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

The Show Must Go On: UMS's First Two School Day Performances Available for Families & Schools

ANN ARBOR, MI (September 13, 2021) – Teachers, administrators, and parents globally practiced remarkable resilience to make sure that children had access to the best education in the midst of a global pandemic. To that end, the **University Musical Society's** 2021/22 School Day Performance Series supports student growth and development either through the classroom or at home with two special free performances that will be available to teachers and parents alike.

Over the past year, UMS offered innovative new ways to safely connect engaging arts experiences with school districts throughout Michigan with a virtual School Day Performance series. This year, UMS will offer a jam-packed season of both virtual and in-person events that students, families, and educators can use to facilitate meaningful connections between the performance and classroom curriculum. Each performance will be accompanied by a learning guide that provides additional context for K-12 learners.

Free Digital School Day Performances for Classrooms and Families

Acrobuffos: *Air Play*

Available on demand from Mon Oct 4 – Fri Oct 15 at ums.org/acrobuffos

A circus-style adventure of two siblings journeying through a surreal land of air, **Acrobuffos' *Air Play*** transforms ordinary objects into uncommon beauty: umbrellas fly, fabrics soar, balloons swallow people, and snow swirls, filling the stage. In this performance of *Air Play*, circus performers Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone 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 students in grades K-3 historical context about circus theater, information about the performers, and student activities. Information and free registration: ums.org/acrobuffos.

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán: *A Celebration of the Day of the Dead*

Available on demand from Mon Nov 1 — Fri Nov 12 at ums.org/mariachi

Filmed live from Tequila in the state of Jalisco, Mexico, this performance features dance traditions of Ballet Folklórico and celebrates one of Mexico's most important holidays, *Día de los Muertos*. It includes favorite songs that exemplify the spirit of the celebration like "La Llorona" and "La Bruja." With world-class vocalists and instrumentalists, flawless ensemble work, and spellbinding showmanship, **Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán** never fails to engage its audience, eliciting spontaneous *gritos*, sing-alongs, and one ovation after another. Masters at melding the old-world style of mariachi music with new and innovative pieces, this performance is the perfect way for families to experience the world of mariachi together. Information and free registration: ums.org/mariachi.

In-Person School Day Performances for Classrooms and School Groups

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis: *Big Band Holidays*

Mon Nov 29 // 11 am // Hill Auditorium

Grades K-12

Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra bring their fun, one-of-a-kind holiday extravaganza to brighten up the holiday season. They celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with seasonal confections that put the heart and soul into the holidays. With fresh arrangements, playful improvisation, and abundant good cheer, their big band arrangements of songs both sacred and secular feature the grooving instrumentalists alongside charismatic vocalist Ashley Pezzotti.

Tickets (\$7 per person) & Information: ums.org/k12

Imani Winds

Fri Jan 28 // 11 am // Rackham Auditorium

Grades 3-6

With a focus on illuminating the cultural connections between the African diaspora and Western classical music, this woodwind quintet (flute, oboe, horn, clarinet, and bassoon) performs for audiences around the world, commissioning music from new voices that reflect historical events and the times in

which we currently live. This high-energy concert, designed specifically for grades 3-6, will introduce students to music by composers of diverse musical backgrounds.

Tickets (\$7 per person) & Information: ums.org/k12

Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández

Mon Feb 7 // 11 am // Hill Auditorium

Grades K-12

Founded in 1952 by dancer and choreographer Amalia Hernández, Ballet Folklórico de México got its start as a small company that produced dances based on Mexican folkloric traditions for a weekly television show. Hernández trained in ballet and modern dance, but was drawn to the rich, vast, and unique culture found throughout Mexico and became known as a trailblazer in Mexican folk dance. Inspired by the diversity of the regions, she created dances that celebrated the country's indigenous legends and traditions dating back to the pre-Columbian era. This performance will include new works and traditional dances from the states of Jalisco, Sonora, and Veracruz.

Tickets (\$7 per person) & Information: ums.org/k12

Health, Safety, and Accessibility for In-Person Performances

Health and Safety protocols for UMS School Day Performances have been developed in coordination with area school districts. Masks will be required for all indoor performances, regardless of vaccination status. All UMS staff and volunteers working at the performances will be fully vaccinated and masked throughout the performance. Additional information about health and safety protocols for School Day Performances can be found at ums.org/k12.

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

Classroom tickets to in-person School Day Performances can be reserved by contacting 734-647-4010 or emailing umsyouth@umich.edu. Registration information is also available on each event page.

Digital School Day Performances are free and available on demand. Registration is requested in advance.

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.