



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTIST-FACULTY AND GUEST RECITAL SERIES
Sponsored by WKAR

Exit Music

for the End of Time

Sergei Kvitko, piano

Thursday, April 30, 2026
Cook Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

*If you knew that the world would end in one hour,
What would be your playlist?*

Falling Light: Rhapsody on Björk
Guðmundsdóttir's Overture from *Dancer in the Dark* (b. 1984) David Biedenbender

from Cantata, BWV 127
Die Seele ruht in Jesu Händen Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)
arr. Harold Bauer

Dichterliebe Rückblick (after Robert Schumann) Sergei Kvitko

from *Winterreise*, D. 911
Gute Nacht Franz Schubert
(1797–1828)
arr. Leopold Godowsky

from *Quartet for the End of Time*
Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus Olivier Messiaen
(1908–1992)
arr. Sergei Kvitko

from Sonata, Op. 27, No. 2
Malinconia Eugène Ysaÿe
(1858–1931)
arr. Noah Mallett

from *Five Etudes on Songs of Richard Strauss*
Zueignung Lowell Liebermann
(b. 1961)

from *Eleven Chorale Preludes*, Op. 122
Herzlich tut mich verlangen Johannes Brahms
(1833–1897)
arr. Ferruccio Busoni

from Symphony No. 5
Adagietto Gustav Mahler
(1860–1911)
arr. Sergei Kvitko

PROGRAM

Ave verum corpus, K. 618

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756–1791)
arr. Franz Liszt

from *Twelve Romances*, Op. 21
How Fair this Spot

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873–1943)
arr. Arcadi Volodos

Exit Music (For a Film)

Thom Yorke, Jonny Greenwood,
Ed O'Brien, Colin Greenwood, Philip Selway
arr. Christopher O'Riley

from *Requiem*, Op. 48
In Paradisum

Gabriel Fauré
(1845–1924)
arr. Emile Naoumoff

Precious Lord (Fantasia on the Hymn Tune)

Igor Iachimciuc
(b. 1968)

PROGRAM NOTES

The idea for this program was born out of two existential questions. As a church organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Lansing, MI, for almost 30 years, I have to play a lot of funeral and wedding services. It is always fascinating to me how people select the music they want to hear at these very different but equally special events. Not to sound morbid, but I started thinking: what would I want to “hear” at my funeral service? What IS my favorite music? And the other question – If I knew that the world would end in an hour, what would I want to play, what would I want to listen to? Thinking of my favorite pieces of music, from *Winterreise* to Mahler’s *Adagietto*, and from Radiohead and Björk to Bach and Mozart, I quickly realized that none of these works were written for piano. The idea of a recital comprised entirely of transcriptions of the most beautiful music was born, and the work of selecting the pieces and, in some cases, commissioning them or arranging them myself started in earnest. The program presented here is the result of that endeavor.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS

Sergei Kvitko's career is as diverse as it is distinguished. As a pianist, he has garnered widespread critical acclaim for his “polished pianism... glorious Horowitzian three-dimensional perspective” (*Gramophone Magazine*), “masterful, intuitive playing... arresting artistry” (*Fanfare Magazine*), and “luminous touch... warm, round sound... plenty of brilliance” (*The Chronicle-Herald*). *American Record Guide* placed his recording of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* “among the best ever made,” selecting it for its coveted Critics' Choice List.

His critically acclaimed 2021 album, *Mozart. Post Scriptum*, recorded with the Madrid Soloists Chamber Orchestra, was described as “an absolute explosion of creativity” (*EarRelevant, Atlanta*) and won The American Prize in Piano Performance (Concerto). His 2023 release, *Schubert by Candlelight: Live in Madrid*, issued by Reference Recordings, received high praise, including “beautifully executed and easily joins the best currently available” (*American Record Guide*) and “ranked among the best Schubert piano releases in years” (*Fanfare Magazine*). In 2013, Mr. Kvitko made his New York City debut at Carnegie Hall in a solo recital met with “rousing applause, bravos, and a standing ovation” (*New York Concert Review*). He has appeared in solo, chamber, and orchestral performances throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Central Asia.

As a composer, Kvitko has received multiple awards for his incidental music for Steven Dietz's *Dracula*, described as “entertaining, powerful, witty” (*Fanfare Magazine*), with additional works for Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*, as well as numerous transcriptions and arrangements. His cadenzas for Mozart's *Concerto in D Minor* were hailed as “spectacular” (*Pizzicato Magazine*).

Equally renowned as a recording engineer and producer, Mr. Kvitko is recognized internationally as “one of the best in the business” (*Fanfare Magazine*). He has received GRAMMY® and Latin GRAMMY® nominations, and his recording of Carter Pann's *Mechanics* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Music. Born in Russia, Kvitko began studying music at age six and later earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Michigan State University, where he studied with Ralph Votapek. He is a voting member of the Recording Academy.

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.

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- **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** (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)
- **WKAR** (Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series)
- **Worthington Family Foundation** (Opera Season)
- **Andrea L. Wulf** (Piano Monster)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

5/3 Sunday

MSUFCU Showcase Series

Piano Monster

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

6/7 Sunday

Music in the Garden

Beal Botanical Gardens

1:00 p.m. Activity | 2:00 p.m. Concert, free

6/28 Sunday

Music in the Garden

Beal Botanical Gardens

1:00 p.m. Activity | 2:00 p.m. Concert, free

7/1 – 8/5 Wednesdays

29th Annual Muelder Summer Carillon Series

Beaumont Tower

6:00 p.m., free

7/19 Sunday

Music in the Garden

Beal Botanical Gardens

1:00 p.m. Activity | 2:00 p.m. Concert, free

7/26-7/31

Celebrating the Spectrum, free

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