College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Music
Artist-Faculty & Guest Recital Series

Michigan State University Trombone Ensembles

Kenneth Thompkins, director

Generously sponsored by
Eileen Houston

Monday, November 30, 2026
Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Tenderbox — Zachary Bell (b. 2000)

Trombumba — George William Lotzenhiser (1923–2019)

Gage McCann, Cael Sutherland,
Siang Chen, Johnny Danziger

Suite for Four Trombones — Gordon Jacob (1895–1984)

I. Intrada
V. Finale - Alla fuga

Sydney Carson, Nolan Zatkin,
Gavin Fedewa, Noah VanAuker

Breaking Point — Jay Chaplin (b. 2001)

Trombone Ensemble
Jordan Dove, conductor

Myths and Legends — Eric Ewazen (b. 1954)

I. Allegro ritmico

Sam McCarthy, Parker Davies,
John Ehardt, Nico Cicero

Prophecy — Jay Chaplin

Rix Barlow, Aidan Islam,
David Grimes, Jay Chaplin

One for the Road (Leffe) — Steven Verhelst (b. 1981)

Trombone Ensemble

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS

Kenneth Thompkins is currently the Associate Professor of Trombone at Michigan State University. He was Principal Trombone of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra from 1997 to 2024. Prior to this appointment he held positions in the Buffalo Philharmonic and The Florida Orchestra. He has also performed with the New World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas.

Thompkins enjoys working with young musicians and has performed masterclasses and recitals at many universities including the Curtis Institute of Music, The Juilliard School, and the Eastman School of Music. He has also been on faculty at the National Orchestral Institute, National Youth Orchestra, and Taipei Music Festival and Academy. In 2017, Thompkins recorded "Sonatas, Songs and Spirituals" featuring the music of Alec Wilder, William Grant Still, and Philip Wharton. "Sonatas, Songs and Spirituals" was the winner of The American Prize in Instrumental Performance for 2018-2019. His latest recording, "Compelling Portraits", features the compositions of contemporary Black composers including James Lee III, Brian Nabors, Kevin Day, Maurice Draughn, and Shawn Okpebholo. He has performed as a soloist with Chineke! and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He can also be heard on recordings with the New World Symphony and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

PERSONNEL

Jordan Dove
Jonah Trout
Jay Chaplin
David Grimes
Rix Barlow
Cael Sutherland
Johnny Danziger
Nico Cicero
Sydney Carson
Nolan Zatkin
Noah VanAuker
Sam McCarthy
Gavin Fedewa
John Ehardt
Parker Davies
Gage McCann
Aidan Islam
Dillon Downey
Siang Chen

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 2026-2027 SPONSORS

- **Anonymous** (Rucker, Feb. 21)
- **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** (Fall Opera; Symphony Orchestra, Oct. 23)
- **The Estate of John and Virginia Bunnell** (Be Mine: Songbook Serenades, Feb. 14)
- **Joanne and Bill Church** (West Circle Series)
- **April Clobes and Glen Brough** (Beethoven: 200 Years)
- **Trustee Emerita Dee Cook in memory of her husband Byron Cook** (1776-2026: Celebrating 250 Years of American Music)
- **Mrs. Susan Davis** (Spring Opera)
- **Dean Transportation** (Spectrum Festival)
- **Fred and Nancy Dolehanty** (MSU Music on the Road)
- **Barbara and Bill Given** (Holiday Glory)
- **Jim Forger and Deborah Moriarty** (Lunar New Year Celebration Concert)
- **John and Gretchen Forsyth** (Zuber, Oct. 7)
- **Howard and Pam Gourwitz** (Lulloff, Jan. 21)
- **Kevin and Amy Guskiewicz** (Collage Concert- A 20th Anniversary Celebration)
- **Lauren Harris** (Spectrum Festival; Fall and Spring Opera)
- **Anne Hiller** (Spectrum Festival)
- **Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowment for Chamber Music** (Journey of Armenia; Chamber Voices)
- **Mrs. Eileen Houston** (Trombone Colors, Oct. 28; Brass Showcase, Nov. 9; Trombone Ensembles, Nov. 30; Winter's Light: Johanna Yarbrough, horn, Jan. 31; Trombones at the Movies featuring guest artist Jim Nova, Feb. 2; Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble Concert, Feb. 3; New Works for Low Brass, Mar. 3; Collage Concert, May 1)
- **Taylor Johnston Early Music Series Endowment established by Taylor Johnston** (Taylor Johnston Early Music Series)
- **Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D.** (Spectrum Festival; Votapek, Mar. 29)
- **Michael and Paula Koppisch** (Zuber, Oct. 7; Spectrum Festival)
- **Jill Canny and Robert Last** (Jazz Nonets Visiting Artist Series)
- **Lansing Chapter of the American Guild of Organists** (Organ Recital Oct. 18 and Mar. 21)

- **Dr. James M. Miller and Dr. Rebecca H. Lehto** (Fall Opera)
- **Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Fall and Spring Opera)
- **Ann, John and Abby Lindley** (Holiday Glory)
- **Merritt Lutz** (Spectrum Festival)
- **Joseph and Jeanne Maguire** (A Jazzy Little Christmas)
- **Pat and Mary McPharlin** (Collage Concert- A 20th Anniversary Celebration)
- **Dr. Roy and Christine Meland** (Ensemble Affect; French Connection; Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble)
- **Jack W. and Sandra G. Midgley Trust** (Woodward String Quartet; Piano Monster)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union** (Showcase Series; Spartan Spectacular; Spectrum Festival; MSU Music on The Road in Detroit)
- **Office of the Provost** (Spectrum Festival)
- **George Orban and Rae Ramsdell** (Jang/Moriarty, Sept. 20)
- **Liz and Tony Raduazo** (Pass a Good Time, Oct. 4; Sensory Friendly Spartan Concerts, Dec. 6 and Apr. 27)
- **Leonard and Sharon Tabaka** (Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **Kazuko Thornton** (Lam/Khristenko, Mar. 22)
- **Dr. Robert W. Uphaus and Dr. Lois M. Rosen** (Concert Orchestra, Oct. 8; America at 250, Dec 5; Berlinsky, Feb. 10; Bagratuni, Mar. 17; Lam/Khristenko, Mar. 22; Bagratuni/Jang, Mar. 30)
- **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)
- **Worthington Family Foundation** (Opera Season)
- **Dr. Felicia Wu** (Bagratuni/Jang, Mar. 30)
- **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

12/1 Tuesday
Viridis and Campus Choir
7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium $

12/2 Wednesday
Mosaic and Singing Spartans
7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium $

12/3 Thursday (piano recital)
Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series
Piano Duo: Elegant Transcriptions
Stanislav Khristenko and Martin Labazevitch
7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building $

12/5 Saturday (chamber recital)
Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series
America at 250 - Music Icons
7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building $

12/6 Sunday
MSUFCU Jazz Artist in Residence
Jazz Orchestras with John Allred, jazz trombone
3:00 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium $$

12/6 Sunday
Sensory Friendly Spartan Concert
3:00 p.m. Auditorium, free
Community Music School East Lansing, 4930 Hagadorn Road

12/6 Sunday
Chamber Music Showcase Concert
7:00 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building $

12/9 Wednesday
Concert Orchestra, "American Portraits"
7:30 pm Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center $

12/10 Thursday
Concert Band and Campus Band
7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center $

12/12 Saturday
MSUFCU Showcase SeriesA; **Symphony Orchestra and Choirs,**
7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center $$$
Tickets only available through Wharton Center Box Office (517) 432-2000

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.*