

# Structurally Sound mixes chamber music, architecture



By Mark Stryker, Detroit Free Press Staff Writer

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(Photo: Steven Pham)

Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings' Structurally Sound series connects the dots between music and architecture. DCWS ensembles perform in architecturally significant spaces in Detroit with programs tailored specifically to the location. The idea is to illuminate shared aesthetic ideas between the art forms, highlight common history or simply explore the sonic possibilities of the space.

Previous locations have included the historic Ford Piquette Plant and the neoclassical Dime Building downtown. This weekend, the ensemble lands at the mammoth Russell Industrial Center, which was created in 1915 for automotive design but now is home to artist studios. The performance takes place at the Michigan Hot Glass Studio, where local artist Albert Young, who teaches at the College for Creative Studies, will create a

glass trumpet during the concert.

Corbin Wagner, associate professor of horn at Michigan State University, has organized the music, which will feature him, Philip Sinder on tuba and Derek Polischuk on piano. The program leans heavily on contemporary fare. Bill Dobbins' "Dialogues for Tuba and Piano" was selected for its high energy, which parallels the original industrial mission of the building. Film composer John Williams' Horn Concerto winks at the building's recent use as a backdrop for Hollywood films.

Also on the program are pieces by Roger Kellaway and Alec Wilder — composers, like Dobbins, with jazz or pop roots. Interestingly, in this context, the final composer, Franz Schubert, seems like the odd man.

*3 p.m. Sunday, Michigan Hot Glass Studio, Russell Industrial Center, 1600 Clay St., Detroit. 248-559-2095. Advance tickets: \$35, \$30 seniors, \$10 students. (\$5 more per ticket at the door.) Reservations recommended.*

Michigan Opera Theatre's production of Puccini's beloved "Madame Butterfly," the story of a callous American naval officer and his naive teenage geisha bride, offers a traditional telling of the tale with all the Japanese accoutrements. With Moldavian soprano Inna Los and American tenor Noah Stewart in the leading roles on opening night, the singing was polished but lacked the visceral excitement that lingers in the memory. Still, Puccini's glorious score took flight on the wing of conductor Stephen Lord's passion and patience, and the cast delivered at key moments.

*7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway. 313-237-7464. [www.michiganopera.org](http://www.michiganopera.org) (<http://www.michiganopera.org/>). \$25-\$125. [Read a full review here.](#) (/story/entertainment/music/2014/11/16/mot-butterfly-stewart-los/19147029/) On Friday and Sunday Donata D'Annunzio Lombardi sings the role of Cio-Cio San (Butterfly) and Adam Luther sings the role of Pinkerton in place of Los and Stewart.*

Music director Leonard Slatkin returns to the podium this weekend to lead the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in an all-American program with all kinds of enticing twists. Most surprising is that the DSO will be giving the world premiere of Slatkin's first original composition for orchestra, "Endgames," which features prominent roles for six woodwinds that don't see much of the spotlight — piccolo, alto flute, English horn, E-flat clarinet, bass clarinet and bassoon.

The famous composer in Slatkin's family — his wife, Cindy McTee — will be represented by "Solstice" featuring DSO principal trombonist Ken Thompkins. Benjamin Lee's Concerto for String Quartet and Orchestra and George Gershwin's "An American in Paris" represent the non-Slatkin household.

*7:30 p.m. Thursday, 10:45 a.m. Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday, Orchestra Hall, Max M. Fisher Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. 313-576-5111. [www.dso.org](http://www.dso.org) (<http://www.dso.org/>). \$15-\$50.*

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