MSU Music

WKAR PRESENTS:

The College of Music
Faculty Artist Recital Series

Walter Verdehr, Violin

with

Irina Banova, Viola
Gregory Beaver, Cello
Carl Donakowski, Cello
Yuri Gandelsman, Viola
Seunghee Lee, Violin
Joe L’Esperance, Horn

Joy Rowland, Bass
Fangye Sun, Violin
Daniel Tressel, Cello
Corbin Wagner, Horn

Tuesday, January 20, 2015, at 7:30 pm
Cook Recital Hall, Music Building

Program

Divertimento No. 17 for Strings and Horns K.334
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
Allegro
Thema mit Variationen
Menuetto
Adagio
Menuetto: Trio 1, Trio 2
Rondo: Allegro

Walter Verdehr and Fangye Sun, violin
Irina Banova, viola
Daniel Tressel, cello
Joy Rowland, bass
Corbin Wagner, Joe L’Esperance, horn

Intermission

String Sextet No. 2, op. 36
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Allegro non troppo
Scherzo: Allegro non troppo
Poco Adagio
Poco Allegro

Walter Verdehr and Seunghee Lee, violin
Yuri Gandelsman and Irina Banova, viola
Gregory Beaver and Carl Donakowski, cello
**Artist Bios**

**Irina Banova** graduated from Hochschule fur Musik Detmold (Germany) and had solo appearances with the Moldavian National Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra of Moldova National Philharmonic, and HFM Detmold Symphony Orchestra (Germany). As a chamber musician, she participated in Margess International of Switzerland, Detmold Summer Academy (Germany) and MSU's Cello Plus Festival. From 2002 to 2004, Irina was a member of National Chamber Orchestra of Moldova. Since 2005, she holds a position in the Extremadura Symphony Orchestra (Spain). Banova is Professor Gandelsman's graduate teaching assistant at MSU.

**Gregory Beaver** is the cellist of the internationally-recognized Chiara String Quartet in residence at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The quartet has received rave reviews around the globe, recently touring South Korea and China. Their album “Jefferson Friedman: Quartets” was nominated for a Grammy in 2008. Most recently, the group has received a great deal of notice for performing Béla Bartók’s 6 string quartets entirely by heart. They are recording the set for Azica Records, to be released in 2016. As a soloist, Mr. Beaver won the 1997 Corpus Christi Young Artist's Competition and was selected as one of the two quarterfinalists from the United States for the Australasian International Cello Competition in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Gregory started cello with Char Sherman in the Okemos Suzuki program in Okemos, Michigan. He studied with Marilyn Kesler and continued his studies with renowned pedagogue Louis Potter, Jr. He has a BM cum laude from Rice University where he studied with Norman Fischer, an MM from The Juilliard School where he studied with Joel Krosnick, and an Artist Diploma in String Quartet Studies from The Juilliard School where he studied with the Juilliard String Quartet. Gregory is also an internationally recognized expert in the PHP computer programming language, and his book The PEAR Installer Manifesto: Revolutionizing PHP Application Development and Deployment was released by Packt Publishing in October of 2006. His blog is a popular source of information on advanced cello techniques and has the definitive article on traveling with a cello by air.

**Cellist Carl Donakowski** has performed in recitals throughout the Americas and Europe including at the Kennedy Center. His performances have aired on WQRS Detroit, WQXR New York, and Südwestfunk Baden-Baden. He was a finalist in the 1989 Mendelssohn Competition in Berlin. As a chamber musician, he has been a member of the North Shore Pro Musica of New York and of the Fontana Chamber Music Society. He has performed at the Manitou, Staunton, Tanglewood, Bay View, and Beethoven music festivals. As a member of the West End Chamber Ensemble he was artist-in-residence with the Chamber Music America Rural Residency Chamber Music Initiative. As a member of the Arcos Trio, Mr. Donakowski was recently awarded an Artistic Excellence grant from the National Endowment for the arts to perform and record piano trios by Latin American composers for the Centaur Label. Mr. Donakowski has presented at National Conference of the American String Teachers Association. He has served as president of the Michiana Cello Society and currently edits the Cello Forum for the Virginia String Teachers Association. Mr. Donakowski is a graduate of Indiana University where he studied with Janos Starker and Gary Hoffman. He has also studied with Timothy Eddy and William Pleeth. Mr. Donakowski is Associate Professor of Cello at James Madison University where he received the 2010 Distinguished Teaching Award in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. He previously served on the faculties of Central Michigan University School of Music and Alma College.

Hailed by the *Jerusalem Post* as "...undoubtedly one of the greatest violists of our time," **Yuri Gandelsman** has performed solo recitals in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Paris, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Warsaw, Istanbul, Budapest, and Florence. He has made numerous solo recordings and his most recent release, "Hindemith Retrospective" (Blue Griffin, 2013), was received with critical acclaim. He was principal violist with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra for 10 years and frequently toured as a soloist with the IPO, performing with such conductors as Zubin Mehta and Pinchas Zukerman, among others. Gandelsman’s chamber music performances include collaborations with many renowned artists. He was a member of the Fine Arts Quartet at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he performed more than 300 concerts worldwide and recorded numerous albums. Born in Russia, Gandelsman studied in Moscow with Heinrich Talalyan and Valentin Berlinsky. He now serves as professor of viola at the MSU College of Music.
Violinist **Seunghee Lee** has delighted audiences with performances that music critics have described her concert performance as ... "stunning performance. Lee left a lasting impression with her marvelous playing," "Seunghee Lee was spectacular ... her tone was liquid and lovely, and she sang out her story with vivid emotion." As a soloist and a chamber musician, she has performed throughout the United States, Korea, Ukraine, Brazil, Italy, Austria, Portugal, Russia, Bulgaria, Bosnia, and China. Her chamber music experience includes performances with the Fontana Concert Society, the Renaud Chamber Music Society, the Orpheus Trio, and the Westbrook String Quartet. She was a faculty member of Central Michigan University and the Bay View Music Festival. Currently, she is the concertmaster of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra as well as a member of Arcos Trio and Quartet 21. She is adjunct professor at Hanyang University in Korea.

**Joe L'Esperance** received a Bachelor's degree in French Horn performance from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He has studied with Bryan Kennedy and Adam Unsworth, and currently holds a graduate assistantship at Michigan State University with Corbin Wagner. L'Esperance has performed with the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra for two years, plays in the Red Cedar Graduate Brass Quintet, and actively gigs around the metro Detroit area.

**Joy Rowland** is a 4th year doctorate student studying double bass performance at Michigan State University under Professor Jack Budrow. She originally hails from Maryland where she attended the Peabody Conservatory of Music of the Johns Hopkins University for her Bachelors Degree. During her time there, she studied with John Hood of the Philadelphia Orchestra. During her summers she has participated in the National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute where she performed at the Kennedy Center, as well as the Gateways Music Festival located in Rochester, NY.

Violinist **Fangye Sun**, lecturer in violin at Central Michigan University, has enjoyed a multi-faceted career from concert halls to teaching studios. An avid soloist, chamber and orchestral musician, she has performed with orchestras in Hong Kong, Japan, Canada, the U.S., and throughout China. A member of Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, she has held orchestral leadership positions in the Lansing Symphony, Jackson Symphony, Southwest Michigan Symphony and Xi’an Conservatory of Music Symphony. Sun attained a Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music in Violin Performance from Michigan State University and a Bachelor of Music from Xi’an Conservatory of Music. Her mentors include Walter Verdehr, Yaoji Lin, Xinfa Zhao and Xie Min.

**Daniel Tressel**, composer and cellist, divides his time among composing, performing, and teaching. After receiving a Master’s and Bachelor’s degree in cello performance from University of Nevada and University of Illinois, respectively, Daniel went on to receive his Doctor of Musical Arts in music composition from Michigan State University where he studied under Dr. Ricardo Lorenz. As a composer, Daniel seeks a fresh approach to tonality and has written numerous works for orchestra and various chamber ensembles. Recognized for his idiomatic instrumental writing and lush orchestration, he has received commissions from several orchestras including the Jackson Symphony, Mason Symphony Orchestra. In 2011 he was named the winner of the Merle J. Isaac Composition Contest for his orchestral work *Sunday Stroll*, which was premiered by the Lake Michigan Youth Symphony on May 13, 2012. As a cellist, Daniel won third prize at the Reno Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition and has made solo appearances with the University of Nevada Symphony, Glenbrook Symphony Orchestra and Livingston Symphony. As a founding member of *Duo Piacevole* and the Armonia String Quartet, he is an active chamber musician. Daniel is currently on the composition/theory faculty at Spring Arbor University and teaches cello and music composition at the Jackson Symphony Orchestra Community Music School.

**Walter Verdehr** is professor of violin at the Michigan State University College of Music. He received MSU’s Teacher-Scholar Award in 1973 and the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2004. Verdehr received his first violin instruction at the Conservatory of Music in Graz, Austria. After studying with Ivan Galamian at the Juilliard School, he became the first violinist to receive a doctorate there. As a Fulbright Scholar, he graduated with distinction from the Hochschule fuer Musik. He has made numerous appearances as a soloist with orchestras in Houston, Honolulu, Taipei, Ulsan (Korea), and Izmir (Turkey); with the Teton Festival symphonies; and with many orchestras in Michigan, New York, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, California, Czechoslovakia, China, and Australia.
Vienna Express called him "a perfect violinist with beautiful blossoming tone and noble musicality." Together with his wife, Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr, he founded the Verdehr Trio in 1972, for which they have commissioned more than 200 works from international composers including Gian Carlo Menotti, William Bolcom, Joan Tower, Jennifer Higdon, Bright Sheng, Thea Musgrave, Augusta Reade Thomas, Alan Hovhaness, Peter Sculthorpe, Alexander Arutiunian, and David Diamond and have recorded more than 20 CDs on Crystal records. He has been a jury member of the Naumburg, Prague Spring, Singapore and other international violin competitions.

Corbin Wagner, a highly regarded horn performer, teacher, and longtime member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, was appointed associate professor of horn in the MSU College of Music in 2012. He also performs with the Beaumont Brass Quintet. Before his appointment to the faculty of the MSU College of Music, he served as adjunct horn professor at Oakland University, the University of Michigan, and Wayne State University. Wagner has received many prestigious performing honors, including third prize at the 1983 Munich International Horn Competition. He also took first prize at the Heldenleben International Horn Competition in hand horn, valve horn, and horn quartet. In 1989 and again in 2002, Wagner joined three of his colleagues and the DSO in performing Robert Schumann’s Konzertstück for four horns and orchestra. He continues to perform with the Peninsula Music Festival, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings and the Palm Beach Opera. In the fall of 2014 Wagner released his first CD, featuring the Wagner Trio, horn, soprano, and piano. This CD features three commissioned works, two from the MSU College of Music.