Presents the
West Circle series
Joanne and Bill Church
Chopiniana
the music of Frédéric Chopin

Suren Bagratuni, artistic director.

MONDAY, MARCH 17 • 7:30 P.M.
Russian Gems, including Tchaikovsky’s Piano Trio
in A minor (RES)
Sponsored by Martin Fuchs; Jerry Schuur and Elaine Karle

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 • 7:30 P.M.
A Composer and His Music, including three world
premieres Vache Sharafyan, guest composer (RES)
Sponsored by Greg and Pam Zbasnik

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 • 5:00 P.M. AND 7:30 P.M.
Bach Plus Day 1
5:00 p.m. Afternoon Performance (FREE)
7:30 p.m. Evening Concert, including works by Bach,
Couperin, and Ravel (RES)
Sponsored by Joanne and Bill Church

FRIDAY, MARCH 21 • 5:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M.
Bach Plus Day 2
5:00 p.m. Afternoon Performance, including works by
Bach, Telemann, and Vivaldi (FREE)
8:00 p.m. Bach and Forth Concert, a crossover program
including works of Bach and many different styles (RES)
Sponsored by Joanne and Bill Church; April Clobes and Glen Brough

SUNDAY, MARCH 23 • 3:00 P.M.
Chamber Music Favorites, including Brahms’
Piano Quartet in C minor (RES)
Sponsored by Larry Snyder and Wendy Champness

All Cello Plus performances at Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium.
(RES) = Reserved seating; $15 Adults; $12 Seniors (age 60 and older);
$5 Students with ID and anyone under age 18.
Tickets available at the door and online at music.msu.edu.

The entire West Circle Series, including Cello Plus,
is generously sponsored by Joanne and Bill Church.

Chopiniana is generously sponsored by
Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D.
PROGRAM

Rondo in C major, Op. 73
Deborah Moriarty, piano
Derek Polischuk, piano

Scherzo No. 2 in Bb minor, Op. 31
Derek Polischuk, piano

Nocturne in F# major, Op. 15 No. 2
Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52
Ralph Votapek, piano

INTERMISION

Sonata for Cello and Piano in G minor, Op. 65
Allegro moderato
Scherzo
Largo
Finale. Allegro
Suren Bagratuni, cello
Minsoo Sohn, piano

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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, including the Moscow Philharmonic, and has also appeared with numerous orchestras in Europe, Asia, and North and South America. In addition to his solo activities, he performs as a member of Trio Nobilis, serves as artistic director of the Cello Plus music festival, and conducts master classes worldwide. A former faculty member of the New England Conservatory and the University of Illinois, he is professor of cello, co-chair of the string area, and artist teacher at the MSU College of Music.

Michael Callahan is assistant professor of music theory in the College of Music at Michigan State University. He is the recipient of the prestigious MSU Teacher-Scholar Award, which recognizes exceptional teaching by early-career faculty members university-wide. In addition, he currently holds a Lilly Teaching Fellowship (2013-14) and a grant from the Humanities and Arts Research Program (2013-15). His research interests include music theory pedagogy, particularly as it intersects with performance and improvisation; eighteenth-century counterpoint; and the Great American Songbook. He has presented nationally and internationally on these subjects and published in Music Theory Online, the Journal of Music Theory Pedagogy, Theory and Practice, Intégral, and Music Performance Research. His technology-aided pedagogical approach, PlayIt, is transforming the nature of active, hands-on learning in the music theory curriculum here at MSU. An active performer on harpsichord and piano as well as a scholar, Callahan earned a B.A. in music from Harvard (2004) and both an M.A. (2008) and a Ph.D. (2010) in music theory from the Eastman School of Music.
Deborah Moriarty is professor of piano and chair of the piano area at the Michigan State University College of Music, where she is a recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award. A Massachusetts native, she made her debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at age 11. She has 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, where she received her Master of Music degree with honors. Major teachers include: Russell Sherman, Theodore Lettvin, and Beveridge Webster. A medal winner in the “Concours Debussy,” she is an active recitalist and soloist with orchestras throughout the eastern United States. She has also performed in Belgium, Japan, Colombia, Mexico, China, Italy, and the former Soviet Union. Moriarty is a founding member of the Fontana Ensemble of Michigan, and as an advocate of new music, has participated in numerous premiere performances including Milton Babbitt’s “Whirled Series” at Merkin Hall in New York City. She has recordings on the Crystal, CRI, Blue Griffin and Centaur labels.

Derek Kealii Polischuk, is associate professor of piano and director of piano pedagogy at the Michigan State University College of Music. Originally from San Diego, Polischuk studied with Polish pianist Krzysztof Brzuza before attending the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, where he completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree with renowned concert artist Daniel Pollack. At Michigan State University, Polischuk has been the recipient of the Curricular Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Award, and the Teacher-Scholar Award. In 2013, Polischuk released a solo piano recording of Impromptus by Schubert and Thomas Osborne on the Blue Griffin Label.

Minsoo Sohn’s poetic vision and musical intelligence continue to garner praise from critics and audiences alike. He “illuminated” at his return to Carnegie Hall last October, said the New York Times. The same eminent paper called his recording of Bach’s Goldberg Variations a “beautifully articulated, radiant interpretation and named it one of the top classical recordings of 2011. Sohn returns to the Studio next year to record works by Debussy for his third release. He was named Honens prize winner in 2006, and was also a top prize winner at the Cleveland, Busoni and Rubinstein international piano competitions. He is assistant professor of piano at the MSU College of Music.

Ralph Votapek, the first gold medalist of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and winner of the prestigious Naumburg Award, has performed with the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, the Boston Pops, the Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Houston, Dallas, St. Louis, National Symphonies, and other top ensembles. He has also toured in Latin America, Russia, Japan, and Korea and has performed in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Chicago’s Orchestra Hall, and the National Gallery in Washington. His most recent CD, 20th Century Masterpieces, Volume II, was released in November on the Blue Griffin label. It features works by Albeniz, Ravel, Griffes, and Kapustin. Votapek is professor emeritus of piano at the Michigan State University College of Music, where he served as artist-in-residence for 36 years.