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[Press Photos for Fiddler on the Roof Season](#)

UMS Presents a Special Concert Presentation of *Fiddler on the Roof* in Hill Auditorium

**John Williams's Orchestrations from 1971 Movie Performed
Live for the First Time**

**Performance Combines Broadway Stars with Talented
Students from U-M Musical Theatre Program and Grand
Rapids Symphony**

ANN ARBOR, MI (January 28, 2022) — Professional Broadway singers **Chuck Cooper** and **Loretta Ables Sayre** star alongside phenomenally talented **U-M Musical Theatre students** in the **University Musical Society's** lightly-staged concert performances of *Fiddler on the Roof* on **Saturday-Sunday, February 19-20** in Ann Arbor's **Hill Auditorium**.

This remarkable, one-of-a-kind *Fiddler on the Roof* features the first live performance of **John Williams's** orchestral arrangement of the movie score, which premiered 50 years ago and needed to be reconstructed after the parts disappeared after the recording.

Premiering in Hill Auditorium with the **Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra** and bringing together talent from the east and west sides of the state, the event will then be performed two weeks later by The Philadelphia Orchestra on its subscription series in Philadelphia, one week before the Orchestra comes to Ann Arbor for a two-performance residency.

Exploring the beloved musical and its timeless theme of "Tradition!" through a modern lens, UMS also presents a robust suite of contextual activities that will explore the major themes of the work and their ongoing significance in our lives today.

This unique collaboration, which is made possible through generous support from the U-M Arts Initiative, the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance, Michigan Medicine, and many individual sponsors, allows U-M Musical Theater students an invaluable opportunity for professional

development by bringing the best of Broadway to Ann Arbor, MI. Fourteen U-M students plus six student understudies will work with Broadway director **Sarna Lapine**, choreographer **Alison Solomon**, and music director and conductor **Andy Einhorn**.

“This *Fiddler on the Roof* is going to be an incredible collaboration,” said Andy Einhorn, music director for the production. “It’s a fantastic opportunity for students and professionals to be working with one another, creating a symbiotic relationship where we can all be in a room learning from one another.”

Presenting *Fiddler on the Roof* today has a different context than it did at its premiere almost 60 years ago. In the midst of the modern-day rise in anti-Semitism and global migration crises, this production compels the audience, creative team, and larger community to engage with a story that takes place over a century ago but still feels uniquely relevant. With a concerted focus on dramaturgy and public events pulling from themes of the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof* exemplifies the importance of learning from tradition.

Einhorn adds, “*Fiddler on the Roof* is perhaps the single most universal musical in the musical theatre canon. It’s a show about tradition. It’s a show about family. And I don’t think there’s a soul in this world that doesn’t understand the value of family and all of its complications, how we’re born into traditions and how we push forward...so when we see the struggles of one particular family, it’s really an extension of everybody.”

Free Community Events

UMS is partnering with several University of Michigan departments — the **Frankel Center for Judaic Studies**, the **Center for Russian and East European Studies**, the **Copernicus Center for Polish Studies**, and the **Center for European Studies** — to offer historical context and draw connections between the diasporic experience of Jews in Imperialist Russia with the experience of modern-day migration and diasporic cultures. *Fiddler on the Roof* audiences are invited to engage with the broader themes of the musical through public programming on these related contextual events.

Roundtable Discussion (Online Event)

From There to Here: The Yiddish Origins and the Cultural Travels of *Fiddler on the Roof*
Wed Feb 16 // 12 pm

Registration is required at <https://myumi.ch/5WJqA>

This roundtable features scholars of the Jewish experience in Eastern Europe and specialists in Yiddish. Panelists will provide the historical context and geo-political setting of the musical,

discuss the translation and adaptation of the original Yiddish text into English, explore *Fiddler's* role in representations of Jews and Jewish culture in North America and Europe, and analyze the key themes of the play.

Moderator:

Geneviève Zubrzycki (director of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, University of Michigan)

Panelists:

Mikhail Krutikov (Preston R. Tisch Professor of Judaic Studies, and Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature, University of Michigan)

Anita Norich (Tikva Frymer-Kensky Collegiate Professor Emerita of English and Judaic Studies, University of Michigan)

Karolina Szymaniak (assistant professor in the Department of Jewish Studies at the University of Wrocław)

Presented in partnership with the Copernicus Center for Polish Studies, the Center for Russian and East European Studies, and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

Discussion (Online Event)

Refugee Crises in Contemporary Europe, From the English Channel to the Polish-Belarusian Border

Fri Feb 18 // 12 pm

Registration for this webinar is required at <https://myumi.ch/n878k>

John A. Young, Senior Staff Development Officer (Protection) with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Refugee Agency, joins Geneviève Zubrzycki, professor of sociology at the University of Michigan and director of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia. They explore the current crisis at the Polish-Belarusian border, which is taking place in the corner of Europe where the fictional shtetl of Anatevka was set, as well as concurrent crises, showing the ongoing relevance of a key theme of *Fiddler*: that of people forced from their home into desperate circumstances.

Presented in partnership with the Center for European Studies, the Copernicus Center for Polish Studies, the Center for Russian and East European Studies, and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

Exhibition

Fiddler on the Roof: A Story Told on Polish Posters

Tue Feb 1 – Fri Mar 18

Weiser Hall Gallery Space (500 Church St, 5th floor, open 8 am to 5 pm daily)

Polish posters are known throughout the world for their creativity and originality, contributing to global modern visual culture. UMS and the Copernicus Center for Polish Studies are proud to present a collection of Polish posters of *Fiddler on the Roof* from the last four decades. Each creation, by some of the most significant artists of the Polish School of Poster Design, uniquely captures an aspect of this rich musical play.

Pre-Performance Carillon Concert

Arrangements of *Fiddler on the Roof*

Sat Feb 19 // 7:30-7:50 pm // Burton Memorial Tower

Sun Feb 20 // 3:30-3:50 pm // Burton Memorial Tower

Spearheaded by U-M Robotics PhD candidate and carillonist Kevin Lieberman, who is also a past leader of U-M's Jewish grad student community, arrangements of music from *Fiddler on the Roof* will be played by student carillonists at the Charles Baird Carillon at Burton Tower prior to *Fiddler on the Roof* performances at Hill Auditorium.

Performance Details

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

featuring the orchestrations of John Williams

Sat Feb 19 // 8 pm // Hill Auditorium (Ann Arbor)

Sun Feb 20 // 4 pm // Hill Auditorium (Ann Arbor)

Grand Rapids Symphony

Andy Einhorn, music director and conductor

Sarna Lapine, director

Alison Solomon, choreographer

With **Chuck Cooper** (Tevye) and **Loretta Ables Sayre** (Golde) plus students from the U-M Musical Theatre Department

These performances are a project of UMS, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance/Department of Musical Theatre.

Lead Presenting Sponsors: Menakka and Essel Bailey, Ken and Noreen Buckfire, Patti Kenner, The Lester Family, University of Michigan School of Music Theater & Dance, and University of Michigan Arts Initiative

*Presenting Sponsors: **Don and Judy Rumelhart** (exclusive supporters of music director Andy Einhorn), **Elaine and Peter Schweitzer**, and **Michigan Medicine***

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Ticketing Information

Tickets to individual events are available at **734.764.2538** or **ums.org**, or in-person at the League Ticket Office (911 N University Ave) and at Hill Auditorium beginning 90 minutes before the performance.

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 for all performances. 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 and Creative Team

Andy Einhorn (music director and conductor)

Leading Broadway music director and conductor, Andy Einhorn, most recently served as the music supervisor and musical director for the Broadway productions of *Hello, Dolly!* starring Bette Midler (Grammy nom, OBCR) and *Carousel* starring Renée Fleming (Grammy nom, OBCR.) Since 2011, Einhorn has served as music director and pianist for six-time Tony Award winner, Audra McDonald, performing with her at prestigious orchestras and venues. They most recently made their debut at New York City Center. He served as the music director for HBO's Peabody Award winning documentary "Six by Sondheim" and music supervisor for Great Performances Peabody Award winning special "Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy" on PBS.

Sarna Lapine (director)

Sarna Lapine is a New York-based director of musicals, operas, and plays. She is currently focused on developing new work and radically re-imagined musical revivals. Sarna directed the critically acclaimed Broadway revival of *Sunday in the Park with George* starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Annaleigh Ashford. In addition to working on Broadway, Sarna has worked

regionally, Off-Broadway, and internationally. Concerts include 4-Stars in Osaka and Tokyo, Japan; Sondheim concerts with the Boston Pops; and *Sondheim on Sondheim* at The Hollywood Bowl. Sarna has been a guest artist at Juilliard, Fordham University, Hartt School at Univ. of Hartford, and BMI. She holds an MFA from Columbia University.

University Musical Society

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.