



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTIST-FACULTY AND GUEST RECITAL SERIES
Sponsored by WKAR

Here We Go Again!

Spirituals: Traditional and Newly Arranged

Mark Rucker, baritone
Sadie Rucker, piano
Yvonne Lam, violin
Phoenix Miranda, soprano
Deborah Moriarty, piano

*Generously sponsored by an anonymous donor
and The Jenny Chung and Family for Human Rights Fund*

Sunday, February 15, 2026
Cook Recital Hall, 3:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Deep River arr. Harry Thacker Burleigh
Give Me Jesus arr. Moses Hogan
A City Called Heaven arr. Terence Blanchard
This Little Light of Mine arr. Jacqueline B. Hairston

Mark Rucker

Resignation Florence B. Price
(1887-1953)

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord Traditional
arr. Florence B. Price

Phoenix Miranda

Ride On, King Jesus arr. Hall Johnson
(1888-1970)

Mark Rucker

Intermission

Don't You Let Nobody Turn You 'Round arr. Rev. Dr. Lena McLin
I'm a Soldier in the Army of the Lord (1928-2023)
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah
Hold Out Your Light

Mark Rucker

Three Negro Spirituals for Violin and Piano Florence B. Price
O Holy Lord

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child
Lord I Want to Be a Christian

Yvonne Lam
Deborah Moriarty

Take My Hand, Precious Lord Thomas A. Dorsey
(1899-1993)

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands arr. Mark Hayes
arr. Margaret Bonds

Mark Rucker

PROGRAM NOTES

“In a time and place where physical hardship and emotional anguish were a way of life for a people in bondage, God placed song that in its words was hope itself, in its melody the peace for which their hearts yearned and in the rhythm the pulse of the Almighty who sustained them.”

- Moses Hogan, *Deep River Collection*

Harry Thacker Burleigh was a composer, singer and music editor from Erie, PA, who began life in the church. He thought himself a singer and reached great success as a baritone. While studying at the National Conservatory of Music in New York, he served as Antonín Dvořák's copyist. Burleigh introduced him to select spirituals and plantation songs, inspiring Dvořák to regard African American music as a cornerstone of the American soundscape. Burleigh is credited with elevating the spiritual to art song in his voice and piano arrangements and he also composed over 200 art songs in a late-Romantic style that dealt with universal topics and the Black experience.

- *African American Diaspora Art Song*

Moses George Hogan was born in New Orleans. A pianist, conductor and arranger of international renown, he was a graduate of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) and Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and also studied at The Juilliard School and Louisiana State University. His discography includes arrangements for Barbara Hendricks, the Moses Hogan Singers, the Tabernacle Choir, and many others including the 1995 PBS Documentary, *The American Promise*. Moses Hogan's contemporary settings of spirituals and other works have become staples in the repertoire of high school, college, church, community and professional choirs.

- *Deep River Collection*

Terence Oliver Blanchard is an American jazz trumpeter and composer. He has written two operas and more than 80 film and television scores. Blanchard has been nominated for two Academy Awards for Original Score for *BlackKkKlansman* (2018) and *Da 5 Bloods* (2020), both directed by Spike Lee, a frequent collaborator. Blanchard started his career in 1980 playing in the Lionel Hampton Orchestra while studying jazz at Rutgers University. In 1982, just before he turned 20, he dropped out of Rutgers to join The Jazz Messengers, launching a professional

PROGRAM NOTES (cont.)

career now in its fifth decade. The Metropolitan Opera in New York staged Blanchard's opera, *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, in its 2021–2022 season, the first opera by an African American composer in the organization's history.

- Wikipedia

Jacqueline B. Hairston Lincoln Center's "Master of the Spiritual", was born and raised in Sacramento, California. She studied at The Juilliard School, Howard, and earned two Master degrees in music and music education from Columbia. Aside from teaching, she is also a pianist, vocal coach, composer and arranger. Her works have not only been performed by the London Symphony Orchestra, Kathleen Battle, and Orlando Opera Chorus, but have also earned the Oakland Alliance of Black Educators "Living Legend Award" and the ASCAP award.

- *African American Diaspora Art Song*

Florence B. Price grew up in Little Rock, AK. She studied at the New England Conservatory, studying composition. After moving to Chicago, she met many people who sang her music, including Marian Anderson and Harry T. Burleigh. She is the first Black woman composer to have widespread recognition, as well as one of the first African American composers to have their large-scale works performed by established orchestras. Some of her well-known pieces include Symphony in E minor, Symphony No. 3 in C minor and over 100 compositions of art songs and spirituals.

- *African American Diaspora Art Song.*

Hall Johnson received an extensive education. He attended the private, all-black Knox Institute in Athens, Georgia, and earned a degree from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina. He also attended Atlanta University, The Juilliard School, Hahn School of Music, and the University of Pennsylvania. On Spirituals: "True enough, this music was transmitted to us through humble channels, but its source is that of all great art everywhere—the unquenchable, divinely human longing for a perfect realization of life. It traverses every shade of emotion without spilling over in any direction. Its most tragic utterances are without pessimism, and its lightest, brightest moments have nothing to do with frivolity. In its darkest expressions there is always a hope, and in its gayest measures a constant reminder. Born out of the heart-cries of a captive people who still did not forget how to laugh, this music covers an amazing

PROGRAM NOTES (cont.)

range of mood. Nevertheless, it is always serious music and should be performed seriously, in the spirit of its original conception.” Johnson was fluent in both German and French. Among the singers he coached were Marian Anderson, Charles Holland, Robert McFerrin, and Shirley Verrett. His arrangements of spirituals have been recorded by some of the world’s finest artists.

Musician, teacher, and composer, **Reverend Dr. Lena McLin**, was born September 5, 1928, in Atlanta, Georgia. Her childhood friends included young Martin Luther King, Jr. and his sister Christine. When she was five, McLin was sent to Chicago to live with her uncle, Thomas A. Dorsey, known as the father of gospel music; there she attended McCosh Elementary School and served as a young accompanist for her uncle’s famed Pilgrim Baptist Church choir. At Spelman College, McLin earned her Bachelor of music degree in 1951; she also studied in Chicago at the American Conservatory of Music, Roosevelt University, and Chicago State University. McLin taught at Kenwood Academy. Acting as music department chair, McLin created a pilot curriculum that included all types of music, from classical to popular, helping to launch the careers of singer and actor Mandy Patinkin; Metropolitan Opera star Mark Rucker; jazz singers Maggie Brown and Kim English; and rhythm and blues artist Yvette Marie “Chaka Khan” Stevens. In 1977, McLin published a music history for youth entitled *Pulse: A History of Music*. She was also a prolific composer of art songs, spiritual arrangements and choral works.

- *History Makers*

Born in Wilton, Iowa, **Charles Hutchinson Gabriel** was an American composer and lyricist of gospel songs and gospel tunes. He is said to have written and/or composed between 7,000 and 8,000 songs, many of which are available in 21st century hymnals.

- *Wikipedia*

PROGRAM NOTES (cont.)

Thomas Andrew Dorsey was an American musician, composer, and Christian evangelist influential in the development of early blues and 20th-century gospel music. He penned 3,000 songs, a third of them gospel, including "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" and "Peace in the Valley". Recordings of these sold millions of copies in both gospel and secular markets in the 20th century. He was the uncle of Rev. Dr. Lena McLin. When she was young, Dr. McLin played piano and organ for her uncle's church. Dorsey toured with Mahalia Jackson. "Precious Lord" was Martin Luther King's favorite spiritual.

- *Wikipedia*

Margaret Allison Bonds was an American composer, pianist, arranger, and teacher. One of the first Black composers and performers to gain recognition in the United States, she is best remembered today for her popular arrangements of African-American spirituals and frequent collaborations with Langston Hughes. She was the first African American woman to perform with the all-White and all-male Chicago Symphony Orchestra, one of the first African American women to have her music broadcast on European radio, the first African American woman to have her music performed widely in Africa, only the second African American woman in classical music to be elected to full membership in ASCAP, and the first woman, Black or White, to win three awards from ASCAP.

- *Wikipedia*

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS

Mark Rucker - Making his debut in *Un Ballo in Maschera* with Luciano Pavarotti, the American baritone has been in demand in opera houses and on concert stages everywhere. Rucker made his Metropolitan Opera debut in *Aida* and returned for *La Forza del Destino*, *I Pagliacci* and *Rigoletto*. Elsewhere he has sung major baritone roles in *Rigoletto*, *Macbeth*, *Nabucco*, *Cavalleria/ I Pagliacci*, *Un ballo in Maschera*, *La Traviata*, *Il Trovatore*, *Stiffelio* and others for companies such as Covent Garden, Arena di Verona and Wiener Staatsoper; Festivals Bregenz, Savonlinna, Santander; Concerts for Carnegie Hall and Concertgebouw as well as the Israel and Rotterdam Philharmonics with Maestri including, Richard Bonyne and Ricardo Chailly. In America, he has performed with many companies including Chicago Lyric and New York City Opera. Recently, he sang *Rigoletto* with Indianapolis Opera and *Elijah* and *Babi Yar* at MSU. Recordings include Lena McLin's *Songs for Voice and Piano*, *Aida* on Naxos, and *Fosca* for Opera Ebony. Mark has been a Professor of Voice at MSU since 2016 and Administrative Director for the Martina Arroyo Foundation's Young Artist Program, Prelude to Performance since its inception in 2005 and Artistic Director since 2015.

Sadie Rucker joined the MSU College of Music faculty in 2016. She has been the accompanist for her internationally celebrated baritone husband, Mark Rucker, for the past 40 years and was part of the Martina Arroyo Foundation's Young Artist Program, Prelude to Performance, as publicity director since 2005. Mrs. Rucker is the coordinator and accompanist for the MSU Vocal Arts Outreach Program and is the pianist for the Rucker Studio. With talented MSU Vocal Arts Graduate Assistants, the Vocal Arts Cabaret has performed for many High Schools, urban, suburban and rural across Michigan with great success.

She can be heard as an accompanist along with Rev. Dr. Lena McLin for the Kjos recording of Lena McLin's *Songs for Voice and Piano*.

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Grammy Award-winning violinist **Yvonne Lam** has appeared as soloist with such renowned orchestras as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Pacific Symphony, the Auckland Philharmonia, and the American Youth Symphony. She was the violinist/violist and Co-Artistic Director of contemporary super-ensemble Eighth Blackbird for eight years, and commissioned and premiered major works by composers such as Steve Reich, David Lang, Nico Muhly, and Bryce Dessner. In addition to winning top prizes at international competitions including the Michael Hill World Violin Competition, the Liana Issakadze Violin Competition, and the Holland-America Music Society Competition, Ms. Lam served three seasons as Assistant Concertmaster of the Washington National Opera Orchestra. Ms. Lam is now an Assistant Professor of Violin and Coordinator of Chamber Music at Michigan State University. She received her Bachelor of Music from the Curtis Institute of Music and her Master of Music from the Juilliard School.

Phoenix Miranda is a multi-genre vocalist from Prince George's County, Maryland. She earned Bachelor and Master degrees in Voice Performance from Michigan State University, where she studied with baritone Mark Rucker. At MSU, she performed leading soprano roles with the MSU Opera Theatre and appeared with the University's jazz, choral, and new music ensembles. She received the Claire S. Mackey Award for excellence in performance, teaching, and community service, recognizing her leadership with MSU Color Me Music and her work as a graduate teaching assistant and vocal instructor. Her work reflects an ongoing commitment to the holistic wellness and integrity of artists, on and off the stage.

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Deborah Moriarty is professor of piano and chair of the piano area at the Michigan State University College of Music, where she is a recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award. A Massachusetts native, she made her debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at age 11. She has also served on the piano faculty at the New England Conservatory of Music and the University of Lowell.

Moriarty attended the Curtis Institute of Music, The Juilliard School, and the New England Conservatory of Music, where she received her Master of Music degree with honors. She has studied with Russell Sherman, Theodore Lettvin, and Beveridge Webster.

An active recitalist and soloist with orchestras throughout the eastern United States, she has also performed in Belgium, Japan, Colombia, Mexico, and the Soviet Union. Moriarty is a founding member of the Fontana Ensemble of Michigan, and as an advocate of new music, has participated in numerous premiere performances including Milton Babbitt's "Whirled Series" at Merkin Hall in New York City. She has recordings on the Crystal and CRI labels.

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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; Spectrum Festival)
- **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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2/20 Friday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Professors of Jazz

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

2/22 Sunday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Lunar New Year

Cook Recital Hall, 3:00 p.m. \$

2/24 Tuesday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Chance Huiet, tuba

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

2/25 Wednesday

Concert Band & Campus Band

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

2/26 Thursday

Concert Orchestra: Spotlight and Spirit

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

3/13 Friday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Fantasies for Strings and Piano – I-Fu Wang, violin

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

3/15 Sunday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Peter Skyes, organ

Alumni Chapel, 3:00 p.m. \$

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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.*

HERE WE GO AGAIN