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MSU Ensembles to Highlight the Music of Michael Daugherty

Grammy-winning guest composer in residence collaborates with MSU College of Music

EAST LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan State University College of Music presents a special series of concerts **October 24–27** featuring Grammy Award–winning composer [Michael Daugherty](#) as artist in residence. Known for his vibrant, rhythmically charged works inspired by American culture, Daugherty will engage with MSU student musicians and composers through rehearsals, workshops, seminars, and live performances.

“Having Michael Daugherty on campus provides our students with invaluable insight into the creative process of one of today’s most iconic living composers,” said [David Biedenbender](#), MSU associate professor of composition and chair of the Composition Area. “It’s a wonderful opportunity to explore his music not only as performers but as emerging composers and artists.”

Over four days, Daugherty’s music will take center stage in concerts featuring the **Symphony Band and Wind Symphony**, the **MSU Symphony Orchestra**, and **Musique 21**. Each concert will showcase the creative power and range of instrumental performance at MSU, including solo appearances by artist-faculty musicians Chance Huiet, tuba, and Suren Bagratuni, cello.

“Our ensembles are energized by this collaboration,” said [Kevin L. Sedatole](#), MSU professor of music and director of bands. “Daugherty’s music captures a distinctly American spirit—vivid, expressive, and a beautiful opportunity for our musicians to perform. It’s a wonderful way to bring our college and audiences together to celebrate new music.”

Concert Schedule

- [Symphony Band and Wind Symphony](#) – Friday, October 24, 7:30 p.m., Wharton Center, conducted by David Thornton and Kevin L. Sedatole. A vibrant program of energy and contrast featuring Daugherty’s bold soundscapes alongside works by Bach and Holst.
- [MSU Symphony Orchestra: “Lift up Thine Ears”](#) – Sunday, October 26, 7:00 p.m., Wharton Center, conducted by Octavio Más-Arocas. A stirring program spanning centuries, with Daugherty’s evocative Lift up Thine Ears, Suren Bagratuni featured on Dvořák’s Cello Concerto, and a new fanfare by an MSU student composer. *Generously sponsored by James and Susan Bonfiglio.*
- [Musique 21](#) – Monday, October 27, 7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre, conducted by Kevin L. Sedatole. A contemporary showcase featuring Daugherty’s music and works by his former students Paul Dooley and Shuying Li, reflecting the evolving spirit of American composition. *Generously sponsored by Sam and Mary Austin Fund for New Music.*

For more details about these and other MSU ensemble concerts, featured series, and recitals in the 2025–2026 Concert Season, please visit music.msu.edu/events.

Tickets: General admission seating is \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors (age 60+), and free for students and those under 18 with valid ID, can be purchased online (music.msu.edu), by calling (517) 353-5340, or at the door.