



2016-17 WINTER PROGRAM BOOK

138TH SEASON // UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN | ANN ARBOR

You have a part to play.

Uncommon and engaging experiences. A sense of connection between audience and artist. Moments of clarity, inspiration, and reflection. The performing arts provide us with these elemental experiences, offering a shortcut to our creative selves.



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MICHIGAN

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Your gift will help in the following areas:

ACCESS AND INCLUSIVENESS

Helping make tickets more affordable. Helping create free educational events and community-building activities. Providing opportunities for all to experience the transformative power of the arts.

ENGAGED LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS

Integrating performing arts into the student experience. Creating meaningful connections between the arts and life. Encouraging creative thinking, collaboration, and experimentation.

BOLD ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

Commissioning work that reflects our commitment to tradition and innovation. Solidifying and elevating our position as a recognized national and international artistic leader. Unique and bold programming.

As a Leader and Best among arts presenters, UMS wants anyone and everyone, students and community alike, to experience the transformative power of the performing arts. We seek generous partners who want to help us achieve our goal.

Visit us online or call the UMS Development Office to make your gift today.

Be Present

UMS unleashes the power of the performing arts in order to engage, educate, transform, and connect individuals with uncommon experiences. The Winter 2017 season is full of exceptional, world-class, and truly inspiring performances.

Welcome to the UMS experience. We're glad you're present. Enjoy the performance.



When you attend a UMS performance,
you're part of a larger equation:

nonprofit **ARTS**
+ **CULTURE**
= **ECONOMIC**
PROSPERITY
in the greater Ann Arbor Area
\$100 million annually

Together, we invest in our local community's vibrancy.



Ann Arbor Area
Community Foundation

aaacf.org



Thank You, Ken...

Welcome to this UMS performance! We are delighted that you are joining us in our 138th season, a season that is bittersweet for the UMS staff and family; UMS President Ken Fischer will retire at the end of June, following 30 years of leadership and service to UMS, the University of Michigan, and to our community.

Ken has fostered a culture of openness, honesty, and out-of-the-box thinking at UMS — a supportive professional environment that can be measured in part by the 21-year average tenure of the UMS management team.

Beyond Ken's lasting contributions to UMS, which include an organizational commitment to Education and an increased focus on commissioning new work, Ken has had an impact that isn't always apparent outside of the organization. His dedication to mentorship and service is vast, and includes hosting weekend tours to prospective University students interested in the arts; tirelessly serving on boards of directors within the arts industry regionally, nationally, and internationally; and generously offering his time and knowledge in connecting others.

He has achieved some of the highest recognitions in our field, including the 2016 Chamber Music America Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award, the 2011 Association of Performing Arts Presenters Fan Taylor Distinguished Service Award, and UMS's recognition as a 2014 National Medal of Arts recipient. From the Vienna Philharmonic concerts led by Leonard Bernstein in 1988, to the first Royal Shakespeare Company residency in 2001, through the remounting of *Einstein on the Beach* in 2012, Ken has held true to his lifelong motto: "Everybody In, Nobody Out."

Ken, we wish you all of the best in the final few months of your tenure. Thank you for all that you've done for our community!

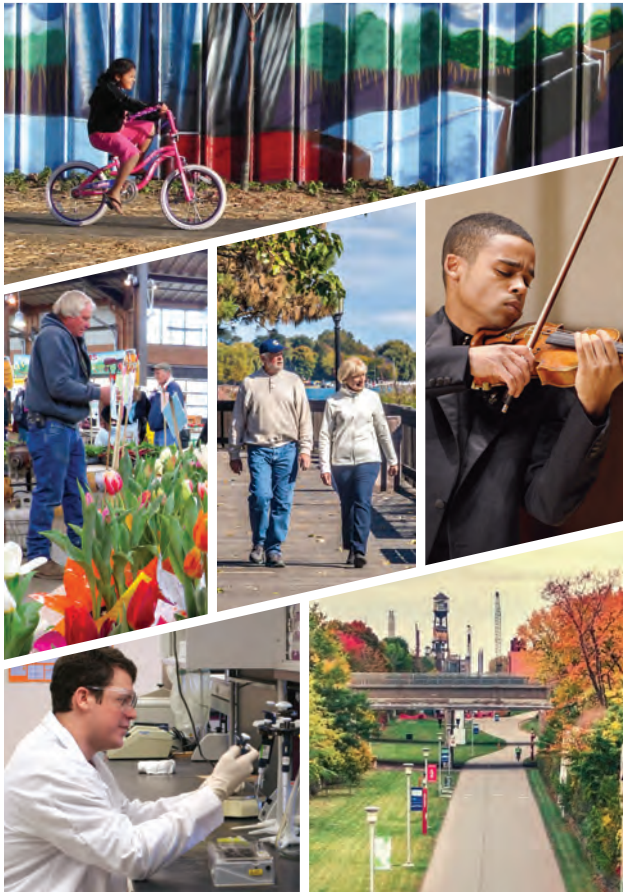
The UMS Family

Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Thanks to thousands of generous individuals, families and businesses, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is a permanent source of community capital, dedicated to creating lasting positive benefit in our region. Through grantmaking, education and leadership on community issues, we help improve the quality of life for all residents of Southeast Michigan.

cfsem.org. 1-888-WeEndow





“I have found a place where I can continue to grow and expand my horizons.”



Those who call Silver Maples home appreciate many social, educational, and entertainment opportunities - both near and far.

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Druid



Bruckner Orchester Linz
with Angélique Kidjo

Sarah Chang



Batsheva Dance Company

Snarky Puppy



Winter 2017 Season

January

- 1/7-8** Batsheva Dance Company
- 1/12-14** Igor and Moreno
Idiot-Syncrasy
- 1/15** NT Live: Harold Pinter's
No Man's Land
- 1/19** Prague Philharmonia with
Sarah Chang, violin
Andrew Von Oeyen, piano
- 1/20** Meredith Monk &
Vocal Ensemble
On Behalf of Nature
- 1/21-22** Takács Quartet
Beethoven String Quartet
Cycle, Concerts 3 & 4
- 1/22** NT Live: *The Audience*
- 1/29** Inon Barnatan, piano
Anthony McGill, clarinet
Alisa Weilerstein, cello

February

- 2/2** Bruckner Orchester Linz
with Angélique Kidjo
- 2/3** Estonian Philharmonic
Chamber Choir
- 2/5** M-Prize Winner:
Calidore String Quartet
- 2/10** Budapest Festival Orchestra
with Richard Goode, piano
- 2/18** Ping Chong + Company
*Beyond Sacred: Voices of
Muslim Identity*
- 2/19** *Jelly and George*
Aaron Diehl and
Cécile McLorin Salvant

March

- 3/4** Jazz at Lincoln Center
Orchestra with
Wynton Marsalis
- 3/9-11** Druid
*The Beauty Queen of
Leenane*
- 3/11** Beethoven's
Missa Solemnis
- 3/16** Snarky Puppy
- 3/17-18** Kidd Pivot and
Electric Company Theatre
Betroffenheit
- 3/18** Steve Reich @ 80
Music for 18 Musicians
- 3/24** Mitsuko Uchida, piano
- 3/25-26** Takács Quartet
Beethoven String Quartet
Cycle, Concerts 5 & 6
- 3/29** DakhaBrakha
- 3/30-4/1** Complicite
The Encounter

April

- 4/1** Michael Fabiano, tenor
Martin Katz, piano
- 4/12** A Far Cry with
Roomful of Teeth
- 4/15** Sanam Marvi
- 4/21** King Sunny Adé
- 4/22** Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer &
Chris Thile
- 4/25** Handel's *Ariodante*:
Opera in Concert

May

- 5/21** NT Live: Ibsen's
Hedda Gabler



Ann Arbor, we're
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Chris Ballard
Christine Phillips
Tom Forster

Not pictured:
Rick Manczak
Jack Panitch

300 North 5th Avenue ■ Suite 230 ■ Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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University Musical Society

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Education & Community Engagement

Educational experiences for everyone.



Berliner Philharmoniker principal flutist Emmanuel Pahud leads a master class at the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance; photo: Peter Smith/UMS.

At UMS, our mission goes beyond performance. We want you to create, to explore, and to experience extraordinary new things. That is why we offer a fascinating lineup of artist Q&As, conversations, workshops, and interactive experiences, each designed to bring you closer to performance and creation, and to expand your comfort zone. If you want to experience something new, different, highly engaging, and eye-opening, we invite you to participate in events inside and outside of the theater.



THE
GILMORE
2016-2017
SEASON

PRESENTING
PIANO MASTERS
& RISING STARS

BOX OFFICE
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thegilmore.org

SUPPORTING THE ARTS

As longtime patrons of the arts,
Honigman and its Ann Arbor attorneys
are proud to support UMS.

For more information, please contact David Parsigian
at 734.418.4250 or DParsigian@honigman.com.

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EDUCATION

Pre-Concert Lecture Series: Exploring Beethoven's String Quartets

Saturday, January 21 // 7 pm

Rackham Amphitheatre
915 E. Washington St.
Fourth Floor

Join Beethoven scholar and U-M professor of musicology Steven Whiting for a series of lectures in conjunction with the Takács String Quartet's complete Beethoven cycle.

Saturday, March 25 // 7 pm

Michigan League
Koessler Room
911 N. University Ave.
Third Floor

In collaboration with the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



EDUCATION

You Can Dance

Ever wonder what it's like to be a dancer? Join dancers from each company on the UMS season for beginner movement workshops exploring each of the company's movement styles. No dance training or experience necessary, and all levels, ages 13 and up, are welcome. Free, but first come, first served until studio reaches capacity. Sign-up begins at the Y 45 minutes prior to the start of class.

Educational events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Batsheva Dance Company

Saturday, January 7 // 12 noon–1:30 pm
Ann Arbor Y
400 W. Washington St.

Igor and Moreno

Saturday, January 14 // 2-3:30 pm
Ann Arbor Y
400 W. Washington St.

Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble

Saturday, January 21 // 2-3:30 pm
Ann Arbor Y
400 W. Washington St.

Kidd Pivot

Saturday, March 18 // 2-3:30 pm
Ann Arbor Y
400 W. Washington St.



WELCOME TO GRADUATE ANN ARBOR—

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your favorite place to stay.*

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ANN ARBOR

48104
M I

Tradition Builds the Future



In our 138th season, we continue to showcase traditional performances alongside contemporary artists for an offering that is unlike anything available in the Midwest. UMS grew from a group of local members of the University and townspeople in the 1870s who gathered together for the study of Handel's *Messiah*. Led by Professor Henry Simmons Frieze and conducted by Professor Calvin Cady, the group assumed the name The Choral Union. Many Choral Union members were also affiliated with the University, and the University Musical Society was established soon after in December 1880.

Since that first season, UMS has expanded greatly and now presents the very best from a wide spectrum of the performing arts: internationally renowned recitalists and orchestras, dance and chamber ensembles, jazz and global music performers, and contemporary stagework and classical theater. Through educational programming, the commissioning of new works, youth programs, artist residencies, and collaborative projects, we continue to strengthen our reputation for artistic distinction and innovation.

Leadership Donors

We recognize the donors who have made multi-year campaign commitments of \$100,000 or more during the last year.



**BERTRAM ASKWITH (1911-2015)
PATTI ASKWITH KENNER**

“The arts made a significant difference in my father’s life and in my life, too. My father wanted every U-M student to have the opportunity to experience the impact of the performing arts at UMS. This is why I am continuing to offer every first- and second-year student one free ticket — Bert’s Ticket — to introduce them to a cultural experience at Michigan and keep my father’s passion for the arts alive.”



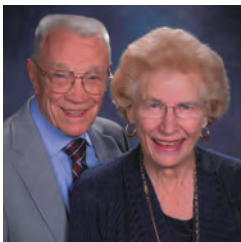
MAURICE AND LINDA BINKOW

“Our love of opera and the human voice, rivaled only by our affection for the Brooklyn Dodgers and Jackie Robinson, began nearly 70 years ago as teenagers in New York City. That’s why we are so pleased to create an endowment that will bring song recitals to UMS audiences for generations to come.”



STEVE AND ROS FORREST

“As students, we benefited from low-cost student tickets, fostering a lifelong love of the performing arts. Our donation will help to ensure that affordable tickets will be available to today’s students.”



ILENE FORSYTH AND KARL HAUSER

“An endowment is a gift which keeps on giving forever, so it is rewarding to know — while we are yet living — that our gift will still be giving when we’re not here.”



MAXINE AND STUART FRANKEL

“We are delighted to partner with UMS for the sixth year of Renegade. Supporting Renegade programming allows UMS to provide experiences for the curious, adventurous, and experimental audience member — allowing us to challenge our existing beliefs and push our own boundaries.”



EUGENE AND EMILY GRANT

“We are proud to support UMS and the many programs they offer University students. It is great to know that students will have access to the greatest performing artists from around the world. The arts are an important part of a Michigan education.”



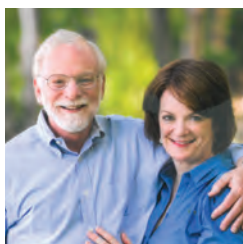
DAVID LEICHTMAN AND LAURA MCGINN

“UMS is an inspiration — from the Big House of the Arts to the master classes taught to University students. This organization contributes significantly to the culture of Ann Arbor and to the University we love. We are pleased to support its mission.”



STUART AND LINDA NELSON

“Our connection to the University of Michigan is through our grandson’s incredible experience as a student. We are dazzled by the array of cultural events available to everyone on campus and beyond. At the heart of this phenomenon is UMS, where Ken Fischer’s legacy will continue its magic long after his retirement. We feel privileged to participate in the UMS Endowment Fund in his honor.”



MAX WICHA AND SHEILA CROWLEY

“We are delighted and proud to support UMS and the rich, diverse programs they offer each season. The arts play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life in our community, while bringing beauty and meaning to everyday life. UMS is a gem we treasure and will continue to do so, for many years to come.”

Corporate Champions

We thank the following businesses for their commitments of \$5,000 or more for the 2016–17 season.



ALICIA M. TORRES

Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Altarum Institute

“The arts stimulate the mind and inspire creativity. Hence, we at Altarum are thrilled to support UMS and provide inspiring and enjoyable cultural opportunities for our team and our community. Altarum Institute serves the public good by solving complex systems problems to improve human health through objective research, technology, analysis, and consulting leadership skills.”



SCOTT DAWSON

Vice President of Engineering, Arbor Networks

“Ann Arbor is a thriving hub for both the arts and technology. With the arts playing such a critical role fostering innovation and creativity, we are delighted to support UMS this season.”



TIMOTHY G. MARSHALL

President and CEO, Bank of Ann Arbor

“We take seriously our role as a community bank. While there have been sizable cuts in arts funding over the years by both the private and public sectors, Bank of Ann Arbor is delighted to continue to sponsor UMS year after year. We are firm believers that the arts are vital to the vibrancy of our cities, both culturally and economically.”



ALMAZ LESSANEWORK

Owner, Blue Nile Restaurant

“At the Blue Nile, we believe in giving back to the community that sustains our business. We are proud to support an organization that provides such an important service to Ann Arbor.”





LARRY BRYANT

Ann Arbor Region President, Comerica Bank

“As a company with a long-standing commitment to diversity and our community, Comerica is proud to continue its support of UMS. We salute UMS on its efforts to enrich our community by showcasing the talents of performing artists from around the world. Congratulations to the leader and best in the performing arts.”



CHRIS CONLIN

President, Conlin Travel, Inc.

“Conlin Travel has been a proud supporter of UMS for over 50 years. I will never forget attending one of my first UMS concerts in 1975, listening to Vladimir Horowitz perform Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Schumann, and others. UMS makes Ann Arbor the most vibrant cultural community in Michigan today.”



FAYE ALEXANDER NELSON

President, DTE Energy Foundation

“The DTE Energy Foundation is pleased to support exemplary organizations like UMS that inspire the soul, instruct the mind, and enrich the community.”



NANCY AND RANDALL FABER

Founders, Faber Piano Institute

“We are proud to support UMS in its tradition of program excellence and outreach that enriches our thoughts, our families, and our community.”



JAMES G. VELLA

President, Ford Motor Company Fund

“Experiencing the world through music and the arts makes us better as individuals while bringing us together as a community. We are proud to support UMS and the important role it plays in enriching our lives.”



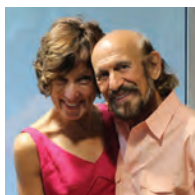
Ford Motor Company Fund



DAVID N. PARSIGIAN

Ann Arbor Office Managing Partner, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP

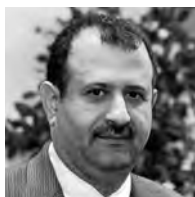
“In our firm’s tradition of supporting major cultural institutions, Honigman has been a long-time supporter of UMS. Our Ann Arbor office is proud to carry on that tradition on behalf of all of our attorneys, especially those who work and live in the Ann Arbor area. We all view the exceptional cultural experiences that UMS provides as key to the success of our community and our firm.”



JOHN AND JACKIE FARAH

Owners, Imagine Fitness & Yoga

“My wife Jackie and I share a deep devotion to our hometown of Ann Arbor and all the opportunities it presents. UMS is a huge part of this community. The programming that UMS offers is internationally recognized and Ann Arbor would not be the same without it. Imagine Fitness & Yoga is honored to support such a great organization and community.”



MOHAMAD ISSA

Director, Issa Foundation

“The Issa Foundation is sponsored by the Issa family, which has been established in Ann Arbor for the last 30 years, and is involved in local property management as well as area public schools. The Issa Foundation is devoted to the sharing and acceptance of culture in an effort to change stereotypes and promote peace. UMS has done an outstanding job bringing diverse and talented performers to Ann Arbor.”

ISSA FOUNDATION



ROBIN WEBER POLLAK

President, Journeys International

“Journeys International and UMS have a lot in common: we both provide opportunities for powerful and impactful experiences. Founded and based in Ann Arbor, Journeys has been crafting life-changing international travel adventures for nearly four decades. We are thrilled to support UMS and its programs that change people through the performing arts.”



JAMES HOFFMAN

Michigan Market President, KeyBank

“KeyBank remains a committed supporter of the performing arts in Ann Arbor and we commend UMS for bringing another season of great performances to the community. Thank you, UMS, for continuing the tradition.”





MICHAEL CONLIN

Director of Business Development, Level X Talent

“Level X Talent enjoys supporting UMS and its ongoing success bringing world-class artistic talent to the community. Please join us in congratulating UMS. As with the arts, consistently finding and attracting exceptional talent in Advanced Technology can be difficult. Level X Talent partners with our clients to meet that challenge.”

LEVEL X TALENT

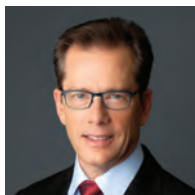


DENNIS SERRAS

Owner, Mainstreet Ventures, Inc.

“As restaurant and catering service owners, we consider ourselves fortunate that our business provides so many opportunities for supporting UMS and its continuing success in bringing internationally acclaimed talent to the Ann Arbor community.”

MAIN STREET
— DELICIES —
DISTINGUISHED CATERING



KEITH ALLMAN

President and Chief Executive Officer, Masco

“Masco is proud to support UMS and salutes its commitment to providing excellent and diverse programs that spark a lifelong passion for creativity. Thank you, UMS, for allowing all of us to experience the transformative power of the performing arts!”

MASCO



THOMAS B. MCMULLEN

President and CEO, McMullen Properties

“A Michigan–Ohio State football ticket is still the best ticket in all of sport. However, a UMS ticket always provides the best in educational and artistic entertainment.”

MCMULLEN
PROPERTIES
FOUR GENERATIONS IN ANN ARBOR REAL ESTATE



STEVE ARWOOD

CEO, Michigan Economic Development Corporation

“We are proud to support UMS, an outstanding organization bringing world-class artists to Michigan. By partnering with UMS to bring the Berlin Philharmonic to our state, we are showing once again the wide variety of offerings Michigan has that enhance our quality of life and help to make our state an amazing place to live, work, and do business.”

M E D C
MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PURE MICHIGAN



STEPHEN G. PALMS

Principal, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C.

“Miller Canfield proudly supports UMS for enhancing our quality of life by bringing the unfiltered immediacy of live performing arts to our community.”



TODD CLARK

Regional President, Old National Bank

“At Old National Bank, we’re committed to community partnership. That’s why, last year alone, we funded over \$5 million in grants and sponsorships and our associates donated almost 100,000 volunteer hours. It’s also the reason we’re pleased to once again support UMS as a corporate sponsor for the 2016–17 season.”



RICHARD L. DEVORE

Detroit and Southeast Michigan Regional President, PNC Bank

“PNC Bank is proud to support the efforts of UMS and the Ann Arbor community.”



TODD KEPHART

Managing Partner, Retirement Income Solutions

“With strong roots in the community for more than 30 years, our team of investment advisors is proud to support UMS. We salute Ken Fischer on his marvelous stewardship and applaud his team’s ongoing commitment to presenting authentic, world-renowned artists to the Ann Arbor community.”



SAVA LELCAJ

Chief Executive Officer, Savco: Hospitality

“One of Ann Arbor’s greatest assets is UMS, which brings amazing, best-in-class performances to our city season after season. Savco Hospitality is honored to support UMS and its mission of engaging, educating, transforming, and connecting the arts to our community.”





JOE SESI

President, Sesi Lincoln Volvo Mazda

“UMS is an important cultural asset for our community. The Sesi Lincoln Volvo Mazda team is delighted to sponsor such a fine organization.”



JOHN FITZPATRICK

President, StoryPoint

“At StoryPoint we strive to inspire and enable seniors to shine every day. Our mission to create the absolute best experiences does not end within our buildings; we aim to enrich the communities we serve. Music is a language that every person — young and old — understands and enjoys. We are proud to support UMS, who inspires our community through artistic expression and talented performers.”

STORYPOINT
Shine. Everyday.



JOHN W. STOUT

President, Stout Systems

“Supporting UMS is really a labor of love — love of music and the performing arts and love of arts advocacy and education. Everyone at Stout Systems knows we cannot truly be successful without helping to make our community a better place. It is an honor to be part of the UMS family.”



TOM THOMPSON

Owner, Tom Thompson Flowers

“Judy and I are enthusiastic participants in the UMS family. We appreciate how our lives have been elevated by this relationship.”



OSAMU “SIMON” NAGATA

President, Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America, Inc.

“Toyota Technical Center is proud to support UMS, an organization with a long and rich history of serving diverse audiences through a wide variety of arts programming.”





TIFFANY FORD

President and CEO, University of Michigan Credit Union

"The University of Michigan Credit Union is excited to launch 'Arts Adventures' with UMS and UMMA! With this endowment, we promote the celebration of the arts through amazing experiences and exceptional learning opportunities for the entire community."

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
CREDIT UNION



MARK SCHLISSSEL

President, University of Michigan

"The University of Michigan is proud to support UMS as a natural extension of our academic enterprise. UMS's outstanding performances and educational programs add tremendous value for our students, faculty, alumni, and regional community."



MARSCHALL RUNGE

Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Michigan, and CEO, University of Michigan Health System

"We are proud to partner with UMS for its 2016–17 season. Music improves the quality of life for all of us, and, increasingly, is recognized as an important ingredient for better health."

M | HEALTH SYSTEM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Thursday Evening, March 30, 2017 at 7:30
Friday Evening, March 31, 2017 at 8:00
Saturday Evening, April 1, 2017 at 8:00
Power Center, Ann Arbor

THE ENCOUNTER

A production of
Complicite/Simon McBurney

Inspired by the book Amazon Beaming by
Petru Popescu

Simon McBurney
Director/Performer

RENEGHUE

54th, 55th, and 56th Performances of the 138th Annual Season
International Theater Series

This week's presenting sponsor is the Renegade Ventures Fund, established by Maxine and Stuart Frankel.

This week's supporting sponsors are Arbor Networks, Carl and Charlene Herstein, and David and Phyllis Herzig.

Funded in part by the Building Audiences for Sustainability initiative at The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Media partnership provided by *Metro Times* and WDET 101.9 FM.

Special thanks to Leith Campbell and Gareth Fry for their participation in events surrounding this week's performances.

In consideration of the artists and the audience, please refrain from the use of electronic devices during the performance.

The photography, sound recording, or videotaping of this performance is prohibited.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director and Performer / Simon McBurney

Co-Director / Kirsty Housley

Associate Director / Jemima James

Design / Michael Levine

Sound / Gareth Fry with Pete Malkin

Lighting / Paul Anderson

Projection / Will Duke

With the voices of / Romeo Corwisepa Dreve, Claudia Hammond, David Farmer, Chris Frith, George Marshall, Noma McBurney, Iain McGilchrist, Petru Popescu, Iris Friedman, Steven Rose, Marcus du Sautoy, Rebecca Spooner, Jess Worth, Nixiwaka Yawanawa

This evening's performance is approximately two hours in duration and is performed without intermission.



Following Thursday evening's performance, please feel free to remain in your seats and join us for a post-performance Q&A with members of the company.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager / Niall Black
Sound Supervisor / Guy Coletta
Sound Engineer / Amir Sherhan
Sound Engineer / Laura Hammond
Sound Engineer / Samantha Broomfield
Associate Lighting Designer / Laurence Russell
Projection Supervisor / Sam Hunt
Technical Stage Manager / Sam Phillips
Company Stage Manager / Joanne Woolley
Assistant Stage Manager / Holly Gould
Assistant Producer / Naomi Webb
Associate Producer / Poppy Keeling
Producer / Judith Dimant

*Artistic Collaborators / David Annen, Simon Dormandy, Naomi Frederick,
Victoria Gould, Richard Katz, Tim McMullan, Tom Morris, Saskia Reeves*

WE ONLY SEE THE VERSION OF THE WORLD WE WANT TO SEE

When making a piece of theater I am, frequently, if not most of the time, in the dark. I truly do not know where we will end up.

- We're going to shut the door now and we'll open it again in 20 minutes. Is that ok?
- Yep, I guess.
- Have you ever sat in total silence? In the dark?
- I'll be fine.

As a result of spending 63 days in silence on a Vipassana retreat, Yuval Noah Harari, the acclaimed author of *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, proclaimed it the ideal tool with which to scientifically observe his own mind. He came to realize he had no idea who he really was and that the fictional story in his head, and the connection between that and reality, was extremely tenuous.

- Ok well... if you freak out then push this button and we'll open the door.

The vast door to the anechoic chamber, which is, as the name suggests, a room without echoes, at the Building Research Establishment (BRE) in Watford, closes definitively behind me. The concrete walls are so thick no sound from the outside world enters your ear canals and the vast foam wedges that cover the walls absorb sound to such an extent that a clap becomes a tap. I am in total darkness. And total silence. I don't mean the silence of three in the morning at home, or even the silence of the most remote place on earth, I mean total silence. My

breathing sounds like a set of bellows; my heartbeat like an arrhythmic drum machine.

- Why am I here?

It is 40°C, my clothes are already sodden although we have only been here an hour. Or have we? I've lost track of time and I have no battery on my phone. In fact I don't know why I have a phone at all given there is no signal here. We are sitting in the house of Lourival Mayoruna, the headman or "cacique" of Marajaí, a village of Mayoruna people deep in the Brazilian Amazon, an hour's flight west of Manaus and four hours by boat up the river Solimões.

Lourival, according to local protocol, talks to us as part of our welcome into the village — and has been doing so for the best part of an hour. The hut is crammed with people and sitting between us all like some 21st-century totem is a binaural head, the microphone that records in so-called "3D."

Paul Heritage, head of People's Palace Projects, who has lived for more than 20 years in Brazil, translates as Lourival winds down...

- So you have come all this way and I have one question... Lourival leans forward, looking me in the eye.
- Why are you here? I nervously lick the wet salt off my upper lip, and sweat stings my eyes as everyone turns towards me.
- I think you need to reply, says Paul.

The sounds of the forest and the village become extremely loud all of a sudden. I clear my throat. The slight rising panic makes me realize the noise I am now hearing is the sound of fluids circulating in my head. And there is a high-pitched hiss caused by spontaneous firings of the auditory nerve. How long have I been sitting here in darkness? I squeeze my phone. Five minutes. I thought it was at least half an hour.

- Where are you going?
- To work on my show...
- What are you doing?
- Um...sitting in a dark silent room in Watford.
- Why?
- To see what it's like.

I look at my son. He is four. I'm not sure he buys this answer.

- When is Christmas?
- A long time. Several months.
- When is it winter?
- When it will be cold again.
- It was cold today.
- Yes, ok, but not very cold.
- Yes it was. I was cold.
- You're right, it was cold.
- How long is several months?

I mutter something about moons and loads of sleeps. Maybe this high-pitched hiss generated by my auditory nerves is something more sinister. I should get my ears checked for tinnitus when I get out of here. How much longer?

- 45 minutes.
- What?
- You've been speaking for 45 minutes.
- Good god.

I got it all, whispers Gareth, my sound designer, who looks even more sodden than I do in the Amazonian heat, unplugging the totem. I look round the room. Silence. I am not sure how it has gone down. In English the word rehearsal derives from "hearse," which means to rake over. To prepare the ground. And one way for me to prepare has always been to perform or improvise a show I am making to those who have never heard it before. Because the story is not the show. It is not even the performance that is the show. The show is made in the minds of the audience. I want to know what they see. What they hear. I look at Lourival. He smiles.

- We are moved by your story, he says. Your story about this man who was lost, but who survived. Your story is about many people, but it is also about us, the Mayoruna. And it tells us that others in this world know of the Mayoruna people. You tell the world that we have survived. Many have perished. We have survived. But whether we will all survive... that is another matter.

He laughs.

- So is it funny?
- What?
- Your performance.

My son examines me. I glance at him sideways. Draw in my breath.

The door suddenly creaks open and I am out in the Watford sunlight again, blinking. What greets me I don't expect. It shocks me. It is a roar. So

loud I want to block my ears. Traffic, voices, machinery, planes...industrial, all encompassing, unstoppable. The shock is that most of the time, I do not hear it because our auditory system blocks out our conscious mind.

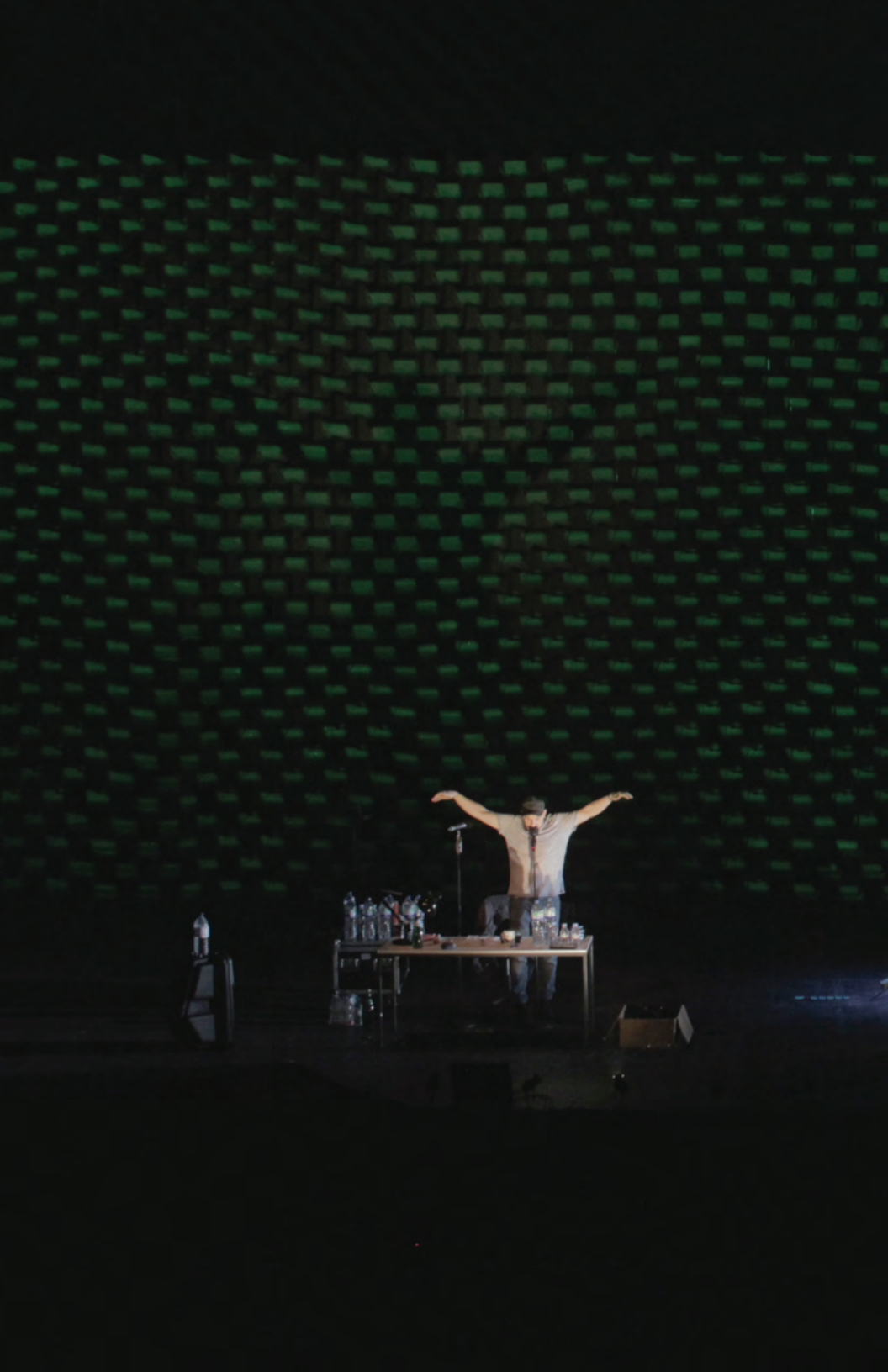
Our ears, without us asking, form a filter and help to create a "normal" reality, but one in which we hear "selectively." As with our ears, so it is with all our senses. Our eyes, our sense of smell, every way in which we perceive the world creates a gap

between what is actually happening and the story we make of it. We see only what we want to see...

The technician looks at me inquiringly.

- How was it?
- Disorientating.
- And how did that feel?
- Familiar.

— *Simon McBurney, August 2015*



ARTISTS

Petru Popescu (*author*, Amazon Beaming) is Romania's best-known novelist. In his homeland, he wrote mordant anti-communist prose that put him in direct conflict with dictator Ceaușescu. When invited to the International Writers' Workshop of the University of Iowa, Mr. Popescu defected to the West. He has traveled extensively, including to Amazonia, where he met Loren McIntyre, who shared his life story with the writer. Mesmerized by McIntyre's accounts of being kidnapped by elusive tribes and of discovering the source of the giant river, Mr. Popescu wrote *The Encounter: Amazon Beaming*. He followed it with *New York Times* bestsellers *Almost Adam* and *The Oasis*. Mr. Popescu lives in California and is currently working on a new novel.

Simon McBurney (*director and performer*) is a multi-Olivier Award-winning, Tony and SAG Award-nominated actor, writer, director, and one of Europe's most original theater-makers. He is co-founder of Complicite, "Britain's most innovative theater company" (*New Statesman*). His directing credits with Complicite include *Ungeduld des Herzens (Beware of Pity)*, a co-production with the Schaubühne, Berlin; *The Master and Margarita*; *Shun-kin*; *A Disappearing Number*; *Measure for Measure*; *A Minute Too Late*; *The Elephant Vanishes*; *Strange Poetry*; and *The Street of Crocodiles*. Other directing credits include *The Kid Stays in the Picture*, *All My Sons* on Broadway, and *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* with Al Pacino in New York. Opera credits include *The Magic Flute* and *A Dog's Heart*, both produced by De Nederlandse Opera and English National Opera in collaboration with Complicite. Mr. McBurney is a prolific film, television, and

radio actor and has appeared in movies including *The Theory of Everything*, *Magic in the Moonlight*, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1*, and most recently *The Conjuring 2, Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation* and *Allied*.

London-based **Complicite** was last seen at UMS with *Shun-kin* (2013), *A Disappearing Number* (2008), and *The Elephant Vanishes* (2004). 2016 saw the launch of Complicite Associates, a new program to support theater-makers and artists. Bryony Kimmings was the inaugural Complicite Associate and *A Pacifist's Guide to the War on Cancer* was its first production, which played at the National Theatre in London. Recent productions include *Ungeduld des Herzens (Beware of Pity)*, a co-production with the Schaubühne, Berlin; *Lionboy*, its first show for young people and families; and *The Master and Margarita*. The company is also known for its award-winning Creative Learning program, which provides innovative opportunities for audience engagement.

For more information, please visit:
Website: www.complicite.org
Facebook: [TheatredeComplicite](https://www.facebook.com/TheatredeComplicite)
Twitter: @Complicite
YouTube: [CompliciteCompany](https://www.youtube.com/CompliciteCompany)
Instagram: [Complicite Theatre](https://www.instagram.com/CompliciteTheatre)

The Encounter play text is available from Complicite's online shop:
www.complicite.org/shop.php

The Encounter: Amazon Beaming by Petru Popescu is available from Pushkin Press:
www.pushkinpress.com/book/the-encounter



UMS Lobby Takeover

At this week's performances, the lobby of the Power Center features a sound installation by U-M Media Arts graduate student Leith Campbell, exploring the relationship between sound and human perception. This Renegade Lobby Takeover is funded in part by the Wallace Foundation.

Installation Hours:

Thursday, 6:30–7:30 pm

Friday, 5–8:00 pm

Saturday, 5–8:00 pm

Artist Statement: *Humidity*

Ours is a literate civilization, linear, measured, recorded, and timed. The march of literacy has led, with bumps and scrapes, to the unprecedented technological space we now inhabit; firmly ensconced in a matrix of culture, with the whole of human knowledge available to us from devices in our pockets, in a certain sense, we are already part machine. This has not always been the case. In fact, the greater part of human history remains unrecorded; for many thousands of years we lived in an oral civilization, our stories, our myths, and our culture passed from speaker to listener. Meaning, time, direction, and history were fluid concepts; over the mountain into the next valley lived a whole different culture with a different language, different myths. In densely packed tribes from generation to generation we slowly defined humanity.

What was life like in this nascent culture? What was communication, perception, understanding? As the words were invented, as the stories were assembled, as culture began to accrete in this fluid timeless place, how did we assemble meaning?

This work explores this place; it seeks to connect with this

innately organic process by means of technology. Incorporating new highly directional speaker designs, human vocalizations drift by or appear from the ether and compound one another into an ever-thickening atmosphere of potential. Eventually a dew point of meaning is reached; like water condensing on a cool surface out of the air, each individual's personal chain of understanding, trailing back into the fog of history, gathers meaning out of potential. Each meaning is personal, formed whole in the consciousness; not like being given a cup of water, but like droplets forming on a pane of glass.

The highly directional audio technology is based on the developing field of modulated ultrasound, which uses frequencies far above the human range of hearing that are far more directional than normal loudspeakers. Upon encountering an obstruction, be it an air molecule, a wall or a human ear, the signal demodulates, breaking down into frequencies within the human-audible range. Traditional loudspeakers are also used, using eight discrete channels and a form of vector-based amplitude panning (a multi-speaker form of stereo)

to make a moving, linear array of sounds. The combination forms an architectural "web" of sound which is to be experienced not as a musical work, but as an audible space to be inhabited.

Leith Campbell is a multi-modal artist working at the intersection of technology and creativity. His works, spanning from music composition to electro-mechanical sculpture, all share the common threads of meaning evolving in time and the unnamed emotions. He lives with his wife and children in Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan.

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UMS ARCHIVES

This week's performances mark the fourth UMS appearances by **Complicite** and **Simon McBurney**. The Company made its UMS debut in October 2004 in performances of *The Elephant Vanishes* at the Power Center, followed by performances of *A Disappearing Number* in September 2008. The Company most recently appeared at UMS in September 2013 with Setagaya Public Theater in performances of *Shun-kin*.

THIS WEEK'S VICTORS FOR UMS:



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| 4/15 | Sanam Marvi |
| 4/25 | The English Concert: Handel's <i>Ariodante</i> |

Tickets available at www.ums.org.

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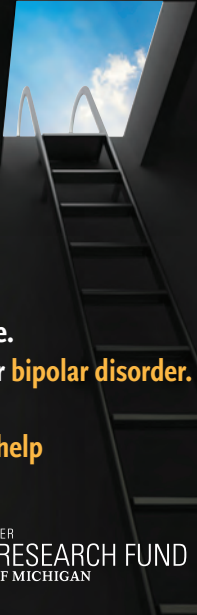


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