



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTIST-FACULTY AND GUEST RECITAL SERIES
Sponsored by WKAR

Rakes, Rogues, and Romantics

Richard Fracker, tenor
Elden Little, piano

Thursday, October 23, 2025
Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

The name says it all...

from *The Rake's Progress*
Here I Stand

Igor Stravinsky
(1882-1971)

Rogue seeking romantic?...

from *Die schöne Müllerin*, Op. 25, D. 795
Halt!
Danksagung an den Bach
Am Feierabend

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Romance and redemption...

from *Myrthen*, Op. 25
Du bist wie eine Blume
Widmung

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

from *Opus 10*
Zueignung

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

Gone rogue or rogue gone?

from *La fanciulla del West*
Ch'ella mi creda

Giacomo Puccini
(1858-1924)

Intermission

Rake, rogue and romantic?

from *Carmen*
La fleur que tu m'avais jetée

Georges Bizet
(1838-1875)

A little rake, lotsa rogue and romance...

The Rovin' Gambler
The Gambler's Lament
Gambler, Don't You Lose Your Place
Gambler's Song of the Big Sandy River

John Jacob Niles
(1892-1980)

Bad romance, good romance, and forever romance...

from *The New Moon*
Softly, as in a Morning Sunrise

Sigmund Romberg
(1887-1951)

from *The Student Prince*

Serenade

from *The Night is Young*

When I Grow Too Old to Dream

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 14 international and national broadcasts from "Live at the MET"; world premiere productions of Philip Glass's *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.

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 winning mezzo-soprano Joyce Castle was broadcast on Iowa PBS and subsequently won the Upper Midwest Regional Emmy winner 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.

TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

Halt! – poet: Wilhelm Müller

I see a mill twinkling out of the alders, through the rustling and singing the roar of the mill-wheels breaks out. Oh welcome, oh welcome sweet mill song. And the house, how inviting. And the windows, how bright! And the sun, how bright. It shines from the sky! Oh, little brook, dear little brook, was this what you meant?

Danksagung an den Bach (*Thanksgiving to the Brook*)

poet: Wilhelm Müller

Was this what it means, my rustling friend? Your singing, your ringing. Is this what it meant? To the miller maid? That is the meaning? Did I understand? To the miller maid? Did she send you? Or did you deceive me? I would really like to know if she sent you. Well, whatever it is, I accept my fate. What I was looking for, I have found whatever it may be. I asked for work. Now I have enough. For my hands, for my heart. Plenty enough!

Am Feierabend – poet: Wilhelm Müller

Had I a thousand arms to move! Could I keep the mill-wheels roaring! Could I blow through all the groves! Could I turn all the stones so that the beautiful miller's daughter would notice my faithful nature! Ah, how is my arm so weak? What I lift, what I carry, what I cut, what I hammer, any lad can do as much as I. And there sit I in the great circle-gathering, in the quiet cool after work, and the master speaks to all: "your work has me pleased." And the lovely maiden says to all a good night.

Du bist wie eine Blume – poet: Heinrich Heine

You are like a flower, so lovely and beautiful and pure; I look at you and melancholy creeps into my heart. I feel as if I should lay on my hands on your head, praying that God preserve you so pure and beautiful and lovely.

Widmung – poet: Friedrich Rückert

A boy loves a girl, who has another man chosen; this other man loves another girl and had himself with that one-wedded. The girl takes out of spite the first man to come along who happens to cross her path. The boy is sick from it. It is an old story yet it remains ever new; and to whom it just happened, for him—it breaks his heart in two.

TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS (cont.)

Zueignung – poet: Hermann von Gilm

Yes, you know dear soul that I torment myself far from you. Love makes hearts sick. Be thanked. Once reveling in freedom, I held the amethyst cup high, and you blessed the drink—be thanked. And you banished the wicked until I became what I never was before—saintly, holy sank upon your heart. Be thanked!

Ch'ella mi creda – librettists: Guelfo Civinini & Carlo Zangarini

May she believe that I am free and far away and on a new way to redemption. She will wait for me to return and the days will pass and I will not return. Minnie, my life, my only flower—who has love me so much. Ah! You're my life and my flower!

La fleur que tu m'avais jetée

– librettists Henri Meilhac & Ludovic Halevy

The flower you threw to me, in prison it stayed with me withered and dry always with its sweet scent. And for hours on end, upon my eyes, closing my eyelids I was intoxicated by the scent and in the dark I saw you! I found myself cursing you, hating you, asking myself why must fate have put you in my path. I accused myself of blasphemy and felt only one desire, one hope—to see you again, oh Carmen, yes to see you again. For you had only to appear, to cast a glance at me, to take possession of my whole being, oh my Carmen. I was possessed by you, Carmen. I love you...

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 2025-2026 SPONSORS

- **Sam and Mary Austin Fund for New Music** (Musique 21 concerts)
- **Ken and Sandy Beall** (Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival Series)
- **James and Susan Bonfiglio** (Symphony Orchestra, Oct. 26; Fall Opera)
- **Jenny Chung and Family for Human Rights Fund** (Rucker, Feb. 15)
- **Joanne and Bill Church** (West Circle Series)
- **April Clobes and Glen Brough** (USA at 250 Years)
- **Trustee Emerita Dee Cook in memory of her husband Byron Cook** (Four Seasons)
- **Susan Davis** (Spring Opera)
- **Dean Transportation** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Alena Fabian, M.D.** (Votapek, Mar. 23; Khristenko, Mar. 30)
- **John and Gretchen Forsyth** (Wagner, Sept. 19)
- **Barbara and Bill Given** (Four Seasons; Alegria Navideña)
- **Anonymous** (Rucker, Feb. 15)
- **Howard and Pam Gourwitz** (Lulloff, Oct. 30)
- **Kevin and Amy Guskiewicz** (Alegria Navideña)
- **Hamilton-Dodson African Diaspora Endowment for the College of Music** (Musekiwa Chingodza, Oct. 2)
- **Lauren Harris** (Symphonic Dialogues; Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Anne Hiller** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowment for Chamber Music** (Gems for Cello)
- **Eileen G. Houston** (Wagner/Johnson/Wang, Sept. 19; Thompkins/Dease/Tang, Oct. 14; Trombone Ensemble, Nov. 8; Kanda, Nov. 18; Tuba/Euphonium, Jan. 28; Huiet, Feb. 24)
- **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. 23)
- **Michael and Paula Koppisch** (Votapek Piano Festival, Aug. 15-17; Sherman/Zuber, Mar. 24)
- **Lansing Chapter of the American Guild of Organists** (Organist Nicole Keller, Sept. 14; Organist Peter Sykes, Mar. 22)
- **Jill Canny and Robert Last** (MSU Federal Credit Union Jazz Artist in Residence, A. Cohen, April 18; Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Fall and Spring Opera)
- **Ann, John and Abby Lindley** (Alegria Navideña)
- **Merritt Lutz** (Celebrating the Spectrum)

- **Joseph and Jeanne Maguire** (A Jazzy Little Christmas)
- **Marshall Music Co.** (Symphonic Dialogues)
- **Pat and Mary McPharlin** (Jazz Infusion; Jazz: Spirituals Prayer and Protest)
- **Friends of Jay D. Meetz** (Fall Opera)
- **Dr. Roy and Christine Meland** (Four Seasons)
- **Gordon E. Miracle** (Four Seasons; Votapek, Mar. 23)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union** (Showcase Series; Spartan Spectacular; Celebrating the Spectrum; MSU Music on The Road in Detroit)
- **George Orban and Rae Ramsdell** (Jang/Moriarty, Feb. 8)
- **Liz and Tony Raduazo** (Pass a Good Time, Oct. 5; Sensory Friendly Spartan Concerts)
- **Charles and Nancy Seebek** (Bagratuni, Mar. 16)
- **Leonard and Sharon Tabaka** (Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **TechSmith** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Dr. Robert W. Uphaus and Dr. Lois M. Rosen** (Symphonic Dialogues; Four Seasons; Beethoven; Happy Birthday Mozart!; Yehuda/Warren, Jan. 29; Bagratuni, Mar. 16; and Bagratuni, Mar. 31)
- **Linn Van Dyne and Mike Knox** (Happy Birthday Mozart!)
- **Barbara E. Wagner** (Wagner Chamber Music Competition)
- **Anonymous** (Beacon Hill Music Series)
- **Richard Witter** (A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **Richard and Joan Witter Endowment for MSU Opera Theatre** (Fall and Spring Opera)
- **WKAR** (Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series)
- **Worthington Family Foundation** (Opera Season)
- **Andrea L. Wulf** (Piano Monster)

SPONSORSHIPS AND RECOGNITION

Sponsorships are available at \$1,000, \$2,500, and \$5,000. Sponsors will receive recognition in the form of event publicity, promotions, programs, and through online recognition. For information about event sponsorships and giving to the college, please call (517) 353-9872 or e-mail music.giving@msu.edu.



UPCOMING EVENTS

10/24 Friday

Symphony Band & Wind Symphony

Cobb Great Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

10/26 Sunday

Symphony Orchestra: Lift up Thine Ears

Cobb Great Hall, 7:00 p.m. \$

10/27 Monday

Musique 21

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

10/28 Tuesday

Taylor Johnston Early Music Series

Emi Ferguson and Ruckus

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

10/29 Wednesday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

andPlay: Drifting Landscapes

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

10/30 Thursday

Halloween, Spooky Tunes for Carillon

Beaumont Tower, 9:00 p.m. free

11/1 Saturday

Chorale/State Singers: A Choral Tapestry

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

11/3 Monday

Joanne and Bill Church West Circle Series

Four Seasons

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

TICKET PRICES

\$ \$14 Adults, \$12 Seniors (age 60 and older), Students with ID and anyone under age 18 are free but require a ticket for admission.

\$\$ \$19 Adults, \$17 Seniors, \$9 Students with ID and anyone under age 18.

\$\$\$ \$24 Adults, \$22 Seniors, \$14 Students and those under age 18.

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