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[Press Photos for 21/22 Season](#)

UMS Launches 143rd Season in October With Both In-Person and Virtual Performances

October at a Glance

You Can Dance—Outside!

Sunday, October 10 at Ann Arbor's Olson Park Pavilion

UMS's popular outdoor You Can Dance workshops returns with the Detroit dance form known as "Jit"

Jonas Kaufmann in Recital

Tuesday, October 12 at 7:30 pm at Hill Auditorium

For UMS's first live performance since March 2020

The Making of "The Four Journeys" with Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble

Premieres Friday, October 1 with post-premiere Q&A;

Streams through Sunday, October 10 at ums.org

Documentary film produced as part of Cleo Parker Robinson's Digital Artist Residency with UMS in 20/21

Acrobuffos: Air Play

Streaming Monday, October 4 through Friday, October 15 at ums.org

UMS Digital School Day Performances Open to Families

Tarek Yamani & Spektral Quartet

Streaming Wednesday, October 27 at ums.org.

Digital world premiere presented as part of the UMS Digital Artist Residency program in 20/21

ANN ARBOR, MI (September 20, 2021) — October marks the return of live, in-person performances at the **University Musical Society (UMS)**, in addition to a wide swath of innovative digital programming. During the month of October, UMS performances can be enjoyed at Hill Auditorium and Ann Arbor's

Olson Park Pavilion, as well as from the comfort of one's home. With this hybrid season of programming, UMS continues its mission of inspiring individuals and enriching communities by connecting audiences and artists in uncommon and engaging experiences. Featuring two world premieres, a historical season opener, and performances catered to all ages, UMS's 143rd season opens triumphantly this October.

All indoor live performances scheduled through December 2021 will require proof of vaccination or a negative Covid PCR test upon entry into the venue, and masks will be required for the duration of such performances. Masks are encouraged for any outdoor live events.

Season Opener

Jonas Kaufmann in Recital

Tuesday, October 12 at 7:30 pm in Hill Auditorium

The 2021-22 season will open with the renowned tenor **Jonas Kaufmann's** UMS debut on **Tuesday, October 12 at 7:30 pm in Hill Auditorium**. This rare recital appearance, featuring German lieder by a dozen different composers, including a first half by Franz Liszt, will mark the first live performance in Hill Auditorium since March 2020. Pianist Helmut Deutsch appears alongside Kaufmann.

This wonderful addition to the season also features a notable parallel from UMS's past. Back in October 1918, UMS had gone to extraordinary lengths to schedule the great tenor Enrico Caruso to perform a Hill Auditorium recital, his first US appearance outside of New York City. That concert was postponed to March 1919 because of the Spanish flu epidemic. It was a huge and important cultural event in Ann Arbor, with Caruso performing no fewer than nine encores and highlighting songs by composers from allied countries in World War I.

Tickets (\$12-\$100) are available at ums.org or **734-764-2538**.

Digital Programming

The Making of "The Four Journeys": Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble

Friday, October 1 at 7:30 pm; available on demand through Sunday, October 10

This 30-minute documentary film explores the creative process behind a new work by **Amalia Viviana Basanta Hernández**, the artistic director of **Ballet Folklórico de México**, for the **Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble**. Cleo Parker Robinson's company was originally scheduled to perform in UMS's 20/21 season, which was canceled due to the pandemic. Robinson was instead invited to participate in a UMS Digital Artist Residency, through which she wanted to document the development of the new piece for her company. She opened up rehearsals to filmmaker **Alan Domínguez**, who captured footage in both the US and Mexico throughout the creative process. The film premieres on **Friday, October 1 at 7:30 pm**, with a Q&A with the creative team immediately following. It will be available for on-demand streaming through **Sunday, October 10**. *The Four Journeys* will receive its world premiere in late September in Denver and examines the confluence of culture in México, from its diverse, indigenous heritage to the more recent infusions of European, African, and Asian influences. *The Making of "The Four Journeys"* will stream on ums.org/CleoFilm.

NOTE TO JOURNALISTS: If you would like to screen an advance copy of the film, please reach out for a password-protected link.

Tarek Yamani and Spektral Quartet

Wednesday, October 27 at 7:30 pm; available on demand through Saturday, November 27

On **Wednesday, October 27 at 7:30 pm**, Tarek Yamani's Digital Artist Residency culminates in the digital world premiere of a new four-movement suite composed by **Yamani** for the **Spektral Quartet**. This new work, co-commissioned by UMS and the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, explores the junctures between Western Classical, jazz, and traditional Arab music in a genre dubbed "Afro-Tarab." The digital performance will be available through Saturday, November 27 at ums.org.

Program (both works composed by Tarek Yamani)

Berytus (for string quartet)

Skylines Ahead (for string quartet and percussion)

NOTE TO JOURNALISTS: If you would like to screen a rehearsal of *Berytus*, please reach out for a password-protected link.

In addition to the digital performance, Tarek Yamani and Yemeni-Bosnian visual artist and filmmaker **Alia Ali** will discuss their newest projects on **Wednesday, October 20 at 7:30 pm** in a digital event sponsored by the Arab American National Museum as part of their “Across Disciplines” series.

Registration and further event information can be found at

<https://arabamericanmuseum.org/event/across-disciplines-alia-ali-tarek-yamani/>.

This event is part of UMS’s season-long focus on artists, institutions, and ensembles from the Arab World and its diaspora, which will explore the depth, complexity, and diversity of perspectives among Arab and Arab-American artists and communities.

Fun for All Ages

Acrobuffos: *Air Play* (Digital School Day Performance)

Available on demand from Monday, October 4 through Friday, October 15

A circus-style adventure of two siblings journeying through a surreal land of air, *Air Play* streams from **Monday, October 4 through Friday, October 15**. *Air Play* transforms ordinary objects into uncommon beauty, with umbrellas flying, fabrics soaring over the “audience,” balloons swallowing people, and snow swirling across the stage. Circus performers **Seth Bloom** and **Christina Gelsone**, who make up the group **Acrobuffos**, worked with sculptor **Daniel Wurtzel** to bring to life the very air that we breathe. This Digital School Day performance is accompanied by a UMS Learning Guide, which offers historical context about circus theater, information about the performers, and student activities. More information about the event as well as the UMS Learning Guide can be found at ums.org/acrobuffos.

You Can Dance – Outside

Sunday, October 10 at 11 am at Olson Park (Ann Arbor)

October marks the conclusion of UMS’s popular outdoor You Can Dance workshops, where dancers and “curious movers” of all levels can participate while socially distanced. This month’s free movement workshop, taught by local dance professional **Haleem “Stringz” Rasul**, celebrates the Detroit dance form known as the Jit and will be held on **Sunday, October 10 at 11 am** at Ann Arbor’s **Olson Park Pavilion** (1505 Dhu Varren Road). Advance registration for this event is required at ums.org/YouCanDance.

Health, Safety, and Accessibility

The season will be presented with health and safety for audiences and artists as the top priority. In collaboration with the University of Michigan and public health authorities, UMS has developed clear safety protocols to ensure that live performances are presented in the safest, most public health-informed way possible for audiences and artists alike. **UMS requires either proof of vaccination or proof of negative COVID PCR test taken within 72 hours, as well as indoor mask wearing for the duration of the performance from all audience members at live events.** [A complete list of safety protocols is included at the end of this release, and updated health and safety policies can be found at \[ums.org/safety\]\(https://ums.org/safety\).](#)

As part of UMS's continued commitment to accessibility and inclusion, all digital programming will again be offered at no charge and available to stream at ums.org

Ticketing Information

Tickets to individual events are available online, in person, and by phone. To be added to the mailing list, please contact the UMS Ticket Office at 734.764.2538 or visit ums.org. UMS also has an e-mail list that provides up-to-date information about all UMS events; sign-up information is available on the website.

Student tickets (\$12 and \$20) and Kids Club tickets (up to two \$10 kids' tickets with the purchase of at least one adult ticket at \$20) are also available. Additional information about UMS's Kids Club and student ticket programs can be found at ums.org/kids and ums.org/students respectively.

About UMS

A recipient of the 2014 National Medal of Arts, UMS (also known as the University Musical Society) contributes to a vibrant cultural community by connecting audiences with performing artists from around the world in uncommon and engaging experiences. One of the oldest performing arts presenters in the country, UMS is an independent non-profit organization affiliated with the University of Michigan, presenting over 70 music, theater, and dance performances by professional touring artists each season, along with over 100 free educational activities. UMS is committed to bold artistic leadership, engaged learning through the arts, and access and inclusiveness. Since 1990, the organization has co-

commissioned and supported the production of nearly 80 new or reimagined works. Matthew VanBesien became the organization's seventh president in July 2017.

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