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

## UMS April 2022 Events

ANN ARBOR, MI (March 16, 2021) — The **University Musical Society's (UMS)** 143<sup>rd</sup> season ends in April with six not-to-be-missed performances. The acclaimed jazz saxophonist Joshua Redman reunites his All-Star band for ***A MoodSwing Reunion***. Classical music audiences will be enthralled by the sibling duo **Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason**, as well as **Joyce DiDonato's** return to Ann Arbor in her new production ***EDEN***. Theater lovers are sure to enjoy ***HOME*** by physical theater artist Geoff Sobelle, and ***SWING OUT*** is an explosion of big band music and swing dance that the whole family can enjoy. UMS also presents a performance of artists from the Arab World called ***Sahra: An Evening of Performance*** — featuring Morocco's **Kabareh Cheikhats** and Detroit's **Mike Houry and Leyya Tawil** — at Detroit's Spot Lite. Read more about the exciting events planned for this coming April below.

In addition to the live performances, UMS continues its free digital "Live Sessions" concerts with two featured events this month. The **Takács Quartet and bandoneon player Julien Labro** recorded three world premieres and UMS co-commissions in Rackham Auditorium when they were in Ann Arbor in December 2021, and the **Imani Winds and Catalyst Quartet** recorded a UMS co-commission by Jessie Montgomery in January. Live Sessions are beautifully-produced informal playing sessions that are recorded without audiences and designed for an at-home experience. In addition to the two Live Sessions, pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor's** March recital in Hill Auditorium will be available for on demand viewing during the month of April.

### April Live Performance Events (see Digital Events at the end of the release)

#### **SWING OUT**

Directed by **Caleb Teicher**

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

With **Eyal Vilner's Big Band**

**Fri Apr 1 // 8 pm // Power Center**

**Sat Apr 2 // 8 pm // Power Center**

Tickets: \$30-\$52, student discounts available

**Sat Apr 2 // 1 pm // Power Center (Special Spring Break Family Performance)**

Family Performance Tickets: \$20 adults / \$10 children

Acclaimed choreographer Caleb Teicher brings the best of the swing dance world to the concert stage! Accompanied by live music from Eyal Vilner's 10-piece Big Band, 12 dance champions prove that there's no better time to celebrate the joy, fire, and fight of the Lindy Hop, America's competitive and partnered dance form. Teicher and their brain trust of collaborators, including Evita Arce, Latasha Barnes, Nathan Bugh, and Macy Sullivan, pair their choreographic magic with stunning improvisations and a post-show swing dance jam.

**You Can Dance: Caleb Teicher & Company**

**Sun Apr 3 // 11 am // Riverside Arts Center**

Join artists from Caleb Teicher & Company for a 75-minute exploration of their signature movement style. No dance training or experience is necessary, and all levels are welcome. Recommended for ages 13 and up. Free, but advanced registration is strongly encouraged.

*Presenting Sponsors: Elaine and Peter Schweitzer, in memory of Frank Legacki*

*Made possible in part by: New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation.*

*Media Partners: WEMU 89.1 FM, WDET 101.9 FM, and Ann Arbor's 107one*

## **Sahra: An Evening of Performance in Detroit**

featuring

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

**Kabareh Cheikhats**

**Sat Apr 9 // 7 pm // Spot Lite (2905 Beaufait Street, Detroit)**

Tickets: \$25, student discounts available

UMS has celebrated the Arab World and its diaspora with several performances this season, and the final event includes a unique performance called *Sahra*, which is Arabic for "soiree" or "evening." This

event — held at a new performance and gallery space in Detroit — features two different artists, one local and one from Morocco.

***Please note: this performance was previously announced as an 8 pm start time and has changed to 7 pm. Tammy Lakkis, who was previously announced as part of the lineup, will instead be curating a DJ set on Friday, April 8 from 9 pm to 2 am at Spot Lite and will not be part of the Sahara performance.***

Detroit-based violinist and composer **Mike Khoury** and choreographer **Leyya Tawil** team up for a new work that, in its reference to the Palestinian-American experience, situates itself in both the legacy and future of the Arab avant-garde. The work is informed by the multi-generational conflict that has created new refugees out of the old refugee population.

**Kabareh Cheikhats** pays tribute to Morocco's most famous female traditional folk singers. Both adored and stigmatized, the cheikhats were female poets and singers revered for their wisdom but often associated with debauchery. With deep reverence and infectious flair, the 12 men of Kabareh Cheikhats sing, dance, and re-enact their powerful songs of love, rebellion, and fierce independence while reinventing traditions of drag and gender ambiguity.

*This performance is presented in partnership with the Arab American National Museum and with ARAB: A Real Arab Blueprint, an exhibition and programmatic series in Detroit that explores the experience of Arab creatives*

*Funded in part by: Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and the State of Michigan Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs*

UMS Co-Commission

## **EDEN**

**Joyce Didonato**, mezzo-soprano

**Maxim Emelyanychev**, conductor

**Il Pomo d'Oro**

**Marie Lambert Le-Bihan**, stage director

**Thu Apr 14 // 7:30 pm // Hill Auditorium**

Tickets: \$12-66, student discounts available

Mezzo-soprano and UMS Digital Residency Artist Joyce DiDonato turns her creative vision and artistry to her next great passion: *EDEN*. Through a theatricalized song evening, DiDonato explores both

humanity's essence and the majesty, might, and mystery of Nature. *EDEN* will include an expansive repertoire with works by Ives, Handel, Mahler, Wagner, Valentini, Mysliveček, and a new composition by Rachel Portman, among others. Joined by the 25-member historical performance ensemble Il Pomo d'Oro and conductor Maxim Emelyanychev, as well as the French stage director Marie Lambert-Le Bihan, DiDonato will create a truly unforgettable experience of music that balances both nature and life itself. DiDonato says, "EDEN is an invitation to return to our roots. To remember. It is an overture to contemplate the sheer perfection of the world around us, and to explore whether or not we are connecting as profoundly as we can to the pure essence of our being. It is a clarion call to consider if our collective suffering and confusion isn't perhaps linked to the aching separation from something primal within and around us."

*Permanently Endowed Support: Ilene H. Forsyth Choral Union Endowment Fund*

*Presenting Sponsor: William R. Kinney Endowment Fund*

*Media Partners: WRCJ 90.9 FM and WGTE 91.3 FM*

## ***A MoodSwing Reunion***

### **Redman | Mehldau | McBride | Blade**

**Joshua Redman**, saxophones

**Brad Mehldau**, piano

**Christian McBride**, bass

**Brian Blade**, drums

**Thu Apr 21 // 7:30 pm // Hill Auditorium**

Tickets: \$14-\$60, student discounts available

Celebrated tenor saxophonist and composer Joshua Redman introduced his first permanent band with his 1994 album *MoodSwing*, an astonishing collection by four precociously talented musicians who would rapidly establish themselves as creative beacons. After years of individual triumphs, the original group reunites — with Redman, pianist Brad Mehldau (who won the 2020 Grammy for "Best Jazz Instrumental Album"), bassist Christian McBride, and drummer Brian Blade — for an unforgettable performance of brand-new material alongside signature work that showcases Redman's "musical breadth, emotional depth, and intellectual savvy." (*Chicago Tribune*) Originally scheduled for October 2020, this celebrated quartet finally appears on the Hill Auditorium stage as part of a very limited five-city tour in late April.

*Presenting Sponsors: Elaine and Peter Schweitzer*

*Supporting Sponsor: Old National Bank*

*Patron Sponsor: Sharon and Dallas Dort*

*Media Partners: WEMU 89.1 FM, WRCJ 90.9 FM, WDET 101.9 FM, and Ann Arbor's 107one*

## **HOME**

Created by **Geoff Sobelle**

Scenic design by **Steven Dufala**

Directed by **Lee Sunday Evans**

Original songs by **Elvis Perkins**

**Fri Apr 22 // 8 pm // Power Center**

**Sat Apr 23 // 8 pm // Power Center**

Tickets: \$30-\$56, student discounts available

After a year spent examining the interiors of our own homes in excruciating detail and fantasizing about others through Zillow, a theater piece that explores the idea of “home” may seem unnecessary. Yet this piece, which premiered in 2017, takes a completely different look at these structures that not only house us but, in many ways, define who we are.

Physical theater artist Geoff Sobelle leads an ensemble of dancers and designers in a feat of impossible carpentry: raising a house onstage and making a home within it. Residents’ past, present, and future rollick through its rooms in an impromptu dance that defies time and space, magically transforming our humdrum rituals and momentous events into a glorious, intimate, and profound celebration. At once an enchanting experiment in collectivity and an affecting meditation on dwelling, *HOME* takes stock of all the stubborn forces that make a house a home.

*HOME* aims to awaken us to current housing dilemmas, both local and global. The universal and timely themes of gentrification and migration are rendered in the choreography of ordinary people inhabiting a structure; leaving that structure through a variety of social, political, personal, and aesthetic forces; replacing one another; repeating. The performance is a lens through which we see the impact of these forces at play over several generations.

*Presenting Sponsors: Tim and Sally Petersen and Susan and Richard Gutow*

*Supporting Sponsors: Masco Corporation, Tom and Debby McMullen, Louise Taylor, and Anne and Paul Glendon*

*Funded in part by: National Endowment for the Arts*

*Media Partners: Michigan Radio 91.7 FM, WDET 101.9 FM, and Ann Arbor's 107one*

**Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello**

**Isata Kanneh-Mason, piano**

**Tue Apr 26 // 7:30 pm // Hill Auditorium**

Tickets: \$14-\$65, student discounts available

***Please note: this performance was previously announced as taking place at Rackham Auditorium. It has been moved to Hill Auditorium.***

The sibling duo of Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason return to Ann Arbor for a recital to close out the 2021/22 season. The Kanneh-Masons, who performed in Rackham Auditorium to a sold-out crowd in December 2019, also performed, along with their five siblings, in twice-weekly livestreams from their home in Nottingham to hundreds of thousands of people around the globe during the COVID lockdown. Sheku is passionate about the importance of making classical music accessible to all and serves as an ambassador for several UK-based music education charities.

**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

*Permanently Endowed Support: **Darragh Humphrey Weisman Chamber Music Endowment Fund***

*Presenting Sponsors: **Margaret and Phil Guire, in memory of Ken Guire***

*Supporting Sponsor: **Retirement Income Solutions***

*Patron Sponsors: **Karen Bantel and Steve Geiringer and Catherine S. Arcure Endowment Fund***

*Media Partners: **WRCJ 90.9 FM and WGTE 91.3 FM***

**April Live Sessions & Digital Events**

**UMS Live Session:**

**Takács Quartet with Julien Labro, bandoneón**

**Available during April at [ums.org/digital](https://ums.org/digital)**

Free

This special half-hour digital concert was filmed in Rackham Auditorium in December 2021 and features three world premieres by Clarice Assad, Bryce Dessner, and Julien Labro, all written for string quartet plus bandoneon. Two of the pieces were co-commissioned by UMS as part of the Music Accord commissioning consortium. View on demand, along with a behind-the-scenes interview with the performers.

*Presenting Sponsor: **Michigan Medicine***

*This Digital Arts Adventure is made possible by the **University of Michigan Credit Union***

**UMS Live Session:**

**Imani Winds and Catalyst Quartet**

**Available beginning April 15 at [ums.org/digital](https://ums.org/digital)**

Free

This special digital concert was filmed in Rackham Auditorium in January 22 and features three a UMS co-commission by Jessie Montgomery titled *Sergeant McCauley*. Montgomery's suite is inspired by personal family stories of the African-American Migration during the early 1900s, around the time of World War I, from the lens of her great-grandfather. It strings together spirituals and work songs that reflect Sergeant McCauley's route from Mississippi to the west, then up north, and eventually back to Georgia.

*Presenting Sponsor: **Michigan Medicine***

*This Digital Arts Adventure is made possible by the **University of Michigan Credit Union***

**UMS Digital Concert:**

**Benjamin Grosvenor, piano**

**Available through April 26 [ums.org/digital](https://ums.org/digital)**

Free

Benjamin Grosvenor's Hill Auditorium debut on Sunday, March 27, 2022 — delayed two years because of COVID-19 – will be available on demand through April 26. The program features works by César Franck, Franz Liszt, Isaac Albéniz, and Maurice Ravel.

## **Ticketing Information**

Tickets to individual events are available online, in person, and by phone at **734.764.2538** or **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 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**

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.

## **[Press Photos for April Events 2022](#)**