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UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY LAUNCHES “UMS REWIND,” A DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF ITS 135-YEAR HISTORY FOR SCHOLARS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AND AUDIENCES WORLD-WIDE

ANN ARBOR, MI (May 23, 2014) —The University Musical Society (UMS) proudly launches [UMS Rewind](#), a free, public digital archive of artist and repertoire information, concert program books, and other information chronicling UMS’s 135-year history. Utilizing a user-friendly interface designed by Phire Group and organized through a strong partnership with the Ann Arbor District Library, the project is as intuitive to use as it is comprehensive, putting it on par with such internationally recognized archives as the [New York Philharmonic](#), [Bach Digital](#), and Harvard University’s digitized version of its [Loeb Music Library](#). UMS Rewind is funded in part by grant from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF) and support from the University of Michigan.

CALL TO ACTION

A beta version of the archive is now open to the public at [umsrewind.org](#). As with any digital launch, user feedback is critical. UMS encourages community members to explore the site and send feedback to umstix@umich.edu. Through community input, UMS aims to continuously evolve the site, creating an invaluable resource for scholars, community members, and audiences worldwide for years to come.

“I adore UMS Rewind,” says Karen Stutz, longtime UMS supporter and volunteer. “When my husband and I were still dating, we were volunteer ushers for the 1964 UMS May Festival. It was a wonderful experience for us to search the archive together and explore the music of our early days together. Not many small Midwestern towns have the likes of Yo-Yo Ma, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and

the San Francisco Symphony gracing their local auditoriums every year. UMS Rewind really helps us show the world what Ann Arbor is all about: arts, culture, and community.”

“UMS Rewind has proven to be an incredible resource for my scholarly and journalistic work,” says Garrett Schumann, a music journalist and doctoral candidate in Music Composition at the University of Michigan. “The only danger about UMS Rewind is potentially getting swept away while uncovering the UMS commissions and world premieres that happened right here in our own backyard. UMS has co-commissioned work by giants like Lukas Foss, William Bolcom, and Osvaldo Golijov; the organization has premiered work by Michael Daugherty and Salman Rushdie. If there is ever any doubt that UMS is a cultural incubator for our region, ten minutes on UMS Rewind will make you a believer.”

UMS President Ken Fischer said, “the UMS Rewind project has been a dream of ours for quite some time, and we are hugely grateful to the Community Foundation for their support. Whether you’re interested for academic purposes in the great performances that UMS has brought to Ann Arbor or just to revisit the 1978 program book from Vladimir Horowitz’s Hill Auditorium concert, this archive documents the legacy of UMS from its inception in 1879. We’ve had the honor of working closely with the Ann Arbor District Library over the past three years to digitize many of our archival materials preserved with great care at the Bentley Historical Library. AAACF’s grant makes it possible for us to complete the project and create a user interface so that anyone anywhere can easily search for the information they want, ensuring that the project can become a true resource not just for our local community but for the world.”

UMS is an independent non-profit affiliated with the University of Michigan, presenting over 70 music, theater, and dance performances by professional touring artists each season. Entering its 136th season in September 2014, UMS has amassed a rich compilation of historical program books, photographs, and other collectibles from the many artists who have performed in Ann Arbor since 1879. The project has taken nearly four years to complete in close collaboration with Richard LeSueur, retired music

specialist with the Ann Arbor District Library. UMSRewind.org replaces the current antiquated paper-and-drawer card catalogue arrangement with an online system that brings the UMS archives into the 21st century with an accessible, interactive portal for the public to investigate Ann Arbor's vibrant cultural history.

The University Musical Society is an independent non-profit affiliated with the University of Michigan, presenting over 70 music, theater, and dance performances by professional touring artists each season. One of the oldest performing arts presenters in the country, UMS is committed to connecting audiences with performing artists from around the world in uncommon and engaging experiences. With a program steeped in music, dance, and theater, UMS contributes to a vibrant cultural community by presenting approximately 60-75 performances and over 100 free educational activities each season. UMS also commissions new work, sponsors artist residencies, and organizes collaborative projects with local, national, and international partners.

For more information, please visit **ums.org** or **umsrewind.org**.

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