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2018 School of Music News

Oboist joins percussion duo in free concert

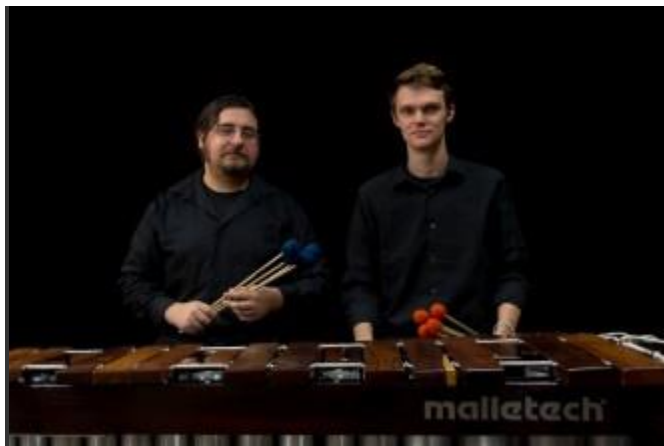
CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON

JANUARY 18, 2018 | WMU NEWS

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Guest oboist **Andreas Oeste** will join forces with percussionists **Brant Blackard** and **Connor Stevens** of **Duo Tierra Fria** in a program of eclectic works for oboe and percussion at **7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22**, in Western Michigan University's Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

OESTE

Oeste is an adjunct instructor of oboe at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, and principal oboe of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra in Pennsylvania and the Battle Creek Symphony in Michigan. Last April Oeste was awarded third prize at the International Barbirolli Competition on the Isle of Man and received honorable mention in the Gillet-Fox Competition in June at the International Double Reed Conference in Appleton, Wisconsin. Oeste is currently pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Michigan, studying with Dr. Nancy Ambrose King.



Duo Tierra Fria

DUO TIERRA FRIA

Duo Tierra Fria was formed in 2014 while Blackard and Stevens were attending the Eastman School of Music, and they have since performed internationally with the Eastman Broadband Ensemble in Valencia, Spain, and at the soundSCAPE festival in Maccagno, Italy. Most recently, they finished a tour of universities where they performed concerts and gave clinics on

performing transcriptions and arrangements for percussion. Those schools include University of South Carolina, Virginia Tech University, Radford University, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Virginia and Kennesaw State University. They have also performed and presented at Atlanta Percussion Symposium, Florida State University, South Alabama University, University of Central Arkansas and University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

For more information about the concert, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Tom Rainey Trio to entertain audiences in free recital at WMU

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
JANUARY 18, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Tom Rainey Trio

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The **Tom Rainey Trio** will give a free, public recital **Friday, Jan. 26**, at Western Michigan University. The show will start at 8 p.m. in the Dalton Center Lecture Hall on Main Campus.

Consisting of Tom Rainey, drums; Ingrid Laubrock, saxophone; and Mary Halverson, guitar, the trio makes refreshingly new music full of momentum and dynamic ranges.

Joseph Woodard, L.A Times, says:

"Tom Rainey is a player who swerves between avant-garde notions and a mainstream sensibility and when he plays the smell of invention is in the air."

For more information about the concert, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

Distinguished alumnus joins free University Symphony Orchestra concert

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
JANUARY 16, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Jokipii

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The Western Michigan University Symphony Orchestra will be joined by 2017 School of Music Distinguished Alumni Award recipient **Alex Jokipii** for a free winter concert at **3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4**, in Miller Auditorium.

The performance will open with the "Russian Easter Overture" by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. Jokipii, principal trumpet of the Buffalo Philharmonic and trumpet professor at the State University of New York-Fredonia, will be the featured soloist in a newly composed "Trumpet Concerto" by Finnish composer Jaakko Kuusisto. The concert will also include George Gershwin's charming tone poem "An American in Paris" and the "Estancia Ballet Suite" by Argentinian composer Alberto Ginastera.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Jazz performance will feature digital processing and live electronics

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
JANUARY 19, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Advanced Jazz Ensemble

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University's **Advanced Jazz Ensemble** and composition professor **Christopher Biggs** will perform at at **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24**, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

The performance will be preceded by a 7 p.m. discussion hosted by **Dr. Robert White**. Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students, and are available from Miller Auditorium [online](#) or by calling (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

The performance will incorporate digital processing and live electronics in real time. Advanced Jazz Ensemble performs original music composed by its members, and it has written that which offers Biggs the opportunity to interact with the group's works and improvisations, adding his rich tapestry of sounds and scope to the ensemble.

BULLOCK MUSIC PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE

Established in the fall of 1985 and renamed in 1988 in honor of its founder, the institute's mission is to add to the already rich cultural life of Kalamazoo by creating opportunities to develop closer personal and artistic ties between audience and performer. The institute has presented events ranging from formal evening concerts to daytime educational outreach events for students and local audiences of all ages.

For more information about the Wednesday evening concert series, call (269) 387-4704 or (269) 387-4678, or visit wmich.edu/music.

Chicago-based Kontras Quartet returns for free performance

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON

JANUARY 22, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Kontras Quartet

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University brings the Chicago-based **Kontras Quartet** back to the Dalton Center Lecture Hall for a concert at **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27**. The event is free and open to the public.

KONTRAS QUARTET

Admired for its "superlative artistry," the Kontras Quartet has established an international following for its vibrant and nuanced performances. It has been described as "a tightly crafted and beautiful instrument" and has been lauded for its "crisp precision" and "enjoyable musical personality." Kontras means 'contrasts' in the Afrikaans language— fitting for a string ensemble whose colorful repertoire spans centuries, genres and continents.

The Kontras Quartet's recent and upcoming engagements include international tours of South Africa and Switzerland, broadcasts on classical radio stations nationwide, performances at Chicago's Symphony Center and the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., television appearances on NBC and PBS, as well as sold out concerts in Telluride, Salt Lake City, Raleigh and Arizona. Kontras is currently in its third season as the professional string-quartet-in-residence at WMU.

The Kontras Quartet records for MSR Classics and have released three critically acclaimed albums. The first, "Origins," features new and lesser-known works from the quartet's home countries, including the world premiere recording of Dan Visconti's "Ramshackle Songs." The recording was commended by Gramophone Magazine for the quartet's "scrupulous shading and control." The second, "Lucid Dreamer," features a septet that Kontras commissioned in 2013

with a generous Chamber Music America-awarded grant. The work treads the line between classical music and American folk and invigorates Kontras' ongoing collaboration with the legendary Kruger Brothers trio, as does its latest 2017 release, the "Roan Mountain Suite."

For more information about the concert, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

'Fantasies for the Piano' presented by new faculty member

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
JANUARY 22, 2018 | WMU NEWS



The

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—New Western Michigan University piano faculty member **Yu-Lien The** will present piano works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Robert Schumann and 2016 Pulitzer finalist Carter Pann at **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31**, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

The performance will be preceded by a 7 p.m. discussion hosted by **Dr. Robert White**. Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students, and are available from Miller Auditorium [online](#) or by calling (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

The evening begins with Bach's "Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue" and closes with Schumann's monumental cycle of character pieces, "Kreisleriana." Subtitled "Phantasien für das Pianoforte"

and inspired by literary works of E. T. A. Hoffmann, these fantasies are exemplary in their display of Schumann's two contrasting characters, the passionate "Florestan" and the dreamy "Eusebius." A highly proficient pianist himself, Pann has written dozens of solo works that are highly imaginative, colorful and unabashedly emotional. From this output, The is playing selections from his "Five Serious Pieces" as well as "The Piano's 12 Sides," including his virtuoso "Grand Etude-Fantasy."

BULLOCK MUSIC PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE

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For more information about the Wednesday evening concert series, call (269) 387-4704 or (269) 387-4678, or visit wmich.edu/music.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Students and faculty join forces to offer varied musical program

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
JANUARY 23, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Western Winds

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Ensembles composed of faculty and graduate students from the brass, wind and percussion studios in the School of Music at Western Michigan University will present a varied selection of music ranging from the 18th to 20th centuries at **7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6**, in the University's Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

The program will feature the music of Haufrecht, Ibert, Sampson and Krommer.

For more information about the concert, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Critically acclaimed jazz and world music all-star band comes to Dalton Center

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
JANUARY 23, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Under One Sun

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—**Under One Sun**, a critically acclaimed jazz and world music all-star band, makes its Michigan debut at **7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8**, in Western Michigan University's Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$5 for students, and are available from Miller Auditorium [online](#) or by calling (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

UNDER ONE SUN

Bringing eight artists together from five countries, Under One Sun has been mesmerizing audiences since their premiere two years ago. Lead by drummer and percussionist **Jamey Haddad**, the group will be featuring the music of its saxophonist, **Billy Drewes**. Under One Sun also includes **Michael Ward-Bergeman**, hyper accordion; **Luisito Quintero**, percussion; **Roberto Occhipinti**, bass; **Leo Blanco**, piano; **Ali Paris**, qanun and voice; and **Salar Nader**, tabla.

Under One Sun released its self-titled CD in late 2016 to great acclaim, with sterling reviews in DownBeat and Modern Drummer magazines. Under One Sun is a unique and transformative

ensemble of jazz and world music virtuosos brought together with a synergistic and singular mission to transcend boundaries.

For more information about the concert, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Horn Day open to anyone who wants to learn more about the horn

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
JANUARY 23, 2018 | WMU NEWS



KALAMAZOO, Mich.—**Horn Day**, an annual festival at Western Michigan University open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the horn, will take place beginning at 12:30 p.m. **Saturday, Feb. 10**, concluding with a **final concert at 6:30 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall**. All Horn Day events take place in the Dalton Center.

The event offers an entire day of horn activities, including a master class and recital by guest artist **Aaron Brant**, principal hornist with the Dayton Philharmonic and instructor at the University of Dayton, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Wright State University.

The festival also includes a solo competition for middle and high school participants, a recital by the WMU Horn Choir and WMU student soloists, and a chance for all participants to play in chamber ensembles and the Mass Horn Choir, which rehearses during the day and performs in the final concert.

The registration fee of \$20 per participant includes food and helps sponsor the featured artist. Family members of participants may observe any part of the day free of charge. The final concert is free and open to the public.

BRANT



Brant, Horn Day featured artist

As an orchestral musician, Brant serves as principal hornist with the Dayton Philharmonic where he has been featured as a concerto soloist, as well as performs with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra as principal horn. During the summer, Brant is an artist-in-residence as a member of the Spectrum Brass and Faculty Wind Quintet at the Bay View Music Festival. At the festival he teaches and coaches advanced conservatory students and graduates from across the country on the art of chamber music.

As an educator, Brant teaches horn at the University of Dayton, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Wright State University. He is also a member of the Dayton Philharmonic Educational Brass Quintet, also called the Carillon Brass, and teaches SPARK lessons in select third- and fourth-grade classrooms. SPARK is a Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra educational program that teaches State of Ohio common core curriculum using musical vehicles.

Before moving to Dayton, Brant was the principal horn of the South Bend Symphony for four seasons. In South Bend he made his solo debut in 2009, performing Richard Strauss's Horn Concerto No. 1. Brant also spent four seasons as third horn of the Ann Arbor Symphony, frequently filling in as principal horn. He is a regular substitute with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and has also performed extensively with the Grand Rapids Symphony. In addition to orchestral work spread over eight states, Brant has performed with a wide range crossover, jazz and pop artists like Josh Groban, Diana Krall, Mannheim Steamroller and Andrea Bocelli.

For more information about the concert or Horn Day at WMU, visit wmich.edu/horn/horn-day.

Alumnus Matt Giraud joins Gold Company's 40th-anniversary show

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
JANUARY 24, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Gold Company

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—"American Idol" finalist and Western Michigan University alumnus **Matt Giraud** and other prominent guest artists will join Western Michigan University's award-winning vocal jazz group, **Gold Company**, on stage for its 40th-anniversary concert **Feb. 2-3**.

Performances of "Something Gold, Something New" will take place at **8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2**, and **2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3**, in WMU's Dalton Center Recital Hall on Main Campus. Tickets are \$25 general admission, \$15 for seniors and students, and are available from Miller Auditorium [online](#) or by calling (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

Also joining the anniversary celebration will be Hollywood vocalist **Nayanna Holley**, Grammy award-winning **John Proulx** and jazz recording artist **Kate Reid**, as well as past directors **Duane Davis**, **Kellyann Nelson** and **April Arabian-Tini**.

GOLD COMPANY

For nearly half a century, Gold Company has been setting the standard in collegiate vocal jazz, entertaining audiences all around the world with its award-winning sound and style. This select ensemble, part of the innovative jazz studies program at WMU, maintains an active performance schedule throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, including trips to both coasts just this past year. Gold Company has performed at the Jazz Education Network conference, MusicFest Canada and the Music Educators National Conference. The group has also performed at the divisional convention of the American Choral Directors Association, Disneyland, Walt Disney

World, Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and jazz festivals across the United States and Canada.

Gold Company is made up of undergraduate and graduate students whose majors range from jazz studies to vocal performance, music education, music therapy and more. Graduates of the program are currently working everywhere from Broadway to Hollywood, touring with artists such as Stevie Wonder, Sheryl Crow, Taylor Swift, Sting, Liza Minnelli. Graduates are also working across the country in music production, composition and arranging, music publishing and music education. Gold Company alumni also lead some of the nation's top collegiate vocal jazz programs.

Gold Company is under the direction of **Greg Jasperse**, a WMU and Gold Company alumnus. A world-renowned composer, arranger, vocalist and pianist, Jasperse is no stranger to the stage or recording studio. His credits include movie soundtracks such as "Epic," "Oz, The Great and Powerful," "The Campaign," "Star Trek" and "Star Trek 2," as well as the Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Monarchy of Roses" and Muse's album "The 2nd Law." He had the pleasure of singing "Skyfall" with Adele on the 85th annual Oscars. He has also recently arranged, produced and directed music for "A Gallagher Family Christmas" for William H. Macy and the cast of Showtime's "Shameless."

For more information about the concert, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Trombone alumnus returns for solo recital

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
JANUARY 29, 2018 | WMU NEWS



WMU alumnus Evan Clifton

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Bass trombonist **Evan Clifton** will be presenting a guest solo recital at **7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13**, in Western Michigan University's Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

CLIFTON

A 2015 graduate of the WMU trombone studio, Clifton has had a great deal of success since studying at WMU. He was admitted into the competitive master's programs at both the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music and the New England Conservatory. During the past two years, he has performed on a number of occasions with the renowned Cleveland Orchestra, as well as with the orchestras of Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Lansing.

Clifton has been a finalist in various international solo competitions, including the National Bass Trombone Solo Competition in 2012 and the International Trombone Association's Donald Yaxley solo competition in 2015, held in Valencia, Spain. He was also chosen as the winner of the bass trombone opening for the 2014 Round Top Festival Institute Symphony Orchestra in Texas. He is currently a University Distinguished Fellow at Michigan State University and bass trombonist with the Battle Creek Symphony. .

For more information about the concert, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

University Jazz Lab Band performs with guest artists

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
JANUARY 26, 2018 | WMU NEWS



University Jazz Lab Band performs Wednesday, Feb. 14.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The **University Jazz Lab Band** will present a Valentine to the community with a quartet of guest artists and a specially programmed concert at **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14**, in Western Michigan University's Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Joining the band are WMU jazz studies alumni **Benje Daneman, Gene Knific, Evan Hyde** and **Ben Schmidt-Swartz**. Deep swing and Latin jazz permeate the concert. The guest artists will also perform as a quintet with Lab Band Director **Tom Knific** on works by Pat Matheny and Knific.

For more information about the concert, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Annual concert showcases student talent, benefits scholarships

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
FEBRUARY 7, 2018 | WMU NEWS



KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The Western Michigan University School of Music will present its annual WMU Music Showcase Spectacular at **8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16**, in Miller Auditorium. This showcase of talent for WMU's internationally recognized music program is a family-friendly benefit concert with all proceeds being applied toward music student scholarships.

Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$12 for seniors and \$5 for students with a valid ID. They are available from Miller Auditorium [online](#) or by calling (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

Produced by **Greg Jasperse**, conductor of the Gold Company, this event will showcase the polished ensemble playing and individual talents of the students, faculty, and ensembles in the School of Music. The concert will feature performances from all areas of the school and be a study in juxtaposition—large ensembles give way to soloists, chamber music precedes full choir.

The concert will consist of two fast-moving sections, each performed without breaks for applause.

For more information visit wmich.edu/music.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

New music ensemble, Birds on a Wire, presents 'A Strange Magic'

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
FEBRUARY 14, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Colson

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University's new music ensemble, **Birds on a Wire**, will perform "A Strange Magic" at **7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20**, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

The program will feature two works by School of Music composers. The ensemble will perform **Christopher Biggs'** "Special Anxieties," and **David Colson's** "Duo for Trumpet and Piano" will be performed by **Scott Thornburg** and **Silvia Roederer**. Colson, WMU professor of music, also is the group's director. The concert will highlight the world premiere of **Judith Zaimont's** "A Special Magic, String Quartet No.2." The award-winning composer will be in attendance for the performance. Graduate student **Carolyn Borcharding**, winner of the 2017 Fisk Composition Award, will present her work, "Alchemy for solo violin and fixed media." And

finally, Birds on a Wire will complete the program with a performance of **Jennifer Higdon's** "Zaka."

For more information about the concert, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Grammy winner to perform with jazz and symphony orchestras

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON

FEBRUARY 14, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Mendoza

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Six-time Grammy winner Vince Mendoza will visit Western Michigan University for a collaboration with the University Jazz Orchestra and University Symphony Orchestra in a concert of his compositions at **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21**, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

The performance will be preceded by a 7 p.m. discussion hosted by **Dr. Robert White**. Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students, and are available from Miller Auditorium [online](#) or by calling (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

One of the most versatile and prolific composers, arrangers and conductors of the last two decades, multi-Grammy Award winner Mendoza has written arrangements for a wide variety of pop and jazz artists, from Joni Mitchell, Sting, Melody Gardot, Elvis Costello and Bjork to Joe Zawinul, John Scofield, Charlie Haden, Al Di Meola, Dave Liebman, Randy Brecker, the Yellowjackets and the GRP All-Stars. As a leader, Mendoza has released 10 recordings for the Blue Note, ACT, Blue Jackel and Zebra labels, including 1997's *Epiphany* with the London Symphony Orchestra and 2011's *Nights on Earth*, featuring an all-star cast and members of the Metropole Orkest, which Mendoza has led as chief conductor for the past six years.

Mondoza was recently honored with a Grammy Award for his work on the John Scofield "54" album on Emarcy records. It is his sixth Grammy and 25th nomination. His other award winning works include "Travelogue" and "Both Sides Now" with Joni Mitchell, both of which are considered masterpieces by many critics and musicians alike. Mendoza is the chief conductor of the Metropole Orkest in the Netherlands.

BULLOCK MUSIC PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE

Established in the fall of 1985 and renamed in 1988 in honor of its founder, the institute's mission is to add to the already rich cultural life of Kalamazoo by creating opportunities to develop closer personal and artistic ties between audience and performer. The institute has presented events ranging from formal evening concerts to daytime educational outreach events for students and local audiences of all ages.

For more information about the Wednesday evening concert series, call (269) 387-4704 or (269) 387-4678, or visit wmich.edu/music.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

WMU to host regional College Band Directors National Association conference

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON

FEBRUARY 14, 2018 | WMU NEWS



University Symphonic Band

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The **University Symphonic Band** will perform a free preview concert at **3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18**, in Western Michigan University's Miller Auditorium in anticipation of the upcoming College Band Directors National Association North Central Division Conference. The event is free and open to the public.

CONFERENCE PERFORMANCES

Two WMU music ensembles will perform at the CBDNA conference **Friday, Feb. 23**, in Miller Auditorium. The **WMU Concert Band**, led by David Montgomery, will perform at **10:15 a.m.**, and the **University Symphonic Band**, led by Scott Boerma, will perform at **8:30 p.m.**

CBDNA CONFERENCE

The variety-packed program will feature recent works by Joan Tower, Roshanne Etezady and Kristin Kuster, as well as classics by Gustav Holst and Percy Grainger. Nine other collegiate ensembles from across the northern U.S. will perform, and all concerts are free and open to the public. Clinics are only for registered participants.

For more information about the concert, visit wmucbdna.com or call (269) 387-4667.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Annual festival brings 900 high school singers to campus

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
FEBRUARY 20, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Ehly

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—One of the largest, oldest and most successful high school choral festivals in the United States will be held on the campus of Western Michigan University **Thursday, March 15**. The 80th annual Southwestern Michigan Vocal Festival will draw participants from 19 southwest Michigan high schools and culminate in a **7 p.m.** performance in WMU's Miller Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public, and it will feature the 900-voice Festival Chorus nearly filling the first level of the auditorium.

Guest conductor **Dr. Eph Ehly**, professor emeritus at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music, will lead the evening performance, which includes the large Festival Chorus as well as the select 66-member 2018 Honors Choir. Featured performances will be given by WMU's University Chorale and Gold Company.

The large Festival Chorus will perform four works including an arrangement of "This Little Light of Mine" by Mark Hayes, "Bogoroditse Devo" by Sergei Rachmaninoff, "Fare Thee Well Love" arranged by James Mulholland, and "Forever Music" by Mark Hayes.

The auditioned high school Honors Choir will perform three selections: Z. Randall Stroope's "Amor de mi alma," Steve Zegree's arrangement of "More I Cannot Wish You" from "Guys and Dolls," and Dan Forrest's "You Are The Music."

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN VOCAL FESTIVAL

Since its inception in 1935, the Southwestern Michigan Vocal Festival has been dedicated to providing an experience in mass singing of good repertoire under the leadership of an inspiring conductor. Each year a noted guest conductor is invited to work with select students in a fall workshop and conduct the day-long festival in March. This year's guest conductor, Ehly, has conducted the festival on three previous occasions. Biographical information and a photograph of Ehly can be found on the festival's website at www.wmich.edu/music/festivals/swmvf.



Participants from 19 southwest Michigan high schools will participate in the 80th annual Southwestern Michigan Vocal Festival Thursday, March 15.

Participating high schools

High schools that qualified to participate in this year's festival and their directors are:

- Allendale, **Emily Verdonk**
- Berrien Springs, **Carrie VanDenburgh**
- Brandywine, **Denise Boger**
- Coloma, **Rebecca Selvidge**
- Dowagiac Union, **Mary Alice Korth**
- Gull Lake, **Branden Burris**
- Hamilton, **Holly Israels**
- Hopkins, **Jacob Oaster**
- Kalamazoo Central, **Theresa Williams-Johnson**
- Kalamazoo Loy Norrix, **Julie Pelligrino Lawton, Gary Oegema**
- Niles, **Matthew D. Hunckler**
- Portage Central, **Cindy Hunter**
- Quincy, **Anna Martuch**
- Schoolcraft, **Sheri Olbrot**
- Stevensville Lakeshore, **Katherine Rohwer**
- Sturgis, **Patricia Goble**
- Three Rivers, **Joel Moore**
- Watervliet, **Tami Brush**
- Wayland Union, **Ricci Sabin**

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Japanese musician to perform on campus during second U.S. tour

CONTACT: KOREY FORCE
MARCH 5, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Sato Michiyoshi performs traditional and modern Japanese music on the shamisen.

KALAMAZOO Mich.—On his second U.S. tour, **Sato Michiyoshi** will perform a unique blend of traditional and modern styles on the "shamisen," a Japanese three-stringed banjo, at **7:30 p.m. Monday, March 12**, at Western Michigan University. The free, public event will take place in the University's Dalton Center Lecture Hall on main campus.

Michiyoshi is an award-winning performer of "Tsugaru-jamisen," a dynamic style of music played on the shamisen. In his performance, Michiyoshi will focus on demonstrating the range and flexibility of the instrument. The program will begin with introductory remarks from **Dr. Joshua Solomon** of Hirosaki University, who will be Sato's interpreter during his tour.

Michiyoshi challenges the categorization of the Japanese shamisen as a "traditional" instrument by blending old and new styles in his performance and incorporating improvisation, singing and comedy.

While in Kalamazoo, he will also be performing at the Kalamazoo Public Library at **3 p.m. Saturday, March 10**. During this event, a limited number of audience members will be able to try the instruments. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. and seating is limited.

Michiyoshi is hosted by WMU's Soga Japan Center and School of Music and sponsored by the Japan Foundation of New York Grant for Arts and Culture and the Japan Business Society of Detroit Foundation.

SOGA JAPAN CENTER

WMU's Soga Japan Center is an interdisciplinary unit designed to promote knowledge of Japan to the University community, the city of Kalamazoo and all of southwest Michigan. The center regularly brings scholars, artists and writers to campus to give Japan-related lectures, demonstrations and readings to the community. The Soga Japan Center also hosts film series, displays, musical performances and other events related to Japanese culture.

Learn more about the Soga Japan Center at wmich.edu/japancenter.

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

WMU ensembles perform for Latvian Association's Centennial Arts Weekend

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON

MARCH 7, 2018 | WMU NEWS



The University Symphony Orchestra and University Chorale will present a free concert in at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 25.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The Western Michigan **University Symphony Orchestra** and the **University Chorale** will present a free concert in collaboration with the Kalamazoo Latvian Association and the Latvian Ministry of Culture at **3 p.m. Sunday, March 25**, in the University's Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

The concert is part of the centennial celebration of Latvia's independence and will be the culmination of the Kalamazoo Latvian Association's Centennial Arts Weekend. At **2:30**

p.m., cellist **Juris Kenins** will give a pre-concert talk about the pieces that will be performed in the concert.

The University Orchestra, conducted by **Bruce Uchimura**, and University Chorale, led by **Arianne Abela**, will perform music of well-known Latvian composers, including: Emīls Dārziņš, Jānis Medīņš, Lolita Ritmanis, Ēriks Ešenvalds, Ārijs Šķepasts, Jāzeps Vītols and Pēteris Vasks. WMU staff collaborative pianist and native Latvian **Gunta Laukmane** has selected and coached three Latvian songs that will be sung by WMU voice students and will open the concert.

For more information about the concert, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Related article

[Area Latvians to celebrate centennial with arts celebration at WMU](#) | March 22, 2018

Boundary-breaking percussion ensemble Clocks in Motion comes to campus

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
MARCH 20, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Marc Mellits, Anders Koppel, Andrew Rindfleisch and Matthew Welch

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Percussion quartet **Clocks in Motion** will perform at **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 4**, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall at Western Michigan University.

The performance will be preceded by a 7 p.m. discussion hosted by **Dr. Robert White**. Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students, and are available from Miller Auditorium [online](#) or by calling (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

Clocks in Motion performs new music, builds many of its own instruments, and breaks down the boundaries of the traditional concert program. The ensemble's concert at WMU will include an exciting mixture of music by composers Marc Mellits, Anders Koppel, Andrew Rindfleisch and Matthew Welch. The concert will feature two works with one of the ensemble members performing on the hammer dulcimer. The program will conclude with a rendition of John Cage's classic "Third Construction."

BULLOCK MUSIC PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE

Established in the fall of 1985 and renamed in 1988 in honor of its founder, the institute's mission is to add to the already rich cultural life of Kalamazoo by creating opportunities to develop closer personal and artistic ties between audience and performer. The institute has presented events ranging from formal evening concerts to daytime educational outreach events for students and local audiences of all ages.

For more information about the Wednesday evening concert series, call (269) 387-4704 or (269) 387-4678, or visit wmich.edu/music.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Area Latvians to celebrate centennial with arts celebration at WMU

CONTACT: CHERYL ROLAND
MARCH 22, 2018 | WMU NEWS



KALAMAZOO, Mich.—A large and strong Kalamazoo-area Latvian community is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Latvia's independence with a weekend arts celebration **Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25**, at Western Michigan University.

The Latvian Centennial Arts Weekend will feature lectures on Latvian art, literature and music, as well as concerts and exhibits. The two days of arts events will culminate **Sunday with a 3 p.m. Latvian Centennial Concert** in the Dalton Center Recital Hall featuring the WMU University Chorale and the University Symphony Orchestra.

Organized by the Kalamazoo Latvian Association in cooperation with the WMU College of Fine Arts, the entire weekend celebration is made possible through support from the Ministry of Culture of Latvia.

All of the events are free and open to the public, except for a Saturday evening dinner and concert at the Kalamazoo Latvian Center, 100 Cherry Hill St. The cost for that event is \$30 per person and \$15 per student. The concert features Juris Kenins on the cello and Gunta Laukmane on the piano. Those wishing to attend are asked to register in advance at kalamazoolatvians.com/centennial-arts-weekend.

On **Saturday**, the celebration will begin at the Richmond Center for the Visual Arts, where two **Latvian-related exhibits** will be available from **noon to 6 p.m.** They include:

- "Signs for Those Seeking Light," **Rita** Grendze's exhibition of Latvian tablecloth designs made from pages of books.
- "Treasures of Latvia" focusing on 15 Latvian companies in the U.S and five other "treasures."

Lectures at the Richmond Center on Saturday include:

- A **12:45 p.m.** talk by **Mark Svede** on "Latvia Lately: Recent Contemporary Art and Institutions."
- A **2 p.m.** talk by **Linda Treija** on "Generations of Latvian Artists in North America: Similarities and Differences."
- A **3:15 p.m.** talk by **Karlis Verdins**, titled "Queer and Transgender Representation in Latvian Emigre Literary Culture."

On **Sunday**, cellist **Juris Kenins** will give a talk at **1 p.m.** in 2008 Richmond Center, focusing on Latvian musicians. Then at **2:30 p.m.** he will give a **pre-concert talk** about the pieces that will be performed in the **large concluding concert** at the Dalton Center at **3 p.m.**

This year marks the 100-year anniversary of independence for Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, with yearlong festivities taking place in each Baltic country. After centuries of German, Swedish, Livonian Polish and Russian rule, the Republic of Latvia was established on Nov. 18, 1918, when it broke away and declared independence from Russia in the aftermath of World War I. In 1944, near the end of World War II, Russia again invaded Latvia and incorporated it into the Soviet Union. Latvia remained under Russian rule again until 1991.

The Kalamazoo Latvian Association was founded in 1950 by Latvian refugees from World War II. Most had narrowly escaped their homeland after the Russian invasion of 1944. There is now a third generation of Latvians continuing to gather and celebrate their culture in Kalamazoo.

For more information about the weekend centennial celebration, contact **Maira Bundza**, WMU associate professor of libraries, at maira.bundza@wmich.edu.

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Related article

[WMU ensembles perform for Latvian Association's Centennial Arts Weekend](#) | March 7, 2018

Spektral Quartet and Mark DeChiazza present new works

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
MARCH 27, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Spektral Quartet

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The Spektral Quartet will return to Western Michigan University for a workshop-performance of a gripping new work by WMU faculty composer Lisa Renée Coons at **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11**, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

The performance will be preceded by a 7 p.m. discussion hosted by **Dr. Robert White**. Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students, and are available from Miller Auditorium [online](#) or by calling (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

Staging the first section of this multidisciplinary collaboration for the first time, the quartet's program is rounded out with the texturally charismatic "Alchemy" for violin and electronics by WMU composer **Carolyn Borcharding**, as well as sonic postcard of sorts from Spektral's home city of Chicago: Ruth Crawford Seeger's serialist masterpiece, "String Quartet 1931," and George Lewis' kaleidoscopic "String Quartet 1.5 'Experiments in Living'" commissioned by the Spektral Quartet.

Mark DeChiazza, whose practice as a director is informed by his background in movement, media and design, seeks to open new meanings in musical performance—physically, visually and theatrically. This new collaboration, with Coons and Spektral Quartet, offers an opportunity

for him to explore modes of interrelating the conceptual and physical development of the work in tandem with Coons' process of shaping and solidifying as a musical composition, and with the emergent relationship of the performers to the work as they rehearse.

BULLOCK MUSIC PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE

Established in the fall of 1985 and renamed in 1988 in honor of its founder, the institute's mission is to add to the already rich cultural life of Kalamazoo by creating opportunities to develop closer personal and artistic ties between audience and performer. The institute has presented events ranging from formal evening concerts to daytime educational outreach events for students and local audiences of all ages.

For more information about the Wednesday evening concert series, call (269) 387-4704 or (269) 387-4678, or visit wmich.edu/music.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

WMU Concert Band to perform with Portage Central High School Symphonic Band

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
MARCH 27, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Montgomery

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The Western Michigan University Concert Band will present its final concert of 2017-18 at **7 p.m. Thursday, April 12**, at Portage Central High School in a shared concert with the Portage Central High School Symphonic Band. The event is free and open to the public.

Musical selections include "Headrush" by Jay Bocook, "O Magnum Mysterium" by Morten Lauridsen, "Aurora Awakes" by John Mackey, "Shine!" by Michael Markowski, and "The British Eighth" by Alonzo Elliott. The University Concert Band is conducted by **Dr. David W. Montgomery**, and the Portage High School Symphonic Band is conducted by **Patrick W. Flynn**.

For more information about the concert, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Gold Company qualifies to perform at prestigious fall festival

CONTACT: DEANNE PUCA
MARCH 28, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Gold Company

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—**Gold Company**, Western Michigan University's internationally regarded and award-winning vocal jazz ensemble, won its division at the prestigious Next Generation Jazz Festival **March 9-11** in Monterey, California.

In January, Gold Company was selected to be one of only six finalists in the collegiate vocal jazz division invited to perform and compete at the 48th annual festival. It is produced in conjunction with the world-famous 61st annual Monterey Jazz Festival, with winners invited to perform at that festival **Sept. 21-23**.

Voted "World's Best Jazz Festival" by the readers of JazzTimes magazine for several years, the Monterey Jazz Festival features more than 500 artists performing nonstop on eight stages and includes films, conversations with the festival's stars, exhibitions, food and beverages, and an international shopping bazaar.

GOLD COMPANY

Gold Company, directed by **Greg Jasperse**, is made up of undergraduate and graduate students whose majors range from jazz studies to vocal performance, music education, music therapy and more. Graduates of the program are currently working everywhere from Broadway to Hollywood in music production, composition and arranging, music publishing and music education, as well as currently leading the nation's top collegiate vocal jazz programs.

This select ensemble, part of the innovative jazz studies program at WMU, maintains an active performance schedule throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, including trips to both coasts during the past academic year.

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Music therapy students will perform alongside families and caregivers

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
APRIL 9, 2018 | WMU NEWS

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University's music therapy department will host its 38th annual Music Therapy Clinic Concert at **7 p.m. Monday, April 16**, in Western Michigan University's Dalton Center Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Over the years, the concert has become a joyous celebration of achievement and an evening of affirmation for the individuals, groups, families and caregivers who have participated in music therapy services over the course of the semester.

For more information about the concert, visit wmich.edu/music or call (269) 387-4667.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Concerto competition winners perform at Miller Auditorium

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON

APRIL 10, 2018 | WMU NEWS



(Left to right) Ford, Leffert and Keating. Photo by Evgeniya Kozhevnikova.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University's Symphony Orchestra will present its annual Concerto Concert, featuring the winners of the 2018 Concerto Competition, at **3 p.m. Sunday, April 22**, in Miller Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

Featured performers include **William Ford**, trombone student of Steve Wolfinbarger, who will perform the "Concerto for Trombone" by Henri Tomasi. Alto saxophonist **Andrew Keating**, student of Andrew Rathbun, also will play the "Ballade for Alto Saxophone" by Henri Tomasi. And **Evan Leffert**, marimba student of Judy Moonert, will present Keiko Abe's "Prism Rhapsody for Marimba and Orchestra." The program will begin with Giuseppe Verdi's "Overture to La Forza del Destino" and end with Richard Strauss's musical homage to the legendary prankster "Till Eulenspiegel."

In an effort to enhance the safety of patrons, Miller Auditorium has adopted a bag policy consistent with those being implemented at performing arts centers across the nation. Bags and purses should be no larger than 4.5 inches by 6.5 inches or approximately the size of small handbag or clutch purse. Anything larger may be subject to search, and patrons may be asked to return larger bags to their vehicles. Backpacks of any kind are strictly prohibited. Direct questions regarding the bag policy or Miller Auditorium tickets to the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office at (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

WMU CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS

William Ford

Ford is a graduate assistant in the School of Music working toward his Master of Music degree in trombone performance. He has enjoyed success by being selected as principal trombone and soloist with the 2017 American Wind Symphony Orchestra.

Prior to attending WMU, he earned a Bachelor of Music degree in jazz studies from James Madison University, where he graduated in 2016. At James Madison, Ford was selected to attend the 2014 Sulzbach-Rosenberg International Music Festival in Germany as a soloist and orchestral member. He was also a finalist representing the brass and percussion area in the 2016 Concerto Competition.

Ford has accepted a trombone teaching assistantship, beginning in the fall of 2018 at Louisiana State University, where he will be pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree under the guidance of LSU trombone professor and 2011 WMU graduate Hana Beloglavec. His primary teachers have been Dr. Steve Wolfenbarger, Dr. Andrew Lankford, Dr. Chuck Dotas, and Bob Hallahan.

Ford is a Brother of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America.

Andrew Keating

Keating moved to Kalamazoo from Ortonville, where he attended Brandon High School and performed in various ensembles, including concert band, jazz band, marching band, and musical theater pit orchestras. As a high school student, he studied saxophone at Grand Blanc Music with Scott Brady. He played in the Michigan State Youth Wind Symphony, the WMU All-Star Band, and the MSBOA All-State Band. During his last two years of high school, he began studying flute with Jessica Cech and piano with Julie Locks.

Keating is currently in his second year at WMU, studying saxophone with Dr. Andrew Rathbun. He has continued his flute studies at WMU with graduate assistants Heidi Keener and Pablo Sanchez. As a student in the multimedia arts technology program, he also enjoys studying music technology and working with electronic music. During his time at WMU, he has played in the University Symphonic Band and studio saxophone quartet.

Evan Leffert

Leffert is a percussion performance and music composition major currently completing his final year in both programs. Originally from Novi, he was an involved performer in his high school program, going on to perform in several honors ensembles. He won the John Phillip Sousa Award and was a second-place recipient for the soloist competition held by the Michigan Confederation of Music Clubs.

In the beginning of his college career, he went on to perform for two years with the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps, later performing with the same group of percussionists at PASIC in 2016. During his time as a WMU student, Leffert's involvement was diverse and focused on immersion

in the musical community. He performed dozens of student composer pieces, and was a member of the University Symphony Orchestra, Birds on a Wire, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble and was involved in smaller chamber groups, as well. He also assisted or was involved in collaborations with Western Winds, University Jazz Orchestra, Advanced Jazz Ensemble, University Theatre, Gold Company and the WMU Trombone Choir.

Leffert became heavily involved in premiering works written by WMU composers, first performing consistently on the composition recitals, but then also going on to perform Nathan Haering's Resplendent Shards at a number of festivals, performing both in the Midwest as well as in Toronto, Canada. The following year, he went as a collaborating performer to the SPLICE Institute for electroacoustic music held at WMU in 2017, and the Sandbox Percussion Seminar held in New York City. He will be attending the same festivals again this year, and recently both performed a work by another WMU composer, as well as premiered his own for trumpet, horn and electronics, at the CHIME Festival held in Chicago earlier this April.

He is both a private instructor and teaches intermittently as a percussion technician for multiple schools in the area.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Wind and percussion musicians featured at 50th annual festival

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON
APRIL 16, 2018 | WMU NEWS



Markowski

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—The Western Michigan University School of Music's 50th annual Spring Conference is coming to Miller Auditorium at **7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19**. Spring Conference is a daylong event presented each year to promote the performance, understanding and composition of quality wind and percussion music. The event is free and is open to the public.

Each year the festival focuses on a guest composer and conductor whose works are featured during the conference. This year's featured artist is composer **Michael Markowski**.

The day's activities will include two afternoon band concerts presented by the Three Rivers High School Symphony Band conducted by **Bryan J. VanToll** at **1 p.m.**, and the Portage Central High School Symphonic Band conducted by **Patrick W. Flynn** and **Renee L. Flynn** at **2:45 p.m.**, both in Miller Auditorium.

The conference will conclude with an evening performance beginning at **7:30 p.m.** in Miller Auditorium. The concert will feature performances by the WMU Symphonic Band, conducted by **Scott Boerma**, and the 123-member Michael Markowski All-Star Band. Students from 48 Michigan high schools were nominated by their band directors for the honor of performing in this band. Traditionally, more than 90 percent of this ensemble's membership is awarded to musicians who hold first-chair-player positions in their own high school bands.

Four Markowski band works will be performed at this year's conference, including a world premiere. Three Rivers will present "Shadow Rituals" during its 1 p.m. concert; Portage Central has programmed "Joyride" for its 2:45 p.m. performance. The evening concert will feature two Markowski works: "Amor Fati (Love of Fate)," performed by the University Symphonic Band, and "Reckoning," performed by the Michael Markowski High School All-Star Band. The performance of Markowski's "Amor Fati" is the world premiere of the piece, which was commissioned by the alumni and current members of WMU's Delta Iota Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia national music fraternity.

MARKOWSKI

In 2010, Markowski graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in film practices from Arizona State University. While he never studied music in college, he did study privately with his mentors, **Jon Gomez** and **Dr. Karl Schindler**, and has continued his education by participating in a number of extracurricular programs, such as the Art of Orchestration with Steven Scott Smalley, the National Band Association's Young Composer and Conductor Mentorship Project, and the NYU/ASCAP Foundation's Film Scoring Workshop, where he was named one of ASCAP's Film & TV "Composers to Watch." Most recently, Markowski was invited to join the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop as a composer and lyricist.

"Shadow Rituals," one of Markowski's first works for concert band, was awarded first prize in Manhattan Beach Music's Frank Ticheli Composition Contest in 2006. Over the last 10 years, Markowski has composed nearly 25 original works for wind band, nine of which were recently recorded in collaboration with the Brooklyn Wind Symphony, now available on iTunes. "Joyride

for Orchestra" won the Arizona Musicfest's young composer fanfare competition, and "You Are Cordially Invited" won a fanfare competition with the Dallas Wind Symphony.

He has received commissions from a number of organizations including the College Band Directors National Association, the Consortium for the Advancement of Wind Band Literature, the Lesbian and Gay Band Association, the Duke Medicine Orchestra, the Florida Music Educator's Association, and has received performances from the United States Air Force bands, The Phoenix Symphony, the Arizona Musicfest Symphony Orchestra, and from hundreds of bands around the world. He has been the composer-in-residence for the Music for All organization, the Mid Europe international wind band festival in Schladming, Austria, and frequently visits junior high schools, high schools, universities, and community bands around the country to share stories about his music. Markowski is a member of ASCAP, the Society of Composers and Lyricists, and currently lives in Brooklyn, New York.

MILLER AUDITORIUM BAG POLICY

In an effort to enhance the safety of patrons, Miller Auditorium has adopted a bag policy consistent with those being implemented at performing arts centers across the nation. Bags and purses should be no larger than 4.5 inches by 6.5 inches or approximately the size of small handbag or clutch purse. Anything larger may be subject to search, and patrons may be asked to return larger bags to their vehicles. Backpacks of any kind are strictly prohibited. Direct questions regarding the bag policy or Miller Auditorium tickets to the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office at (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858.

For more news, arts and events, visit wmich.edu/news.

Jazz students continue winning streak in DownBeat competition

CONTACT: JEANNE BARON
JUNE 1, 2018 | WMU NEWS



KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Western Michigan University **jazz studies students and their instructors** are upbeat after again earning multiple wins in DownBeat magazine's 41st annual Student Music Awards.

In what is regarded as the most comprehensive competition for collegiate jazz programs, WMU students earned two awards, placing among the top 10 finishers in the international music competition. No other Michigan universities brought home an award.

The two wins meant WMU tied with many major institutions for the most awards, including the Oberlin Conservatory, Manhattan School of Music, New York University and the New England Conservatory.

BEST METRIC FOR JAZZ PROGRAMS

The DownBeat awards continue to be the most thorough and publicized metric for jazz programs across the globe, with the competition going international more than 10 years ago.

"WMU's jazz studies program has been earning awards in DownBeat's Student Music Awards for more than 25 consecutive years, and multiple awards for two decades," says **Tom Knific**, WMU professor of music and director of the University's jazz studies program. "Our institutional

historic total is nearly 170. We're especially proud of this year's winners, as they were also among our four winners in last year's competition."

WMU AWARD WINNERS

- **Lushh**; Blues/Pop/Rock Group; Graduate College Winner; ensemble members **Eddie Codrington**, **Matthew J. Epperson**, **Madison George**, **Grayson Nye** and **Andrew Saliba** with **Yakiv Tsvietinskyi**; professor **Keith Hall**.
- **Andrew Saliba**—"Silent Minority"; Original Composition-Small Ensemble; Undergraduate College Outstanding Compositions; professor **Andrew Rathbun**.

WMU ALUMNI HONORED

Several of this year's winning submissions from other schools came from students taught by WMU alumni who have gone on to obtain positions at some of the most prestigious music institutions in the country.

They include **Christine Helferich Guter** at the University of California Long Beach, who also received the 2018 DownBeat Magazine Jazz Education Achievement Award.

Also helping to capture awards for their schools are the following WMU alumni: **Jennifer Barnes** at the University of North Texas, **Quincy Davis** at the University of North Texas, **Jeremy Fox** at Indiana University, **Lyman Medeiros** at the Musicians Institute in Los Angeles and **Kate Reid** at the University of Miami.

Learn more about [WMU's jazz studies program](#).

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit [WMU News](#) online.

High school musicians to learn and perform on campus this summer

CONTACT: DANNIELLE STURGEON

JUNE 22, 2018 | WMU NEWS



KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Seminar 2018, Western Michigan University's summer music camp for high school students, will celebrate its 67th year when students from five states convene on campus **beginning July 8** for the two-week program.

During their stay at WMU, students study music theory and music literature, take private lessons, maintain a rigorous rehearsal schedule, and perform in both large and small ensemble concerts that are free and open to the public. All music performed during Seminar 2018 will be learned and prepared during the two-week program.

CONCERT SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 15

10 a.m.—Morning worship service, featuring the Seminar brass choir and concert choir, First Baptist Church on Bronson Park, 315 W. Michigan Ave., in downtown Kalamazoo.

4 p.m.—Woodwind choir and string chamber music ensembles, Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Thursday, July 19

7 p.m.—Piano recital, Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Friday, July 20

7:30 p.m.—Seminar 2018 Large Ensemble Showcase, featuring the wind ensemble, concert choir and string orchestra, Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Saturday, July 21

10:30 a.m.—Festival of five simultaneous chamber music concerts (string, woodwind, brass and percussion, vocal and choral, and piano), Dalton Center Recital Hall.

ABOUT SEMINAR

Seminar is unique in that it focuses on chamber music, providing opportunities for students to perform in small ensembles in addition to daily participation in either band, orchestra or choir.

More than 100 students from Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, and Texas have been selected by audition to participate in the program, which runs through July 21. Each participant is enrolled in one of seven seminars: string, woodwind, brass, percussion, piano, voice or composition.

Most of the rehearsals and classes at Seminar 2018 will be conducted by WMU music faculty members. In addition to serving as teachers and conductors, faculty members will also perform in performance classes, held at 10 a.m. daily in the Dalton Center Recital Hall.

Seminar 2018 operates under the auspices of the School of Music in the College of Fine Arts at WMU. **Kevin West** is the administrative director and **Dannielle Sturgeon** serves as the registrar.

ENROLLMENT

There are still enrollment vacancies for bass clarinet, clarinet, composition, double bass, euphonium, flute, horn, oboe, trumpet, tuba, violin, voice-bass/baritone, and voice-tenor.

For application information, visit wmich.edu/music-camp or contact Dannielle Sturgeon at dannielle.n.sturgeon@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4678.

For more WMU news, arts and events, visit [WMU News](#) online.