Artist Info:**  
<http://www.quatuorebene.com/#/en>

**Video Asset:** Quatuor Ébène: Mendelssohn "Felix & Fanny"  
<http://bit.ly/1qMh6eV>

**Previous UMS Appearances:** This Quatuor Ébène's UMS debut.

## SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

Michael Tilson Thomas, music director and conductor

Gil Shaham, violin (Friday)

UMS Choral Union (Friday)

**Thursday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.**

**Friday, November 14, 8 pm.**

**Hill Auditorium** (825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor)

Program (Thursday 11/13):

Mahler Symphony No. 7

Program (Friday 11/14):

Liszt Mephisto Waltz No.1

Prokofiev Violin Concerto No.2 in g minor, Op. 63

Ravel Daphnis and Chloé (complete)

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

Funded in part by: **Essel and Menakka Bailey Endowment Fund** and the **National Endowment for the Arts**

Media Partners: **Ann Arbor's 107one FM, WGTE 91.3 FM, WCRJ 90.9 FM**

This appearance by the San Francisco Symphony celebrates the 70th birthday of music director Michael Tilson Thomas. Violinist Gil Shaham, Musical America's 2012 "Instrumentalist of the Year," joins the orchestra for the second evening. "It's hard not to fall in love with Gil Shaham's violin playing...Generosity and warmth emanate from his tone." (*Jewish Chronicle*)

### Getting to know the San Francisco Symphony: 3 Fast Facts

1. This appearance celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of music director Michael Tilson Thomas (who shares a birthday year with Ken Fischer, President of UMS).
2. The San Francisco Symphony provides the most extensive education and community programs offered by any American orchestra.
3. Under Michael Tilson Thomas, San Francisco Symphony has won 11 Grammys (3 for Stravinsky ballet scores, 7 for Mahler cycle recordings and one for scenes from Prokofiev's *Romeo & Juliet*).

**Artist Info:** <http://www.sfsymphony.org/>

**Video Asset:** The San Francisco Symphony performs Mahler's Symphony No. 9

<http://bit.ly/1pmp8ji>

**Previous UMS appearances:** The San Francisco Symphony has appeared on 10 different UMS seasons, with a total of 13 previous performances in Hill Auditorium (first in 1980, most recently in 2013). Michael Tilson Thomas has appeared in 16 UMS concerts, including several appearances with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 1988, the New World Symphony in 1991, and the San Francisco Symphony since 1996. Violinist Gil Shaham has made three previous UMS appearances, in 1994 with the Moscow Philharmonic, in 1995 in a recital with his sister Orli, and 1998 as soloist with the Russian National Orchestra.

## BOB JAMES

**Saturday, November 15, 8 p.m.**

**Hill Auditorium** (825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor)

Funded in part by: **JazzNet Endowment Fund**

Media Partner: **Ann Arbor's 107one FM, WDET 101.9 FM, WEMU 89.1 FM**

From his early years touring with Sarah Vaughan to founding smooth jazz supergroup Fourplay, U-M alumnus Bob James has explored a vast stretch of musical territory. A leading force in 1970s crossover jazz, the keyboardist, composer, and producer played an essential role on a series of hit records and has had a profound effect on the history of hip-hop music, with two of his songs among the most sampled in hip-hop history. James's most recent album, *Quartette Humaine*, was recorded a month after Dave Brubeck's death and pays tribute to the iconic pianist. He is joined by Andy Snitzer (saxophones), Perry Hughes (guitar), Carlitos del Puerto (bass), and Harvey Mason (drums) for this long-awaited homecoming.

### Getting to know Bob James: 6 Fast Facts

1. Bob James's piano teacher at Catholic school discovered he had perfect pitch at age 7.
2. Bob James attended the University of Michigan and received his bachelor's degree from U-M in 1961 and his master's degree from U-M in 1963.
3. James was "discovered" by Quincy Jones at the Notre Dame Jazz Festival in 1963, and after a period with Sarah Vaughan (1965–1968), James became a studio musician.
4. He lives in Traverse City, MI, but sometimes escapes to Savannah, GA for winter.
5. Outside the jazz world, James is best known as the composer of the tune *Angela*, which was chosen as the theme song for the comedy television series, *Taxi*.
6. Bob James is routinely sampled for hip hop tracks, including Peter Piper by Run-DMC.

**Artist Info:** <http://www.bobjames.com/>

**Video Assets:** Interviews with Bob James about the making of *Quartette Humaine*.  
<http://bit.ly/1ky2lOp>

**Previous UMS appearances:** This is Bob James's UMS debut.



## JAKE SHIMABUKURO

Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 p.m.

Hill Auditorium (825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor)

Hosted by: Dody Viola

Media Partner: Ann Arbor's 107one FM, Michigan Radio 91.7 FM, WEMU 89.1 FM

In his young career, Hawaiian ukulele wizard Jake Shimabukuro has already redefined a heretofore under-the-radar instrument, been declared a musical "hero" by *Rolling Stone*, earned comparisons to Jimi Hendrix and Miles Davis, and even played in front of the Queen of England. Known for his lightning-fast fingers and innovative style, Shimabukuro collaborated on his latest record with legendary producer/engineer Alan Parsons, best known for his work on Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* and The Beatles' *Abbey Road*. Shimabukuro became internationally famous when his video of George Harrison's "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" was posted on YouTube without his knowledge and became one of the first viral videos on the site. In addition to traditional ukulele material, his singular approach to the instrument combines elements of jazz, blues, funk, rock, bluegrass, classical, swing, and flamenco.

### Getting to know Jake Shimabukuro: 5 Fast Facts

1. Declared a "musical hero" by *Rolling Stone*, Jake has won accolades from people from all walks of life including Eddie Vedder, Perez Hilton, Sanjay Gupta, and has even played for the Queen of England where he performed with Bette Midler, Yo-Yo Ma, Lady Gaga, and Miley Cyrus at a "Royal Variety Show."
2. Jake's 2011 album, *Peace, Love, Ukulele* debuted at #1 on the Billboard World Charts.
3. Well known in Japan and Hawaii during his early solo career in 2000s, Jake found international fame when a video of him playing George Harrison's [While My Guitar Gently Weeps](#) was posted on YouTube without his knowledge, becoming one of the site's first "viral" videos at 12 million views and counting.
4. Jake collaborated with legendary producer/engineer Alan Parsons (Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*, The Beatles' *Abbey Road*) for his 2012 follow-up album, *Grand Ukulele*. While he became known early in his career for piping his uke through a series of guitar effects (fuzz box/reverb, etc.), this album brought Jake back to the instrument's roots.
5. 2012 was a very busy year for Jake Shimabukuro. In addition to releasing *Grand Ukulele*, he and his wife Kelly had their first baby, a boy named Chase.

**Video Assets:** Jake Shimabukuro performs a ukulele cover of "Bohemian Rhapsody" on a TED Talk.

<http://bit.ly/1jSpWlx>

**Previous UMS appearances:** This is Jake Shimabukuro's UMS debut.

## YUJA WANG, PIANO

## LEONIDAS KAVAKOS, VIOLIN

**Sunday, November 23, 4 p.m.**

**Hill Auditorium** (825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor)

### Program

Brahms	Sonata No.2 in A Major, Op. 100
Schumann	Sonata No. 2 in d minor, Op. 121
Stravinsky	Suite Italienne
Reslighi	Sonata in b minor

Sponsored by: **Retirement Income Solution, Sesi Motors**

Media Partner: **WGTE 91.3 FM, WRCJ 90.9 FM**

"This was an outstanding evening: bliss from start to finish." (*The Guardian*) This joint recital brings together the 27-year-old pianist Yuja Wang, who has wowed Ann Arbor audiences with her controlled, prodigious technique and deep musical insight, with the Greek violinist Leonidas Kavakos, who makes his UMS debut. "Kavakos is a spectacular artist...Anything he wants to say on the instrument he clearly has the chops to say." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*)

### Getting to know Yuja Wang and Leonidas Kavakos: 4 Fast Facts

1. Yuja Wang studied in Beijing until 1999, then participated in an artistic/cultural exchange program between Canada and China. Graduated from Curtis Institute in Philadelphia in 2008.
2. Wang made her debut in 2005 as a teenager with the National Arts Centre Orchestra led by Pinchas Zukerman, and made her New York Philharmonic Orchestra debut in 2006.
3. Leonidas Kavakos first partnered with Yuja Wang in 2013 at the Verbier festival.
4. Leonidas Kavakos is passionate about the art of violin and bow making.

**Artist Info:** <http://www.yujawang.com/>  
<http://www.opus3artists.com/artists/leonidas-kavakos>

**Video Assets:** Yuja Wang and Leonidas Kavakos – Brahms Violin & Piano Sonata No. 3  
<http://bit.ly/1nJz68R>

**Previous UMS appearances:** Yuja Wang made her UMS debut in 2008 and returned in 2011. This will be her third UMS performance. Leonidas Kavakos makes his UMS debut.

# Comprehensive November 2014 Calendar of Events

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Thursday, October 30, 5:10 pm	<b>Penny Stamps Distinguished Visitors Series: Ryoji Ikeda</b> Michigan Theater, Free
Friday, October 31, 7:30	<b>Tune In: <i>superposition</i></b> Michigan League Henderson Room, Free with Ticket
Friday, October 31, 8 pm	<b>UMS Performance: <i>superposition</i>   Ryoji Ikeda</b> Power Center, \$
Saturday, November 1, 10:30 am	<b>Saturday Morning Physics: <i>superposition</i></b> Power Center, Free
Saturday, November 1, 8 pm	<b>UMS Performance: <i>superposition</i>   Ryoji Ikeda</b> Power Center, \$
Saturday, November 1, 8 pm	<b>UMS Performance: Accordion Summit</b> Hill Auditorium, \$
Thursday, November 6,	<b>Pre-Performance Tune In &amp; Post-Performance Q&amp;A: Apollo's Fire</b> St. Francis of Assisi Parish Activities Center, Free with Ticket
Thursday, November 6, 7:30 pm	<b>UMS Performance: Apollo's Fire</b> St. Francis of Assisi, \$
Sunday, November 9, 4 pm	<b>UMS Performance: Quatuor Ébène</b> Rackham Auditorium, \$
Thursday, November 13, 7:30 pm	<b>UMS Performance: San Francisco Symphony</b> Hill Auditorium, \$
Friday, November 14, 8 pm	<b>UMS Performance: San Francisco Symphony</b> Hill Auditorium, \$
Saturday, November 15, 8 pm	<b>UMS Performance: Bob James</b> Hill Auditorium, \$
Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 pm	<b>UMS Performance: Jake Shimabukuro</b> Hill Auditorium, \$
Sunday, November 23, 4 pm	<b>UMS Performance: Yuja Wang/Leonidas Kavakos</b> Hill Auditorium, \$