



April 23, 2024

Music Season Finale, “Piano Monster,” Celebrates Cinematic Space Classics.

MSU’s final Showcase Series concert features the power of four grand pianos.

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan State University College of Music closes its 2024-25 season with an awe-inspiring display of pianistic power and imagination. Part of the MSU Federal Credit Union Showcase Series, [“Piano Monster”](#) takes place on **Sunday, May 4 at 3:00 p.m. in Fairchild Theatre**, featuring a one-of-a-kind program that draws on the grandeur of iconic space-themed music, brought to life by the full sonic force of four grand pianos on stage.

This family-friendly event brings together artist-faculty pianists from the [Keyboard Area](#) of the MSU College of Music Young Hyun Cho, Stanislav Khristenko, Tamar Mikeladze, Deborah Moriarty, Derek Polischuk, Zhihua Tang, and Eric Zuber for a concert that showcases the bold, beautiful resonance only four grand pianos—played by masterful artists—can deliver.

This year’s theme pays homage to the beauty and majesty of space as portrayed in beloved film scores and celestial-themed compositions. The program includes iconic cinematic works such as *Also sprach Zarathustra*, Op. 30 by Richard Strauss and *The Blue Danube Waltz* by Johann Strauss II—both famously featured in *2001: A Space Odyssey*—along with a *Star Wars Medley* by John Williams. Additional selections such as *Jupiter* from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst, *The Garden of Eden* by William Bolcom, and *The Stars and Stripes Forever* by John Philip Sousa match the scale and energy of this unique piano ensemble, creating a dynamic experience that spans both the cinematic and classical worlds.

“This concert really highlights the thrill of large-scale piano performance,” says [Deborah Moriarty](#), professor of piano and chair of the keyboard area. “It’s a chance to hear how a piano ensemble can be both powerfully expressive and surprisingly elegant, especially when paired with the collaborative energy and creativity our artists bring to the stage.”

This performance is generously sponsored by Alena Fabian, M.D., and Andrea L. Wulf, part of the Showcase Series, underwritten by the MSU Federal Credit Union.

Reserved seating for this concert is \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors (age 60 and older), and \$12 for students and those under 18 with a valid ID. Tickets may be purchased at the Main Office of the Music Building, 333 West Circle Dr., or at the performance venue if available. For an additional processing fee of \$1.50, tickets can also be purchased online at music.msu.edu or by calling (517) 353-5340. More information about the 2024–2025 season of music can be found at music.msu.edu/events.

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