**Melanie Helton** has been hailed by *The New York Times* for her "dark soprano that warms the ear." Her successes include the title roles in *Lucrezia Borgia* at the Caramoor International Music Festival and *Aida* with Opera Carolina. Other engagements included Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* at the New York City Opera, Foreign Princess in *Rusalka,* and Leonora in *Il Trovatore* for Seattle Opera. She has sung leading roles with the several opera companies such as: Santa Fe, Houston, Dallas, Washington, and San Francisco. She is associate professor of voice (soprano) and director of the MSU Opera Theatre at the MSU College of Music.

**Peter Lightfoot** has captivated critics and audiences alike with what *Opera News* has called his “vocal brilliance." He has performed the title role in Verdi’s *Falstaff* in Italy, and Marbuel at the Wexford Festival in the opera *The Devil and Kate*. He has sung with Opera Pacific in Saint-Saens’ *Samson et Dalila* and Britten’s *War Requiem* with the Thornton Chamber Orchestra and combined University of Southern California choirs. He has performed at Carnegie Hall in the American premiere of Sergei *Tanayev’s Oresteia* and sang the Mozart *Requiem* at Carnegie Hall. He is associate professor (baritone) at the MSU College of Music.

**Deborah Moriarty** made her debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at age 11. She served on the piano faculty at the New England Conservatory of Music and the University of Lowell. Moriarty attended the Curtis Institute of Music, the Juilliard School, and the New England Conservatory of Music. An active recitalist and soloist with orchestras throughout the eastern United States, she has also performed in Belgium, Japan, Colombia, Mexico, and the Soviet Union. She is professor of piano and chair of the piano area at the MSU College of Music.

**Derek Polischuk,** a prizewinner in the Carmel International Piano Competition, the California International Young Artists Competition, and the Edith Knox Performance Competition, has appeared as concerto soloist with the La Jolla Symphony, the Peninsula Symphony, and the San Diego Symphony. He is associate professor of piano and director of piano pedagogy at the MSU College of Music, and a 2012 recipient of the MSU Teacher-Scholar Award.

**Minsoo Sohn** has performed with the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, Calgary Philharmonic, Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, the Israel Philharmonic, and many others. He was the First Laureate of the Honens International Piano Competition and was top prizewinner of several international competitions. Sohn recently earned accolades from the New York Times for his recording of the Goldberg Variations, and he received rave reviews for his Fall 2012 concert at Carnegie Hall. He is assistant professor of piano at the MSU College of Music.

**I-Fu Wang**has served as a member of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, with which he performed throughout the United States and internationally. As a chamber musician, he performed with Music From Marlboro, the Kennedy Center Theater Chamber Players, the Fontana Festival of Music and Art. For many years he was the music director of the Renaud Chamber Orchestra and concertmaster of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. He is associate professor of violin at the Michigan State University College of Music.



presents

**The**

**Joanne and Bill Church**

**West Circle Series**

All About Brahms

Suren Bagratuni, Cello

Dmitri Berlinsky, Violin

Molly Fillmore, Soprano

Richard Fracker, Tenor

Yuri Gandelsman, Viola

Melanie Helton, Soprano

Peter Lightfoot, Bass

Deborah Moriarty, Piano

Derek Polischuk, Piano

Minsoo Sohn, Piano

I-Fu Wang, Violin

*Dr. Michael Callahan will give a preview lecture*

*45 minutes before each performance.*

Sunday, February 24, 2013, 3:00 pm

Monday, February 25, 2013, 7:30 pm

Cook Recital Hall

**All About Brahms is generously sponsored**

**by Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D*.***

**Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)**

Hungarian Dances, WoO. 1 (1869)

 No.1 in G minor

 No.7 in A major

 No.5 in F# minor

Deborah Moriarty and Derek Polischuk, piano

Liebeslieder – Walzer, Op. 52 (1870)

No. 1 *Rede, Mädchen, allzu liebes*

No. 2 *Am Gesteine rauscht die Flut*

No. 3 *O die Frauen*

No. 4 *Wie des Abends schöne Röte*

No. 5 *Die grüne Hopfenranke*

No. 6 *Ein kleiner, hübsche Vogel nahm den Flug*

No. 7 *Wohl schön bewandt*

No. 8 *Wenn so lind dein Augen mir*

No. 9 *Am Donaustrande, da steht ein Haus*

No. 10 *O wie sanft die Quelle*

No. 11 *Nein, est ist nicht auszukommen*

No. 12 *Schlosser auf, und mache Schlösser*

No. 13 *Vöglein durchrauscht die Luft*

No. 14 *Sieh, wie ist die Welle klar*

No. 15 *Nachtigall, sie singt so schön*

No. 16 *Ein dunkeler Schacht ist Liebe*

No. 17 *Nicht wandle, mein Licht dort außen*

No. 18 *Es bebet das Gesträuche*

Melanie Helton, soprano; Molly Fillmore, soprano;

Richard Fracker, tenor Peter Lightfoot, bass;

Derek Polischuk and Deborah Moriarty, piano

***Intermission***

Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34 (1864)

 Allegro non troppo

 Andante, un poco Adagio

 Scherzo: Allegro

 Finale: Poco sostenuto – Allegro non troppo

Dmitri Berlinsky, violin, I-Fu Wang, violin, Yuri Gandelsman, viola,

Suren Bagratuni, cello, Minsoo Sohn, piano

**Artist Bios**

**Suren Bagratuni** won the silver medal at the 1986 International Tchaikovsky Competition while still a student at the Moscow Conservatory. He has toured worldwide earning enthusiastic praise in both the traditional and contemporary repertoire. He has performed with major orchestras in the former Soviet Union, Europe, Asia, and North and South America. He is professor of cello, co-chair of the string area, and artist teacher at the MSU College of Music.

**Dmitri Berlinsky** took first prize in the Paganini International Violin Competition and was the winner of the Montreal International Violin Competition, the Tchaikovsky Competition, and the Queen Elizabeth Competition in Brussels.He has performed with major orchestras in Europe, Russia, Asia, and North and South America. He is associate professor of violin and artist teacher at the MSU College of Music, as well as Artistic Director of the Southampton Arts Festival in Long Island, NY, and founder of the International Chamber Soloists ensemble.

**Michael Callahan** earned his Ph.D. in music theory from the Eastman School of Music in 2010 and has since published research in the Journal of Music Theory Pedagogy, Integral, Musical Performance Research, and Theory and Practice. His research focuses on keyboard improvisation, eighteenth-century counterpoint, music theory pedagogy, and the Great American Songbook.  An assistant professor of music theory at the MSU College of Music, Michael is a recent recipient of a Lilly Teaching Fellowship and a HARP (Humanities and Arts Research Program) grant, both in support of his work on performance-assisted music theory pedagogy.

Grammy award-winning soprano **Molly Fillmore** has sung with The Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Seattle Opera, Washington National Opera, Arizona Opera, Spoleto Festival, and Oper der Stadt Köln. She has appeared as a soloist with Detroit Symphony, Seattle Symphony, and Utah Symphony, at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and Kennedy Center Concert Hall. This summer she will make her debut at the Tanglewood Music Festival with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Her appearances in the Met’s *Ring Cycle*and their production of *Satyagraha*were shown in movie theaters in 40 countries as part of the Met’s “Live in HD” series.  She is associate professor of voice (soprano) at the MSU College of Music.

**Richard Fracker** hasperformed regularly in opera houses and concert halls throughout the world, including ten seasons and more than 160 performances with the Metropolitan Opera. Fracker made several appearances in Texaco’s *“Live from the MET”* radio and television broadcasts*.* Career highlights include world debuts of Philip Glass’s *Hydrogen Jukebox and Orphee,* and his Carnegie Hall leading tenor debut in Glass’s *Civil Wars.* He has performed leading roles and concertized in Spain, Italy, Norway, China, Japan, Iceland, and throughout the U.S. He is associate professor of voice (tenor) and voice area chair at the MSU College of Music.

**Yuri Gandelsman** has been entertaining audiences around the world for the last 30 years as a soloist, chamber musician, and a conductor.Winner of the 1980 National Viola Competition, Gandelsman served as principal violist with the Moscow Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and later with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. He was a member of the Fine Arts Quartet, (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) for seven years. He is professor of viola at the MSU College of Music.