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

## **PUBLIC SALES FOR UMS'S 143<sup>rd</sup> SEASON BEGIN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

**Acclaimed Arts Presenter's 143<sup>rd</sup> Lineup Includes:**

### **Five Programs Featuring New Commissions**

*Including new works by Clarice Assad and Bryce Dessner (performed by the Takács Quartet), Kyle Abraham, Tarek Yamani, Jessie Montgomery (performed by Imani Winds and the Catalyst Quartet), and Joyce DiDonato*

### **Season-Long Focus on Artists from the Arab World and Its Diaspora**

*Live and Virtual Programs by Tarek Yamani, National Arab Orchestra, Kabareh Cheikhats, Ali Chahrour, and more*

### **New Creative Partnership with the Philadelphia Orchestra**

*Includes Two Concerts in Hill Auditorium and Educational Residency, Plus New Musical Theatre Production of "Fiddler on the Roof" in Concert and Digital Concert with Davóne Tines*

### **Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower* in a New Opera by Toshi Reagon**

### **Return of Many Events Canceled Due to Pandemic**

*A MoodSwing Reunion, HOME, Benjamin Grosvenor, Imani Winds & Catalyst Quartet, Ballet Folklórico de México, Caleb Teicher, and more*

### **Plus Free Digital Programming**

*Ongoing Virtual Performances & Other Programming Offered Throughout the Year*

ANN ARBOR, MI (September 1, 2021) – Tickets to individual performances on the **University Musical Society's** 143<sup>rd</sup> season will go on sale to the public on **Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 10 am**. UMS will present world-class performances live and in-person, as well as innovative digital programming —

including concerts and educational events — throughout the year. As part of UMS's continued commitment to accessibility and inclusion, all digital programming will again be offered at no charge. [A complete list of performances is included at the end of this release, and details on each event are available at \*\*ums.org\*\*.](#)

The season will be presented with health and safety for audiences and artists as the top priority, with audiences asked to be active participants in the measures that will help make live performance a reality once again. 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.

For events through December 2021, this includes a requirement that every live performance audience member present either proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID PCR test taken within 72 hours of the start time of the performance, as well as an indoor masking requirement for the duration of the performance. [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\*\*.](#)

*"Of the many things we've learned and come to understand in this past year, one is that in times of crisis, the arts remain vital to our existence as human beings," says UMS president Matthew VanBesien. "They are a constant in our lives and create joy and hope, even in times of despair, injustice, and loss. And while none of us ever imagined that we'd be looking forward to our 143rd season in the same way that we might celebrate a milestone anniversary, we are all looking forward to returning, to restarting, to reconnecting, and to rejoicing with our audiences and artists once again."*

## [Season Opener](#)

The 2021-22 season will open with the renowned tenor **Jonas Kaufmann's** UMS debut on Tuesday, October 12. This rare recital appearance, part of a special tour taking place in only a handful of US cities, will mark the first live performance in Hill Auditorium since March 2020.

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.

UMS is thrilled to present another world-renowned tenor 102 years later, as the first live performance back in the musical “big house” on the Ann Arbor campus.

### Programming from the Arab World and Its Diaspora

The 143<sup>rd</sup> season will include a focus on artists, institutions, and ensembles from the Arab World and its diaspora. Artistic projects in this realm will explore the depth, complexity, and diversity of perspectives among Arab and Arab-American artists and communities. The season's Arab World focus features Lebanese choreographer and theater maker **Ali Chahrour's** *Layl (Night)*, the **National Arab Orchestra with singer Abeer Nehme**, and a celebratory evening of performances, *Sahra*, by violinist/composer **Mike Khoury**, choreographer **Leyya Tawil**, vocalist/producer/DJ **Tammy Lakkis**, and the Moroccan performance group **Kabareh Cheikhats**.

Tarek Yamani's Digital Artist Residency culminates in a world premiere by **Tarek Yamani & Spektral Quartet** on Wednesday, October 27. Yamani's new work for string quartet, written for and performed by the Spektral Quartet, and co-commissioned by UMS and the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, will explore the junctures between Western Classical, jazz, and traditional Arab music.

Additionally, UMS is proud to partner with the Arab American National Museum on its *JAM3A* virtual event (September 23-26).

### New Commissions

In addition to the Tarek Yamani digital world premiere, the 21-22 season features four events with UMS co-commissions:

- On Friday, December 3, in Rackham Auditorium, the **Takács Quartet and bandoneón player Julien Labro** will perform the world premieres of two new works written specifically for them, one by Brazilian-American composer **Clarice Assad** and one by The National founder **Bryce Dessner**.

- Choreographer and MacArthur Fellow **Kyle Abraham** teams up with pioneering producer, composer, and EDM artist **Jlin** for a new dance piece that reimagines Mozart's Requiem from an explicitly Black perspective. ***Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth*** will be presented January 7-8 in the Power Center.
- **Jessie Montgomery's** new piece, *Sergeant McCauley*, will be performed by the **Imani Winds and the Catalyst Quartet** on Saturday, January 29 in Rackham Auditorium.
- Another UMS Digital Residency Artist from the 2020-21 season, mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** brings her new work, ***EDEN***, to Hill Auditorium on Thursday, April 14. *EDEN* explores the majesty, might, and mystery of Nature through both arresting and evocative music and theatrical effects.
- In addition to these UMS Co-Commissions, the **Sphinx Symphony** will present a new work by Carlos Simon commissioned by Sphinx when it launches its 25th Anniversary with its first national tour, beginning in Hill Auditorium on Sunday, January 30.

### Philadelphia Orchestra Creative Partnership

Celebrating the return of live orchestras, UMS has announced a new, multi-faceted creative partnership with **The Philadelphia Orchestra**. UMS is proud to reignite and capitalize on the long history with the ensemble, which served as the residency orchestra for UMS's storied May Festival for 49 years, from 1936-84. As part of the 21-22 season, UMS will present The Philadelphia Orchestra in an orchestral residency in 2022, which will feature two live concerts in Hill Auditorium, a digital concert, and a series of master classes and student engagement events with the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

On Friday, March 12, music director **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** conducts a program featuring U-M alumna and principal tuba **Carol Jantsch** in Wynton Marsalis's new Tuba Concerto, which will have its world premiere in December, and Johannes Brahms's Symphony No. 1. On Saturday, March 13, principal guest conductor **Nathalie Stutzmann** leads the orchestra in Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 (with concertmaster **David Kim** as soloist), Missy Mazzoli's *Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)*, and Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 9.

Members of the orchestra will participate in a series of master classes and educational opportunities on Saturday during the day.

In addition to the live performances, bass-baritone **Davóne Tines** will perform a suite of arias by John Adams ("Shake the Heavens" from *El Niño*) and Anthony Davis (Malcolm's Aria from *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*), as well as a work that he co-wrote with Igee Dieudonné in memory of Breonna Taylor, in a digital program released in January. One month before the orchestral residency, the two organizations are collaborating on a new semi-staged theatrical concert performance of ***Fiddler on the Roof***, featuring the world premiere live performances of John Williams's Academy Award-winning 1971 adaptation of the beloved musical score by composer Jerry Bock. The production, which will feature both Broadway stars and students from the University of Michigan's celebrated Department of Musical Theatre, will begin in Ann Arbor with the Grand Rapids Symphony (February 19-20, Hill Auditorium) and then transfer to The Philadelphia Orchestra's subscription series at the Kimmel Center in March. A suite of contextual educational programs will be presented in conjunction with the performances.

### **Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower***

UMS is pleased to present **Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon's** new work, ***Parable of the Sower***, a triumphant, mesmerizing work of rare power and beauty that illuminates deep insights on gender, race, and the future of human civilization. The opera brings together over 30 original anthems drawn from 300 years of Black music to recreate Butler's Afrofuturist masterpiece live on stage, with an ensemble of 20 singers and musicians (Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26 in the Power Center).

### **The "Return" of Performances Canceled Due to the Pandemic**

Several of the events that were originally scheduled since March 2020 and subsequently canceled will be presented in 21-22, and more will follow in the coming seasons as tours are rescheduled. Next season's program includes:

- ***Big Band Holidays with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra*** on Sunday, November 28 in Hill Auditorium (rescheduled from December 2020)

- **Handel's *Messiah* with the UMS Choral Union and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** on Saturday, December 4 and Sunday, December 5 in Hill Auditorium
- **Imani Winds and Catalyst Quartet** on Saturday, January 29 in Rackham Auditorium (rescheduled from January 2021)
- **Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández** on Sunday, February 6 in Hill Auditorium (rescheduled from February 2021)
- ***Night/Layl* by Ali Chahrour** on Saturday, February 12 in the Power Center (rescheduled from November 2020)
- **National Arab Orchestra with Abeer Nehme** on Saturday, March 19 in Hill Auditorium (rescheduled from March 2021)
- Pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor** on Sunday, March 27 (rescheduled from April 2020)
- **Caleb Teicher's *Swing Out!***, a program of swing dance on Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2 (rescheduled from February 2021)
- ***Sahra***, featuring **Tawil and Khoury's *Zombie Frequencies of the Palestinian Diaspora***, **Tammy Lakkis**, and **Kabareh Cheikhats** on Saturday, April 9 at Spot Lite in Detroit (rescheduled from April 2021)
- ***A MoodSwing Reunion* with Joshua Redman, Brad Mehldau, Christian McBride, and Brian Blade** on Thursday, April 21 in Hill Auditorium (rescheduled from October 2020)
- ***HOME***, a theater piece by master illusionist Geoff Sobelle that explores the many forces that make a house a home on Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23 in the Power Center (rescheduled from April 2020)
- Cellist **Sheku Kanneh-Mason** in recital with his sister **Isata Kanneh-Mason** on Tuesday, April 26 in Rackham Auditorium (Sheku Kanneh-Mason had two performances canceled during the pandemic: a performance with the Chineke! Orchestra in April 2020 and a second appearance with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in October 2020.)

### Digital Programming

During the 2020-21 season, UMS's free digital content reached over 75,000 people in 65 countries across six continents. UMS has made a commitment to continue these digital programs, bringing the arts to those who may not be ready or able to return to live performances or whose geographic boundaries may prohibit in-person attendance. Additional programs and details will be announced but will include:

- *Unmasking the Arts: Looking to the Future*, a series of conversations between multidisciplinary artist Helga Davis and prominent artistic voices, including Anthony McGill, Wu Han, Yuval Sharon, and Rhiannon Giddens, about the intersection between the arts and contemporary issues in the post-pandemic world, including the role of the arts in the context of social justice, how politics play into evolving cultural values, and more (six episodes released every other week from late July through September).
- *JAM3A*, a virtual music and arts festival celebrating Arab talent, community, and identity, presented by the Arab American National Museum (September 23-26)
- Cleo Parker Robinson's UMS Digital Artist Residency project, a documentary film about the creative process behind *The Four Journeys*, created by Amalia Viviana Basanta Hernández for Cleo Parker Robinson Dance (October 1-10).
- *Acrobuffos' Air Play*, which is being offered online for families to enjoy at home as part of UMS's School Day Performance series (October 4-15)
- Tarek Yamani and the Spektral Quartet (world premiere Wednesday, October 27)
- Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán: *A Celebration of Day of the Dead*, as part of UMS's School Day Performance series (November 1-12)
- Davóne Tines and The Philadelphia Orchestra in *Sermon*, a suite of arias and readings on themes of social justice (January 14-23).

## **Ticketing Information**

Tickets to individual events will go on sale to the general public online, in person, and by phone on Thursday, September 9. To be added to the mailing list, please contact the UMS Ticket Office at 734.764.2538 or visit [ums.org](http://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) go on sale on Thursday, September 2, and Kids Club tickets (up to two \$10 kids' tickets with the purchase of at least one adult ticket at \$20) go on sale on Thursday, September 9. Additional information about UMS's Kids Club and student ticket programs can be found at [ums.org/kids](http://ums.org/kids) and [ums.org/students](http://ums.org/students), respectively.

## **Health/Safety Protocols for 21-22**

In light of the recent outbreak of the Delta variant and the University of Michigan's vaccine mandate for faculty, staff, and students, UMS has consulted with public health officials to develop safety protocols that create a comfortable, enjoyable, and safe experience for everyone. UMS has just announced new health and safety requirements for audiences that will be in place for all Fall 2021 events:

- **Masks:** Masks will be required for all indoor performances, regardless of vaccination status.
- **Vaccines:** Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of the performance start time will be required for all performance attendees (including children under 12), staff, and volunteers.
- **Health Screening:** All ticketholders will need to complete the U-M ResponsiBlue health screening on the day of the event (<https://responsiblue.umich.edu>).
- **Air Handling and Filtration Systems:** All UMS venues have excellent ventilation, with MERV 13 filters in the air handling systems in all facilities and at least four and up to 11 air changes per hour. Ventilation systems are operated for at least two hours before occupancy and two hours after occupancy to ensure full purging of air in those spaces. These guidelines meet both the CDC and the Air-Conditioning Engineers recommendations for COVID-19.
- **Flexibility:** UMS will offer flexible exchange and refund policies (to encourage those who are not feeling well to stay home). Additionally, UMS asks for flexibility from performance attendees to unexpected adjustments as the situation evolves.

Complete health and safety measures are posted at [ums.org/safety](https://ums.org/safety) and will be updated as conditions change.

## **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.

# UMS 2021/22 SEASON

## SEPTEMBER

### **JAM3A – A Virtual Music Festival**

Thu-Sun Sep 23-26 (DIGITAL)

*Presented in partnership with the Arab American National Museum*

### **BLISS**

Sat Sep 25 // 12 noon to 12 midnight

The Historic Michigan Building Theatre (Detroit)

*A project of Michigan Opera Theatre presented in association with UMS*

## OCTOBER

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

Premieres Fri Oct 1 // 7:30 pm (DIGITAL)

Available on demand through Sun Oct 10

### **Acrobuffos: *Air Play***

Available on demand Mon Oct 4 – Fri Oct 15 (DIGITAL)

*Season Opening Live Performance*

### **Jonas Kaufmann in Recital**

Tue Oct 12 // 7:30 pm

Hill Auditorium

World Premiere

### **Tarek Yamani and Spektral Quartet**

Wed Oct 27 // 7:30 pm (DIGITAL)

Available on demand through Sat Nov 27

## NOVEMBER

### **Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán: *A Celebration of Day of the Dead from Tequila, Mexico***

Available on demand Mon Nov 1 – Fri Nov 12 (DIGITAL)

### ***Big Band Holidays***

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis**

**Ashley Pezzotti**, vocals

Sun Nov 28 // 6 pm

Hill Auditorium

**DECEMBER**

UMS Co-Commission & World Premiere

**Takács Quartet with Julien Labro, bandoneón**

Fri Dec 3 // 8 pm

Rackham Auditorium

Program

Bryce Dessner	Circles (UMS Co-Commission and World Premiere)
Julien Labro	Meditation No. 1
Dino Saluzzi	Minguito
J.S. Bach	Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645
Julien Labro	Astoración
Maurice Ravel	String Quartet in F Major
Clarice Assad	Clash (UMS Co-Commission and World Premiere)

**Handel's *Messiah***

**UMS Choral Union**

**Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra**

**Scott Hanoian**, conductor

**Joëlle Harvey**, soprano

**Meg Bragle**, mezzo-soprano

**Nicholas Phan**, tenor

**Dashon Burton**, bass-baritone

Sat Dec 4 // 7:30 pm

Sun Dec 5 // 2 pm

Hill Auditorium

## JANUARY

UMS Co-Commission

### ***A.I.M: Requiem: Fire in the Air of the Earth***

**A new work by Kyle Abraham and Jlin**

Fri Jan 7 // 8 pm

Sat Jan 8 // 8 pm

Power Center

### ***Sermon***

**Davóne Tines and The Philadelphia Orchestra**

Available on demand Fri Jan 14 – Sun Jan 23 (DIGITAL)

UMS Co-Commission

### **Imani Winds and The Catalyst Quartet**

Sat Jan 29 // 8 pm

Rackham Auditorium

#### Program: (im)migration

Mongo Santamaria	Afro Blue (Imani)
Florence Price	Negro Folksongs in Counterpoint (Catalyst)
Jessie Montgomery	Sergeant McCauley (Imani + Catalyst) (UMS Co-Commission)
Roberto Sierra	Concierto de Cámara (Imani + Catalyst)

### **Sphinx Symphony Orchestra**

**EXIGENCE** (Eugene Rogers, music director)

**Tito Muñoz**, conductor

**Janai Brugger**, soprano

Sun, Jan 30 // 4 pm

Hill Auditorium

#### Program

Carlos Simon	New Work (Sphinx Commission)
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor	Ballade for Orchestra
Valerie Coleman	Seven O'Clock Shout
Michael Abels	Delights and Dances
Traditional (arr. Augustus Hill)	Fix Me, Jesus
Carlos Cordero	Holding Our Breath
Joel Thompson	Seven Last Words of the Unarmed
John Legend / Common (arr. Eugene Rogers)	"Glory" from <i>Selma</i>

## FEBRUARY

### **Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández**

**Amalia Viviana Basanta Hernández**, artistic director

Sun Feb 6 // 4 pm

Hill Auditorium

### ***Night • Layl***

#### **A Performance by Ali Chahrour**

Sat Feb 12 // 8 pm

Power Center

### ***Fiddler on the Roof* in Concert**

Book by **Joseph Stein**

Music by **Jerry Bock**

Lyrics by **Sheldon Harnick**

With Orchestral Arrangements by **John Williams**

Original NY stage production directed and choreographed by **Jerome Robbins**

Originally produced on the New York stage by Harold Prince

Based on Sholem Aleichem stories by special permission of Arthur Perl

### **Grand Rapids Symphony**

**Andy Einhorn**, music director and conductor

**Matthew Ozawa**, director

Sat Feb 19 // 8 pm

Sun Feb 20 // 4 pm

Hill Auditorium

## MARCH

### **The Philadelphia Orchestra**

**Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, conductor and music director

**Nathalie Stutzmann**, principal guest conductor

**Carol Jantsch**, tuba

**David Kim**, violin

Fri Mar 11 // 8 pm

Sat Mar 12 // 8 pm

Hill Auditorium

Program (Fri 3/11, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin)

Wynton Marsalis	Tuba Concerto
Johannes Brahms	Symphony No. 1 in c minor, Op. 68

Program (Sat 3/12, conducted by Nathalie Stutzmann)

Missy Mazzoli	Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)
Max Bruch	Violin Concerto No. 1 in g minor, Op. 26
Franz Schubert	Symphony No. 9 in C Major, D. 944 ("The Great")

### **National Arab Orchestra**

**Michael Ibrahim**, conductor and oud

**Abeer Nehme**, vocals

**UMS Choral Union** (Scott Hanoian, music director)

Sat Mar 19

Hill Auditorium

### ***Parable of the Sower***

Creation, Music, and Lyrics by **Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon**

Directed by **Eric Ting**

Based on the novels *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents*, by Octavia E. Butler

Fri Mar 25 // 8 pm

Sat Mar 26 // 8 pm

Power Center

**Benjamin Grosvenor, piano**

Sun, Mar 27 // 4 pm

Hill Auditorium

Program

César Franck

Prelude, Chorale, and Fugue

Robert Schumann

Fantasie in C Major, Op. 17

Isaac Albéniz

Iberia (Book 1)

Maurice Ravel

*Jeux d'eau*

*La valse*

**APRIL**

***Swing Out***

**Caleb Teicher**, choreographer with

Lindy Hop champions **Evita Arce, LaTasha Barnes, Nathan Bugh, and Macy Sullivan**

**Eyal Vilner's Big Band**

Fri Apr 1 // 8 pm

Sat Apr 2 // 8 pm

Power Center

***Sahra: An Evening of Performance***

**Tawil & Khoury: *Zombie Frequencies of the Palestinian Diaspora***

**Tammy Lakkis**

**Kabareh Cheikhats**

Sat Apr 9 // 8 pm

Spot Lite (2905 Beaufait Street, Detroit)

UMS Co-Commission

***EDEN***

**Joyce DiDonato**, mezzo-soprano

**Il pomo d'oro**

**Maxim Emelyanychev**, conductor

**Marie Lambert**, director

Thu Apr 14 // 7:30 pm

Hill Auditorium

**Redman / Mehdau / McBride / Blade**

***A MoodSwing Reunion***

Thu Apr 21 // 7:30 pm

Hill Auditorium

***HOME***

Created by **Geoff Sobelle**

Directed by **Lee Sunday Evans**

Scenic design by **Steven Dufala**

Original Songs by **Elvis Perkins**

Fri Apr 22 // 8 pm

Sat Apr 23 // 8 pm

Power Center

**Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello**

**Isata Kanneh-Mason, piano**

Tue Apr 26 // 7:30 pm

Rackham Auditorium

Program

Karen Khachaturian	Cello Sonata
Dmitri Shostakovich	Sonata in d minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 40
Frank Bridge	Sonata for Cello and Piano in d minor, H. 125
Benjamin Britten	Cello Sonata, Op. 65