



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTIST-FACULTY SERIES
Sponsored by WKAR

American Song Marking 250 Years

Jane Bunnell, mezzo-soprano
Marc Embree, bass-baritone

Elden Little, piano

Friday, January 23, 2026
Cook Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

My Days Have Been So Wondrous Free	Francis Hopkinson (1737-1791)
From American Traditional Song Balm in Gilead	arr. Harry Burleigh (1866-1949)
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need	arr. Virgil Thomson (1896-1989)
At the River	arr. Aaron Copland (1900-1990)
American Women Half-Minute Songs	Carrie Jacobs-Bond (1862-1946)
Wouldn't That Be Queer?	Amy Beach (1867-1944)
A Flea and a Fly Come, Come	Florence Price (1887-1953)
Bound	Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)
American Art Song Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair and Hard Times Come Again No More Medley	Stephen Foster (1826-1864)
Three Rhythmic Spirituals II. Hard Trials	William Grant Still (1895-1978)
Heavenly Grass	Paul Bowles (1910-1999)
Looking-Glass River	John Alden Carpenter (1876-1951)
Greeting	Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

PROGRAM (cont.)

from *Hermit Songs*, Op. 29
Promiscuity

Samuel Barber
(1910–1981)

Come Ready and See Me
Epitaph on a Wife

Richard Hundley
(1931–2018)

Waitin’

William Bolcom
(b. 1938)

Vocal Modesty

Thomas Pasatieri
(b. 1945)

American Portraits

Mary Todd Lincoln

Jake Heggie
(b. 1961)

Charlie Rutledge
The Circus Band

Charles Ives
(1874–1954)

America the Beautiful

Samuel A. Ward
(1848–1903)

text: Katharine Lee Bates

PROGRAM NOTES

As we started to plan this recital, we realized there was so much more than we could capture in one evening. Even with a specific and concise area of American music – the art song – the choices were daunting. It seems that most of what you will hear tonight is in some way connected to us personally. As these songs were being composed, folk music, music for the stage, both opera and music theater, jazz, spirituals, and other kinds of song were also being composed. All have a specific “American” flavor. Please enjoy this small sampling of the riches these 250 years have wrought.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS

Mezzo-soprano **Jane Bunnell** joined the faculty of MSU's College of Music in August of 2015 as professor of voice. She has enjoyed an illustrious international career for forty years. She has an especially long association with the Metropolitan Opera where she has sung 30 roles in more than 420 performances, including new productions of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Otello*, *Les Troyens*, *Faust*, *Romeo et Juliette*, and the Met premieres of Nico Muhly's *Marnie*, Britten's *A Midsummer Nights' Dream*, and Wolf-Ferrari's *Sly*. She has also recorded with the Met for Sony/BMG and has toured Europe and Japan. She is frequently heard on Sirius XM radio.

She has sung with the opera companies of Toulouse, Vienna, Cologne, and Schwetzingen, and with such American opera companies as Houston Grand Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Diego Opera, Minnesota Opera, Florida Grand Opera, and New York City Opera. Ms. Bunnell has collaborated with such notable conductors as James Levine, Valery Gergiev, Seiji Ozawa, and Robert Shaw. She has appeared in concert with the Boston Symphony, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony, and the Minnesota Orchestra.

Marc Embree is an associate professor of voice at MSU's College of Music. Actor, singer, educator and storyteller, Embree was a principal singer with the New York City Opera for several seasons and has performed throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Europe. Embree received critical acclaim for his performance of Frank Murrant in the Berlin/Ludwigshafen production of *Street Scene*, filmed for television. It has been released on DVD and widely broadcast. He created the role of William Emmons in *The Village Singer* by Stephen Paulus. American opera and film composer Thomas Pasatieri asked him to create the role of the ghost of Ebenezer Scrooge in his opera *God Bless Us, Everyone* in 2012. This recording joins his recordings of Carlos Chavez's *The Visitors*, Kurka's *The Good Soldier Schweik*, *Rain* by Richard Owen, and *An American Howl Quartet* by George Flynn. Embree also served as the narrator for the children's book *The Juggler* by Jeanette Hopkins. A dedicated teacher, his students have been appearing with increasing frequency in opera houses and theaters both here and abroad.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

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

America The Beautiful

O beautiful, for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul with self-control, Thy liberty in law.

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)
- **Jim Forger and Deborah Moriarty** (Lunar New Year Celebration Concert)
- **John and Gretchen Forsyth** (Wagner, Sept. 19)
- **Barbara and Bill Given** (Four Seasons; Alegría Navideña)
- **Anonymous** (Rucker, Feb. 15)
- **Howard and Pam Gourwitz** (Lulloff, Oct. 30)
- **Kevin and Amy Guskiewicz** (Alegría 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)
- **Mary and Ron Junttonen** (A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D.** (Votapek, Mar. 23)
- **Henry Kopek and Patricia Foreman** (Red Cedar Organ Series)
- **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 (Alegría 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 Seebeck (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

1/24 Saturday

Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre Season

Celebration of the Beautiful Voice

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

1/26 Monday

Joanne and Bill Church West Circle Series

Happy Birthday, Mozart!

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

1/28 Wednesday

Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble

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

1/30 Friday

TJEMS-Ciaramella – The Winds of Renaissance

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

2/2 Monday

Musique 21

Murray Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

2/3 Tuesday

Symphony Band

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

2/4 Wednesday

MSUFCU Showcase Series

Newfound Chamber Winds

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

2/5 Thursday

Wind Symphony

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

Please visit our official, secure ticket website to purchase tickets:

music.msu.edu/events

Avoid fraudulent sites by always using this link.

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.*