



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MSU Federal Credit Union
SHOWCASE SERIES

Piano Monster: America 250!

Young Hyun Cho
Stanislav Khristenko
Elden Little
Tamar Mikeladze
Deborah Moriarty
Derek Kealii Polischuk
Zhihua Tang
Eric Zuber

Marc Embree, narrator
Jane Bunnell, mezzo-soprano

*Generously sponsored by
Alena Fabian, M.D. and
Andrea L. Wulf*

Sunday, May 3, 2026
Fairchild Theatre, 3:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

A Scott Joplin Rag Rhapsody
Scott Joplin
(1868–1917)
arr. Kevin R. Olson
Deborah Moriarty, Young Hyun Cho,
Tamar Mikeladze, and Derek Polischuk

Lincoln Portrait
Aaron Copland
(1900–1990)
arr. Stanislav Khristenko
Stanislav Khristenko and Tamar Mikeladze, piano
Marc Embree, narrator

Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*
Leonard Bernstein
(1918–1990)
Deborah Moriarty, Eric Zuber,
Zhi-hua Tang, and Elden Little

Monster Singalong

You're A Grand Old Flag
George M. Cohan
(1878–1942)
Battle Hymn of the Republic
William Steffe
(c. 1830–1890)
lyrics: Julia Ward Howe
God Bless America
Irving Berlin
(1888–1989)
America the Beautiful
Samuel A. Ward
(1848–1903)
lyrics: Katharine Lee Bates
The Piano Monsters led by
Jane Bunnell and Marc Embree

The Stars and Stripes Forever
John Philip Sousa
(1854–1932)

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS

Mezzo-soprano **Jane Bunnell** joined the faculty of MSU's College of Music in August, 2015, as professor of voice. She has enjoyed an illustrious international career for 40 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*, and *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.

Young Hyun Cho's concert activities have taken her around the globe. She has performed as a soloist at venues such as the Great Hall (Golden Hall) of the Vienna Musikverein, Berlin Philharmonic Concert Hall, Smetana Hall in Prague, and Solti Hall of the Liszt Academy in Budapest. As a featured soloist, she has performed with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, Euro Sinfonietta Wien, Filarmonica della Calabria of Italy, North Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Teplice, Korean Broadcasting System Symphony Orchestra, Korean Symphony Orchestra, and numerous other orchestras. She has also performed chamber concerts and solo recitals throughout North America, Asia, and Europe. She released her CD, "Beethoven's Last Three Piano Sonatas", under the Sony label. She received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music, Master degree and Graduate Performance Diploma from Peabody Conservatory, and Bachelor degree from Seoul National University. Her primary teachers include Nelita True, Boris Slutsky, and Mikyung Kim. Young Hyun Cho is currently an associate professor of piano at the Michigan State University College of Music and previously was a faculty member at the University of Texas at Arlington.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

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. The 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.

Stanislav Khristenko has been praised for "emotional intensity", "charismatic expression", "palette of touches", "solid" and "precise technique" by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Miami Herald*, *Gramophone*, *BBC Music Magazine*, and *El País*. Khristenko has appeared as a piano soloist with many orchestras including the Cleveland Orchestra, National Orchestra of Belgium, and Madrid Symphony Orchestra. His performance highlights include solo recitals at Carnegie Hall, Vienna Konzerthaus, and Palais de Beaux-Arts in Brussels. His recordings have been released on Steinway & Sons, Oehms, and Toccata Classics labels. Khristenko is a prizewinner of numerous piano competitions including Cleveland Piano Competition and Queen Elisabeth Music Competition. In his hometown in Ukraine, Khristenko co-founded KharkivMusicFest, one of the country's leading classical music festivals. As a Music Director, he founded Nova Sinfonietta Chamber Orchestra of Ukraine that performed works of over forty composers in its first three seasons. Khristenko graduated from Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory and Cleveland Institute of Music. He also completed Orchestral Conducting training at Chopin University in Poland and Royal Northern College of Music in England. In 2024, Khristenko was appointed Assistant Professor of Piano in the MSU College of Music. Stanislav Khristenko is a Steinway Artist.

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.

Tamar Mikeladze joined the piano faculty of the Michigan State University College of Music in 2015 where she serves as instructor of piano. A native of Tbilisi, Georgia, Mikeladze made her orchestral solo debut at age eleven. She started her study at the Special Music School for gifted children that same year. She holds graduate and post-graduate degrees from Tbilisi State Conservatory. While in Georgia, she actively performed with national orchestras and appeared numerous times on national television and radio shows. Upon completion of her degrees, Mikeladze was appointed to the piano faculty of the Special Music School, where she taught for five years. In 2003, she began studies at Indiana University, South Bend, where she travelled with her studio to perform at music venues in Europe, and where she also received Artist and Performer Diplomas and a Master degree in piano performance. In the fall of 2006, Mikeladze joined the piano faculty at the University of Notre Dame. Her performances include appearances at Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome, Carnegie Weill Recital Hall, and Steinway Hall. A recipient of the Rosamond P. Haeberle Memorial Piano award, Mikeladze served as adjudicator at the Michigan Music Association and Michigan Music Teachers Association competitions. Her recent recording is available as a part of a CD of George Oakley's works released by Naxos in October 2018.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Deborah Moriarty is Professor of Piano and Chair of the Keyboard 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 eleven and has since enjoyed a distinguished career as a performer and educator. Moriarty has served on the piano faculties of the New England Conservatory of Music and the University of Lowell. She studied at the Curtis Institute of Music, the Juilliard School, and the New England Conservatory of Music, where she earned her Master of Music degree with honors. Her principal teachers include Victor Rosenbaum, Russell Sherman, Theodore Lettvin, and Beveridge Webster. A medal winner in the *Concours Debussy*, she has appeared as a recitalist and soloist with orchestras throughout the eastern United States and has performed internationally in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. A founding member of the Fontana Ensemble of Michigan, Moriarty is a strong advocate of contemporary music. Her recordings appear on the Crystal, CRI, Blue Griffin, and Centaur labels. She is Artistic Director of the Encore Festival and the *Music in the Hidden Churches* concert series in Todi, Italy, and co-founder of *Celebrating the Spectrum*, an annual summer festival for pianists with ASD at MSU.

Derek Kealii Polischuk is professor of piano and director of piano pedagogy at the Michigan State University College of Music. An enthusiastic supporter of the education of musicians of every age, ability, and background, Polischuk has been a clinician at conferences around the world, including the Music Teachers National Association, the National Group Piano and Pedagogy Conference, the Multidisciplinary Research in Music Pedagogy Conference, the DOCTRID Conference in Ireland, the ABLE Assembly at Berklee College, and at universities across China. Polischuk serves on the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy's Committee for Teaching Students with Special Needs, the Advisory Board of the Orange County School of the Arts Pianist Program, the Board of Directors of the San Diego Musical Merit Foundation, and is Vice President of the Michigan Music Teachers Association. Polischuk is a founder and director of the Celebrating the Spectrum Piano Festival for advanced pianists on the Autism Spectrum. His book *Transformational Piano Teaching*, praised by Dr. Alice M. Hammel of James Madison University and Stewart Gordon of the University of Southern California, is available from Oxford University Press. The publication is widely used by teachers, students, and scholars in piano pedagogy worldwide.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Zhihua Tang serves as Director of Collaborative Piano at the Michigan State University College of Music. A native of Shanghai, China, she attended Shanghai Conservatory, Indiana University, and later completed a DMA degree from Michigan State University College of Music. Her major teachers include Deborah Moriarty, Menahem Pressler, and Dady Mehta. Prof. Tang has enjoyed an active performing career around the world and has collaborated with some of today's leading concert soloists, chamber musicians and numerous principal players from major orchestras all over the world. As a recitalist, she has performed extensively across Europe, the U.S., and Asia in major music venues such as Bösendorfer Hall in Vienna, Rackham Hall in Ann Arbor, Detroit Orchestra Hall, Beijing Zhongshan Music Hall, and the Shanghai Centre Theatre.

Hailed as “irresistibly fluid” and “illuminating” by the New York Times and Cleveland Plain Dealer, **Dr. Eric Zuber** has been established as one of the leading American pianists of his generation. He has been a recipient of prizes from major international piano competitions including Arthur Rubinstein, Cleveland, Seoul, Sydney, and Dublin. He was also awarded Gold Medals in both the Hilton Head and USASU Bösendorfer International Piano Competitions and is a Laureate of the American Pianists Association Classical Fellowship Awards. After making his orchestral debut at the age of twelve with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, he has performed with many of the major orchestras in the United States and abroad including Cleveland, Israel, Indianapolis, Minnesota, and the Royal Philharmonic. Dr. Zuber has also made solo appearances at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, the Sydney Opera House, Seoul Arts Center, Severance Hall, and for the International Keyboard Institute and Festival in New York City. Born in Baltimore, Dr. Zuber received degrees from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University (B.M., A.D., D.M.A.), the Juilliard School (M.M.) and the Curtis Institute (Diploma) where he studied with Boris Slutsky, Leon Fleisher, Claude Frank, and Robert McDonald. He is currently serving as Assistant Professor of Piano at Michigan State University.

MONSTER SINGALONG

You're A Grand Old Flag

You're a grand old flag,
You're a high flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave.
You're the emblem of
The land I love.
The home of the free and the brave.
Ev'ry heart beats true
'neath the Red, White and Blue,
Where there's never a boast or brag.
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Mine eyes hath seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are
stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift
sword; His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet;
Our God is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

MONSTER SINGALONG (cont.)

God Bless America

God Bless America,
Land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam
God bless America, My home sweet home.

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 patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

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; 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)

SPONSORSHIPS AND RECOGNITION

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

7/1 Jon Lehrer, MSU

7/8 Jeremy Chesman, Missouri State University

7/15 John Widmann, Fredrick, MD

7/22 Ellen Dickenson, Yale University

7/29 Margaret Pan, Boston MA

8/5 David Hunsberger, UC Berkeley

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:
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.*