



College of Music  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTIST-FACULTY AND GUEST RECITAL SERIES  
Sponsored by WKAR

# Happy Two Gather

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Richard Fracker, tenor  
Mark Rucker, baritone  
Elden Little, piano  
Sadie Rucker, piano

Thursday, October 24, 2024  
Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

# PROGRAM

from <i>La bohème</i> Che penna infame! ... O Mimì, tu più non torni	Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)
Danza, danza, fanciulla gentile	Francesco Durante (1684-1755)
Caro mio ben	Tommaso Giordani (c. 1730-1806)
La danza from <i>Les soirées musicales</i>	Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)
L'alba sepàra dalla luce l'ombra	Francesco Paolo Tosti (1846-1916)
from <i>La forza del destino</i> La vita è inferno all'infelice ... O tu che in seno agli angeli Solenne in quest'ora Morir! Tremenda cosa ... Urna fatale! ... Egli è salvo	Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

## Intermission

Deep River	Traditional Spiritual arr. H.T. Burleigh
I'm a Soldier In the Army of the Lord	Traditional Spiritual arr. Lena McLin
Bridge Over Troubled Water	Paul Simon (b. 1941)
His Eye Is on the Sparrow	Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932)
Soliloquy	John W. Work III (1901-1967)
Hold Out Your Light	Lena McLin (1928-2023)
from <i>Don Carlo</i> Rinfranca accanto a me ... Dio, che nell'alma infondere	Giuseppe Verdi

## ARTIST FACULTY BIOS

Named a Beal Outstanding Professor by Michigan State University and its current Area Chair of the Vocal Arts, tenor **Richard Fracker** has cultivated a distinguished performing and teaching resume. Career highlights include fourteen international and national broadcasts from “Live at the MET”; world premiere productions of Philip Glass’ *The Voyage*, *Hydrogen Jukebox*, and *Orphée*; and international and national appearances including Calaf (*Turandot*), Cavaradossi (*Tosca*), Nadir, (*Les Pêcheurs de Perles*), Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Rodolfo (*La Bohème*), Hoffman (*The Tales of Hoffman*), Tonio (*La Fille du Régiment*), Duke (*Rigoletto*), and Alfredo (*La Traviata*), among others. Fracker students have routinely appeared professionally in major opera, musical theater, television, and concert venues throughout the world; earned prominent apprenticeships and residencies; won and placed in national and international vocal competitions (including the Metropolitan Council Auditions and NATS National Student Auditions); and secured substantial merit awards and teaching assistantships to the most prestigious graduate programs in the country.

MSU Professor of Voice **Mark Rucker**, baritone, debuted as Renato in *Un Ballo in Maschera* with Luciano Pavarotti for the Opera Company of Philadelphia, and since then he has been in demand in opera houses and on concert stages throughout the world. In addition to an active performing career, he has been the Administrative Director for the Martina Arroyo Foundation’s celebrated Young Artist Program, Prelude to Performance, since 2005 and Artistic Director since 2015.

Professor Rucker made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Amonasro in *Aida*, has performed several roles since, and remains on the Met roster. He sang the major Verdi baritone roles in *Rigoletto*, *Macbeth*, and *Nabucco* for several companies around the world, and he has worked with celebrated maestri including Richard Bonygne, Riccardo Chailly, and Fabio Luisi.

Professor Rucker’s Carnegie Hall debut as Don Carlo in *La forza del destino* earned great acclaim, as well as other roles around the world since in renowned halls such as Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires and Royal Opera House Covent Garden. His recordings include “Mark Rucker Sings Lena McLin Songs for Voice and Piano”.

## ARTIST FACULTY BIOS

**Elden Little** has worked as a pianist/coach in numerous operatic productions that range from baroque operas to contemporary works with Austin Opera, Opera Birmingham, Kentucky Opera, Opera Neo, San Antonio Opera, and Des Moines Metro Opera, where he has been a member of the music staff since 2006. He was a frequent festival artist and chamber music coach for the Austin Chamber Music Summer Festival and Workshop and toured with the acclaimed choral ensemble *Conspirare* and can be heard as a featured soloist on their recording “Through the Green Fuse”, available on the Clarion label. A sought-after collaborator and vocal coach, his most recent collaboration on Lee Hoiby’s opera *Bon Appétit* with GRAMMY-Award winning mezzo-soprano Joyce Castle was broadcast on Iowa PBS and subsequently won the Upper Midwest Regional Emmy Award for outstanding arts program.

His educational training includes a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara in piano performance, and Master and Doctorate degrees in applied piano from the University of Texas at Austin. His collaborative piano studies were with noted collaborative pianists Eugene Bossart, David Garvey, and Gwendolyn Koldofsky.

**Sadie Rucker** is the Vocal Arts Outreach Program Coordinator and studio accompanist for the Rucker studio at MSU. With talented MSU vocal arts graduate students, the Vocal Arts Outreach Cabaret has performed for a number of Michigan schools, rural, urban, and suburban, since 2016 with great success. She has been the accompanist and coach for her husband for the past thirty years.

She holds a BA from St. Mary of the Woods College in Music Education and an MME from Drake University. As a mezzo-soprano, she was a soloist in concerts and operas at Drake and has taught voice privately. As a Peace Corps volunteer in the West Indies, she taught music in elementary and secondary schools and Teacher’s College. She also taught music in middle school and community college here in the U.S. and was music director for a high school Gilbert and Sullivan troupe. She has been part of the Martina Arroyo Foundation’s Young Artist program, *Prelude to Performance*, from its inception in 2005 as publicity director. She is the accompanist along with Dr. Lena McLin on the Kjos recording of “Mark Rucker Sings Lena McLin Songs for Voice and Piano”.

# TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

## **Che penna infame! ... O, Mimi tu più non torni from *La bohème*** (duet)

Rodolfo

This pen is terrible!

Marcello

So is this brush!

Rodolfo

(O Mimi, you won't return! O lovely days! Those tiny hands, those sweet-smelling locks, that snowy neck! Ah! Mimi! My short-lived youth.)

Marcello

(I don't understand how my brush works and mixes colors to spite me. Whether I want to paint earth or sky, spring or winter, the brush outlines two dark eyes and inviting lips, and Musetta's face appears...)

Rodolfo

(And you, little pink bonnet that she hid under the pillow as she left, you know all of our joy. Come to my heart, my heart that died when our love died)

Marcello

(Her face appears, so lovely and under so false. Meanwhile, Musetta is happy and my cowardly heart calls her and waits for her.)

## **Danza, danza, fanciulla gentile**

Dance, dance youthful girl to my singing. Spin lightly, subtly to the sound of the waves of the sea. Hear the vague clamor and playful ambience that speaks to the heart with languid sounds and invites you to dance and never stop...

## **La danza from *Les soirées musicales***

Already the moon is above the sea, "mamma mia" how we will leap! The hour is perfect for dancing, anyone in love will not miss it. Swiftly dance around and around. My ladies, come here, a handsome and lighthearted lad will dance with everyone. As long as there is a star in the sky and the moon shines. The most handsome boy with the most beautiful girl will dance the entire night. "Mamma mia", "mamma mia"... tra la la la!

Already the moon is high over the seas "mamma mia". Strum, strum, strum how we will leap. Jump, jump, turn, turn—every couple goes in a circle—now advancing, now retreating and attack once again. Hug the blond girl tightly, go here and there with the brunette, with the redhead follow her. Leave the dull one standing. Hooray for the dancing! I am a king! I am a pasha! It is the most beautiful pleasure in the world, the dearest delight!

## **L'alba sepàra dalla luce l'ombra**

The dawn divides the darkness from the light, and my sensual pleasure from my desire.

O sweet stars, the hour of death is now at hand. A love more holy sweeps you from the skies.

Gleaming eyes, O you who'll never return. Sad stars, snuff out your uncorrupted light! I must die, I do not want to see the day, for love of my own dream and of the night.

Envelop me, O night in your maternal breast, While the pale earth bathes itself in dew.

But let the dawn rise from my blood and from my brief dream the eternal sun.

**La vita è inferno all'infelice ... O tu che in seno agli angeli from *La forza del destino***

Life is hell to the unfortunate; in vain death I desire! Seville! Leonora! Oh memories! Oh night that robbed me of all joy! I will be unhappy forever; it is so written.

For his native land my father wished to break its foreign yoke, and uniting himself with the last of the Incas he thought to assume the crown. The undertaking was in vain. I was born in a prison, educated in the desert. I live only because my royal heritage is unknown. My parents dreamed of a throne; the axe awoke them! Oh, when will it end—my misfortunes!

Oh, you to the bosom of angels forever pure, ascendent beauty, unscathed by mortal sorrow, do not forget to turn your glance down on me, wretched, without name and exiled, hated by fate, I ask for it, miserable, to meet my death. Leonora mine, help me, have pity on my pain! Have pity on me!

**Solenne in quest'ora from *La forza del destino* (duet)**

Alvaro Carlo  
Solemn in this hour, swear to me to honor my wish I swear it

Alvaro Carlo  
Upon my heart search... A key!

Alvaro  
With it you will draw a hidden fold (packet). I entrust it (to you) on your honor. There is a mystery there that will die with me. Burn it when I am dead.

Carlo:  
I swear it.

Alvaro:  
Now I die in peace; I hold you to my heart.

Carlo:  
Friend, trust in heaven! Farewell.

**Morir! Tremenda cosa ... Urna fatale! ... Egli è salvo from *La forza del destino***

To die! What a frightful thing! So fearless, so valiant yet he will die! He is a strange man!

He trembled at the name of Calatrava. Has someone perhaps revealed my dishonor to him?

Heavens! A thought strikes me! What if he were the seducer? That man, in my grasp, and alive! What if I have been deceived? Here are the papers! What am I trying to do? And the oath that I swore? And my life that I owe to his bravery? I saved him too! What if he is that accursed Indian who besmirched my blood? Let the seal be broken. No one sees me here. No? I can see myself!

Ah, fatal container of my destiny, go away from me, you tempt me in vain. I came here to wipe clean my honor; it is insane to tarnish it with a new shame. An oath is sacred to man of honor; Let these papers keep their secret. The evil thought has vanished which incited me to an unworthy deed. But what if another proof could be found? Let us see.

Here is a portrait... It is not unsealed... he said nothing about this...  
I promised nothing... then let it be opened. Heavens! Leonora! That wounded man is  
Don Alvaro! Now may he live, that he can then die by my hand! He is saved!  
Immense joy! I feel you flood my heart! At last, I will be able to avenge the betrayal  
of a vile man. Lenora, where are you hiding? Tell me, did you follow among the  
squadrons with the blood of your father, rouging your face? Oh, my happiness would  
be overflowing if my sword in one fell stroke might both once and forever be  
dedicated to the Prince of Hell!

**Rinfranca accanto a me ... Dio, che nell'alma infondere from *Don Carlo*** (duet)

Rodrigo

Give me the spirit that falters next me! Serene still will your star shine in the heavens!  
Ask of heaven to give you the virtue of strong men!

Carlo and Rodrigo

God, who in our souls infuse love and hope, desire in our hearts kindle for liberty. We  
swear together to live and to die together. On earth, in heaven, unites us your  
goodness

**PRIVATE GIFTS** play a vital role in our ability to maintain and enhance the quality of the programs we offer. Donations support student scholarships, fellowships, student travel and performance opportunities, instrument acquisitions, guest artists, outreach activities, operations, and other crucial areas that make the College of Music an exemplary place of learning.

## **THANK YOU TO OUR 2024-2025 SPONSORS**

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- **Sam and Mary Austin Fund for New Music** (Tambuco Mexican Percussion Ensemble, Nov. 21)
- **Ken and Sandy Beall** (Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival Series; Jazz Spectacular)
- **James and Susan Bonfiglio** (Symphony Orchestra, Apr. 26; Fall Opera)
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- **Thea Glicksman** (From Vienna with Love, Jan. 17)
- **Howard and Pam Gourwitz** (Lulloff, Nov. 25)
- **Anne Hiller** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Lauren Harris** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Taylor Johnston Early Music Series Endowment established by Taylor Johnston** (Taylor Johnston Early Music Series)
- **Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D.** (Votapek, Mar. 27)
- **Michael and Paula Koppisch** (Zuber, Feb. 17)
- **Robert Last and Jill Canny** (MSU Federal Credit Union Jazz Artist in Residence, J. Clayton, Dec. 8; Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert)
- **Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Fall and Spring Opera)
- **Ann, John and Abby Lindley** (Holiday Glory; Wind Symphony, Nov. 24)
- **Merritt Lutz** (Celebrating the Spectrum; Wind Symphony, Apr. 24)
- **Clare Mackey** (Pass a Good Time, Oct. 6; Oboe, Trumpet and Organ, Feb. 11)
- **Joseph and Jeanne Maguire** (A Jazzy Little Christmas)



- **Patrick and Victoria McPharlin Guest Artist Endowment for Jazz Studies in the College of Music** (Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert)
- **Pat & Mary McPharlin** (Tambuco Mexican Percussion Ensemble, Nov. 21)
- **Dr. Roy and Christine Meland** (Vive La France)
- **Gordon E. Miracle** (Votapek, Sept. 25; Helton, Oct. 31)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union** (Showcase Series; Spartan Spectacular; Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union Entrepreneurial Musical Artist-in-Residence Endowed Fund** (Tambuco Mexican Percussion Ensemble, Nov. 21)
- **George Orban and Rae Ramsdell** (Red Cedar Organ, Sept. 15)
- **Milton Powell, in memory of Sue Powell, accomplished pianist and organist** (Red Cedar Organ, Sept. 15)
- **Liz and Tony Raduazo in honor of Andrew Raduazo** (Sensory Friendly Spartan Concert, Nov. 9 and April 8)
- **Nancy and Charlie Seebeck** (MSU-Stanford Piano Quartet)
- **Michael and Elaine Serling** (A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **Leonard and Sharon Tabaka** (Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **TechSmith** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Dr. Robert W. Uphaus and Dr. Lois M. Rosen** (Symphony Orchestra, Sept. 27; Woodward String Quartet, Mar. 13; Bagratuni, Mar. 31)
- **Linn Van Dyne and Mike Knox** (Symphony Orchestra, Feb. 7)
- **Barbara E. Wagner** (Wagner Chamber Music Competition)
- **Dr. Charles and Philippa Webb** (Beacon Hill Music Series)
- **Richard Witter** (A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **WKAR** (Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series)
- **Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D. and Thomas V. O'Halloran, Ph.D.** (Holiday Glory)
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- **Andrea L. Wulf** (Piano Monster)

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## **MAKE A GIFT**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

10/25 Friday

**Symphony Band/Wind Symphony**

Cobb Great Hall, 8:00 p.m. \$

10/26 Thursday

**State Singers and University Chorale**

Fairchild Theatre, 8:00 p.m. \$

10/27 Sunday

**Symphony Orchestra**

Cobb Great Hall, 3:00 p.m. \$

10/28 Monday

**Musique 21**

Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$

10/30 Wednesday

**Percussion Ensemble**

Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$

10/31 Thursday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

**Melanie Helton, voice**

Cook Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

10/31 Thursday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

**Carillon Recital: Halloween, Spooky Tunes**

Beaumont Tower, 9:00 p.m. free

11/1 Friday

**African Diaspora Percussion Ensemble**

Fairchild Theatre, 8:00 p.m. \$

### TICKET PRICES

**\$** \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors (age 60 and older), Students with ID and anyone under age 18 are free but require a ticket for admission.

**\$\$** \$17 Adults, \$15 Seniors, \$7 Students with ID and anyone under age 18.

**\$\$\$** \$22 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$12 Students and those under age 18.

Please note: *All events scheduled in Murray Hall are general admission seating.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

11/3 Sunday

## **Spartan Spectacular**

Cobb Great Hall, 3:00 p.m. \$

11/4 Monday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

## **Zhihua Tang, Chamber Recital**

Cook Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

11/8 Friday

## **Jazz Nonets**

Murray Hall, 8:00 p.m. \$

11/9 Saturday

## **Sensory Friendly Spartan Concert**

CMS - East Lansing, 3:00 p.m. free

11/13 Wednesday, 11/15 Friday, 11/16 Saturday

Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre Season

## **Opera – The Magic Flute**

Fairchild Theatre, 7:00 p.m. \$\$\$

11/17 Sunday

Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre Season

## **Opera – The Magic Flute**

Fairchild Theatre, 3:00 p.m. \$\$\$

11/20 Wednesday

## **Tuba – Euphonium Ensemble**

Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$

11/21 Thursday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

## **Tambuco Mexican Percussion Ensemble**

Cook Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

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