



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTIST-FACULTY SERIES
Sponsored by WKAR

Lunar New Year Celebration

Suren Bagratuni, cello
Mei Shyuan Chiou, marimba
Yvonne Lam, violin
Catherine Lee, percussion
Yu-Chen Lin, cello
Sarah Plum, violin
Zhihua Tang, piano
Mingzhe Wang, clarinet

Sunday, February 2, 2025
Cook Recital Hall, 3:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Flowering Dandelion
for violin and electronics
Sarah Plum, violin
Kyong Mee Choi
(b. 1971)

Flame Dance for six mallets
Mei Shyuan Chiou, marimba
Wan-Jen Huang
(b. 1970)

Moves and Remains for solo violin
Sarah Plum, violin
Tonia Ko
(b. 1988)

Double Concerto for Violin and Fiddle
Lively
Freely
Lively
Sarah Plum and Yvonne Lam, violin
Jennifer Jolley
(b. 1981)

Intermission

Elegy for two violins
Sarah Plum and Yvonne Lam, violin
Mari Takano
(b. 1960)

Tiny Dancer for solo percussion
Catherine Lee, percussion
Jennifer Jolley

The Current and Those Who Ride It
Yvonne Lam, violin
Suren Bagratuni, cello
Alice Hong
(b. 1992)

Wax and Wire for clarinet, violin, cello and piano
Mingzhe Wang, clarinet
Yvonne Lam, violin
Yu-Chen Lin, cello
Zhihua Tang, piano
Viet Cuong
(b. 1990)

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS

Suren Bagratuni, professor of cello at the MSU College of Music – winner of the Silver Medal at the 1986 International Tchaikovsky Competition while still a student at the Moscow Conservatory – has gone on to a distinguished international career as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. Born in Yerevan, Armenia, Professor Bagratuni began his musical education there at the age of six. After winning several national and international competitions, he continued his studies at the Moscow Conservatory and later in the United States at the New England Conservatory of Music. Performing since age ten and as a soloist since age thirteen, he has appeared in solo recitals and as a soloist with all the major orchestras in the former Soviet Union, throughout Europe, North and South America, Asia, and South Africa. His chamber music appearances have included invitations to major festivals throughout North, South, and Central America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Mr. Bagratuni has been invited to judge and chair in numerous international competitions such as the Tchaikovsky, Isang Yun, and Khachaturian, to name a few. He has won critical acclaim for his recordings on several labels, and he is artistic director of MSU's Ken and Sandy Beall Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival, and founder of the International Music Academy in Todi, Italy.

Grammy Award-winning violinist **Yvonne Lam** has appeared as a soloist with such renowned orchestras as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Pacific Symphony, Auckland Philharmonia, and the American Youth Symphony. She was the violinist/violist and Co-Artistic Director of contemporary super-ensemble Eighth Blackbird for eight years and commissioned and premiered major works by composers such as Steve Reich, David Lang, Nico Muhly, and Bryce Dessner. In addition to winning top prizes at international competitions including the Michael Hill World Violin Competition, the Liana Isakadze Violin Competition, and the Holland-America Music Society Competition, Ms. Lam served three seasons as Assistant Concertmaster of the Washington National Opera Orchestra. Ms. Lam is now an Assistant Professor of Violin and Coordinator of Chamber Music at Michigan State University. She received her Bachelor of Music from the Curtis Institute of Music and her Master of Music from the Juilliard School.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Praised as “both an intrepid new music champion and a violin virtuoso” (textura music magazine), **Sarah Plum** has had a prolific career advocating for new music, commissioning composers and bringing contemporary music to a wider audience. “Personal Noise”, Plum’s recent CD release of new music for violin and electronics, has been lauded as “a fantastic new release - a must have for everyone who loves meaningful sonic adventures” (Whole Note Magazine) and as “beguilingly imaginative with an engagingly adventurous sensibility” (Gramophone Magazine).

As a soloist Plum’s “consistently stunning” playing (Third Coast Digest) has been featured at festivals and venues worldwide, including the Ankunft: Neue Musik Festival at the Berlin Hauptbahnhof, Quiet Cue Intermedia in Berlin, Center for New Music San Francisco, Spectrum NYC, Unruly Music at the Marcus Center (Milwaukee), and Stanford University’s Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics, as well as at residencies at universities such as UC Davis, Duke, University of Iowa, Cal State Fullerton, James Madison University, and others, and as the featured guest soloist at conferences such as Third Practice and Electronic Music Midwest. Recent concerts include a concerto premiere with the Chicago Composers Orchestra of a piece written for her by noted Japanese composer Mari Takano, a duo program at the Thirsty Ears Festival Chicago, solo recitals at the University of Iowa and Oakland university, a solo concert on Constellation’s Frequency Series in Chicago, and chamber music performances with the Fulcrum Point Ensemble, Zodiac Festival Ensemble in France, and at the University of Oklahoma’s String Academy.

Sarah Plum has been based in Chicago since 2018 where she is active in local new music, playing with groups such as Dal Niente Ensemble, Fulcrum Point Ensemble, and Access Contemporary Music, as well as collaborations with numerous Chicago composers and performers. She is on the faculty at both the Music Institute of Chicago and their elite Academy program, and began teaching with the Michigan State University College of Music Chamber Music Program in the fall of 2023.

Sarah Plum earned a DMA at SUNY Stony Brook, after graduate and undergraduate studies at Juilliard. Her gold medal at the International Stulberg Competition in 1983 launched her performance career.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Zhihua Tang serves as Director of Collaborative Piano at the Michigan State University College of Music. A native of Shanghai, China, she attended the Shanghai Conservatory, Indiana University, and later completed a DMA degree from the Michigan State University College of Music. Her major teachers include Deborah Moriarty, Menahem Pressler, and Dady Mehta. Prof. Tang has enjoyed an active performing career around the world and has collaborated with some of today's leading concert soloists, chamber musicians, and numerous principal players from major orchestras all over the world. As a recitalist, she has performed extensively across Europe, the U.S., and Asia in major music venues such as Bösendorfer Hall in Vienna, Rackham Auditorium in Ann Arbor, Detroit Orchestra Hall, Beijing Zhongshan Park Music Hall, and the Shanghai Centre Theatre.

Clarinetist **Mingzhe Wang** is committed to promoting both the music of our time and the classics. He has worked closely with some of the world's leading composers. In addition, he has performed on period clarinets with prominent groups such as The American Classical Orchestra and the Clarion Music Society Orchestra. As a chamber musician, Mr. Wang has collaborated and continues to work with some of the most prominent artists today, appearing in concerts and festivals in East Asia, Europe, and North America. Recent engagements include world premiere performances of music by Berlin-based composer James Helgeson and a performance of Isang Yun's monumental work *Riul*, with pianist Manuel Laufer, at the Isang Yun Association Berlin. His performances have been broadcast on China's Central Television, New York's WQXR, Nashville's WPLN, and many public radio stations across North America.

Mr. Wang, native of Wuhan, China, first studied clarinet at the age of nine. His first public performance was at the age of ten. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale University. Major teachers include David Shifrin, Charles Neidich, Ayako Oshima, and Paul Green. Mr. Wang is a co-founder of Trio Séléne and currently serves as an Associate Professor of Clarinet at Michigan State University College of Music.

STUDENT BIOS

Mei Shyuan Chiou is an award-winning percussionist who is well versed in solo, chamber music and contemporary music performance. Her journey in the world of music has been marked by several accolades, including first prizes in the category “percussion and other instruments” at the Italy Percussive Art Society Competition. The second prizes at the First International Classical Marimba Artist League Competition and performed in the winner’s concert. She has been invited to teach masterclasses and play artist concerts in universities. She has performed with Composite Duo created by Parker Fritz and Mei Shyuan Chiou to collaborate more new six mallet marimba music to the percussion world.

Korean percussionist **Catherine Lee** excels in solo, chamber, and orchestral performances. Awarded the Kumho Prodigy Award, she performed her debut solo recital at fifteen. Lee has premiered works with Eighth Blackbird, Steve Schick, and SŌ Percussion. She has played with the Sofia Philharmonic, Battle Creek Symphony, Jackson Symphony, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Memphis Symphony, and Seoul Philharmonic. Lee is the principal timpanist of Sinfonietta Memphis and acting principal and percussionist of the Adrian Symphony. She holds a BM from Peabody, an MM and PD from Boston University, and is pursuing a DMA at MSU, studying under Gwen Dease and Jon Weber.

Yu-Chen Lin, a third-year DMA cello student at MSU and former graduate assistant, won third prize with the Novak Trio at the 2023 Barbara Wagner Chamber Music Competition. In 2019, she earned first prize at the National Taiwan Music Competition. During the summer of 2025, she will serve as part of a quartet-in-residence at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan.

Yu-Chen is a certified Suzuki teacher at Marshall Music and the Flint Institute of Music, with a deep commitment to music education and community leadership. She serves on ASTA Student Advisory Committee and leads as president of the ASTA Spartan Chapter, fostering student connections and opportunities.

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

- **Anonymous Donor Family** (Holiday Glory)
- **Sam and Mary Austin** (Musique 21 concerts)
- **Sam and Mary Austin Fund for New Music** (Wind Symphony, Oct. 25; Symphony Orchestra, Oct. 27; Musique 21, Oct. 28; 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)
- **Jenny Chung and Family for Human Rights Fund** (Jazz Nonets concerts)
- **Joanne and Bill Church** (West Circle Series)
- **April Clobes and Glen Brough** (Celebrating the Spectrum; Whirlwinds)
- **Trustee Emerita Dee Cook in memory of her husband Byron Cook** (Baroque Fest)
- **Susan Davis** (Fall Opera)
- **Dean Transportation** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Alena Fabian, M.D.** (Votapek, Sept. 25; Piano Monster)
- **John and Gretchen Forsyth** (Sinder, Feb. 16; Oboe, Trumpet and Organ, Feb. 11)
- **Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowment for Chamber Music** (Happy Birthday Mozart!)
- **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)
- **Joy A. Rimpau** (Tuba and Euphonium Alumni Concert, April 13)
- **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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