



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

TAYLOR JOHNSTON
EARLY MUSIC SERIES

Ciaramella

Winds of the Renaissance

Adam Knight Gilbert, recorder, shawm, bagpipes
Rotem Gilbert, recorder, shawm, bagpipes
Mary VanHoozer, hurdy gurdy, vielle

Friday, January 30, 2026
Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Ce jour de l'an	Guillaume Dufay (1397-1474)
Nicolai solemnia	Anonymous (c. 1480)
Salve sancta parens	Anonymous Polish (c. 1450)
shawms, vielle	
Provençal Noëls Jésu, vous sias tout fioc e flamo Ai! La bono fourtuno Lei pastouréu	ed. Nicolas Saboly (1614-1675)
bagpipes, hurdy gurdy	
Comme femme desconfortée	Gilles Binchois (c. 1400-1460)
Comme femme desconfortée	Alexander Agricola (c. 1445-1506)
Se mon flageolet joli	Anonymous (c. 1450)
recorders, vielle	
Fantasia sopra <i>La Gamba</i>	Adam Gilbert (b. 1961)
La folia	Improvisation
recorders, vielle	
Dance Suite from <i>Danserye</i> Ronde IV Ronde VI / Salterelle Ronde IX	Tielman Susato (c. 1510-after 1570)
bagpipes	
from <i>The Division Flute</i> (1706) Greensleeves	John Walsh (c. 1665-1736)
recorders, vielle	

PROGRAM (cont.)

Buffon's/Passamezzo moderno
Voltati in ça rosina

Improvisation
Guglielmo Ebreo da Pesaro
(c. 1420–1484)

Petit vriens

tabor pipes, bagpipe, and vielle

Cançon de Pifari dicto le Ferrarese
Tourdions

Adam Gilbert
Pierre Attaignant
(c. 1494–1551)

recorder, vielle

Dance Suite from *Terpsichore* (1612)
Bransle de Village
Gavottes
Volte

Michael Praetorius
(1571–1621)

bagpipes, hurdy gurdy

ENSEMBLE BIO

Praised for performing intricate fifteenth-century counterpoint “with the ease of jazz musicians improvising on a theme,”

Ciaramella brings to life medieval and early Renaissance music from historical events and manuscripts. Its members are united by the conviction that every composition conceals a rich story waiting to be unlocked through historical research and speculative performance. Founded on a core of winds—shawm, sackbut, recorder, and voice—Ciaramella takes its name from the Italian shawm and from a fifteenth-century song about a beautiful girl whose clothes are full of holes. When she opens her mouth, she knocks men flat.

Directed by Adam and Rotem Gilbert, from the Early Music Program at USC Thornton School of Music in Los Angeles, the ensemble has performed at major festivals throughout the United States, Italy, and Germany, and has recorded for Naxos and Yarlung Labels.

Ciaramella has received praise from Jeremy Barlow for their “expressive fluidity and rhythmic vitality,” and Robert Strobl in *Toccata-Alte Musik* notes that, “...when these extremely talented musicians begin to play, their liveliness and freshness is almost palpable. This is not just dance music; at its best, this is living music, current, non-academic, and certainly not old. Dance music was there from the beginning. And when it is played like this, the sounds of 300 years ago sound as if they were made only yesterday.”

GUEST ARTIST BIOS

Adam Knight Gilbert has performed on recorder, shawm and bagpipes with New York's Ensemble for Early Music, The Waverly Consort, and Piffaro. He co-directs ensemble Ciaramella with Rotem Gilbert. Recordings of his music can be heard on Deutsche Grammophon's Archiv, Dorian, Naxos, and Yarlung Labels. He is Professor, Director of the Early Music Program and Chair of Musicology at USC's Thornton School of Music. He is recipient of the 2008 Noah Greenberg Award and joint recipient of the 2014 Thomas Binkley Award with Rotem Gilbert. Adam has published articles on instrumental performance practice, composed and extemporized counterpoint and ground-bass improvisation, the music of Henricus Isaac, fifteenth-century dance, songs, and Masses, and musical symbolism.

Recorder and double reed player **Rotem Gilbert** is a founding member of Ciaramella. Rotem was a member of Piffaro (1996–2007) and has appeared with many early music ensembles in the United States, Israel, Europe, and South America. She is Vice Dean of the Research and Scholarly Studies Division at USC's Thornton School of Music and Professor of Practice in Early Music and Musicology where she teaches early performance practice, a notation seminar, seminars on women composers, and takes turns leading the Baroque Sinfonia. She has been a regular faculty member of early music workshops and can be heard on the Deutsche Grammophon's Archiv, Passacaille, Musica Americana, Dorian, Naxos, and Yarlung labels.

Multi-instrumentalist **Mary Vanhoozer** grew up in Edinburgh, Scotland, where she learned to play the Scottish fiddle and developed an enduring love of folk music. Traditional noëls from southern France played an equally formative role as they introduced her to the hurdy gurdy. Her published anthology, *Playford's Wheel*, features 70 English country dance tunes transcribed for the hurdy gurdy. She has been featured in a concert of Renaissance dances broadcast live in southern California on KUSC radio and can be heard on the video game soundtrack *Assassin's Creed Valhalla: The Siege of Paris*, by Grammy winning composer Stephanie Economou. A passionate educator and hurdy gurdy advocate, Mary curates concerts for educational institutions and serves as co-director of the Wheel Song Hurdy Gurdy Festival. Mary received degrees in piano performance from Wheaton College Conservatory (BM), the Eastman School of Music (MM), and the Cleveland Institute of Music (DMA).

TAYLOR JOHNSTON EARLY MUSIC SERIES

The Taylor Johnston Early Music Series is made possible through the generosity of Dr. Taylor Johnston and recognizes his lifelong interest in informed performance of music of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. Through public performances and workshops for MSU students, the Series provides those interested in this repertoire with increased opportunities to study, hear, and perform this music as it was originally performed.

Dr. Johnston studied both agriculture and vocal music at the University of Tennessee and received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant physiology at the University of Illinois. He served on the MSU faculty for 51 years, retiring in January 2019. While being captivated by the challenges and rewards of a career in science, he maintained his passion for music through singing as a soloist and ensemble member and by playing early music on wind instruments, primarily recorder. He studied recorder with Michael Lynn of the Oberlin Conservatory for eight years and formed the Beaumont Baroque Ensemble in 1985 as an outlet for his passion for early music. The group, featuring the renowned viola da gambist Enid Sutherland, performed throughout mid-Michigan for twelve years.

Dr. Johnston passed away in July 2019, leaving behind an enduring legacy in the Taylor Johnston Endowment for Early Music, which will fund this series in perpetuity.

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)
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- **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** (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 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)
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