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PRESENTS THE

## JOANNE AND BILL CHURCH West Circle Series

# ’S Wonderful

*Gwendolyn Burgett*

*Molly Fillmore*

*Peter Lightfoot*

*Panayis Lyras*

*Derek Kealii Polischuk*

*Reginald Thomas*

*Ralph Votapek*

*Jon Weber*

*and the Beaumont Brass Quintet*

CONCERT GUIDE

*Ken Prouty*

**7:30 p.m., Monday, October 28, 2013**  
**Fairchild Theatre**

**’S Wonderful is generously sponsored**  
**by William David Brohn**  
**and Byron and Dee Cook**

## PROGRAM

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### Cuban Overture

Panayis Lyras and Derek Kealii Polischuk, pianos

### Somebody Loves Me Fascinating Rhythm

Gwendolyn Burgett, marimba

### Selections from *Porgy and Bess*

My Man's Gone Now

Oh, Lady Be Good

I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'

Embraceable You

Bess You Is My Woman

I Got Rhythm

It Ain't Necessarily So

Molly Fillmore, soprano

Peter Lightfoot, baritone

Reginald Thomas, piano

### -Intermission-

### Three Preludes

Allegro ben ritmato e deciso

Andante con moto e poco rubato

Agitato

Ralph Votapek, piano

### Rhapsody in Blue

Ralph Votapek, piano

Jon Weber, percussion

and the Beaumont Brass Quintet

## REINVENTING FAIRCHILD

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## ARTIST BIOS (BEAUMONT BRASS CONTINUED)

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City Philharmonic and the Bay Area Women's Philharmonic. Ordman has been a featured soloist with many orchestras throughout the United States, including her solo debut at Carnegie Hall performing Donald Erb's "Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra" with the American Symphony. She is a featured soloist on the Koss Classics' CD entitled "Donald Erb" and on the CD entitled "Simple Gifts" - the Music of Frank Ticheli.

**Philip Sinder** is professor of tuba and euphonium at the Michigan State University College of Music. His students are found in performance and teaching positions throughout the United States, and have won awards in numerous performance competitions. Sinder has performed with many leading ensembles, including the Detroit Symphony, Chicago Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, and Houston Symphony. He is a founding member of the Brass Band of Battle Creek, and also performs frequently with the Lansing Symphony and the Beaumont Brass Quintet of MSU. His solo tuba recording, "Aerodynamics," has received strong critical acclaim, and he has performed on over 20 other ensemble recordings. He currently serves as chairman for the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Festival, and since 2005 has been a Valade Teaching Fellow at the Interlochen Arts Camp.

**Ross Turner** is principal trumpet of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra and the instructor of trumpet at the University of Windsor. He has performed with many orchestras including the Flint Symphony, Lansing Symphony, Hamilton Philharmonic, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Canadian Opera Company, Orchestra London, Thunder Bay Symphony, the Regina Symphony, and the Victoria Symphony. Turner has also performed extensively in the commercial realm, including extensive tours of North America and Asia. He is currently a DMA candidate in trumpet performance at MSU and performs with Beaumont Brass.

**Corbin Wagner**, associate professor of horn, is a retiree of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He is focusing on excellence in his new career while performing in orchestras in Detroit and Grand Rapids. He has just returned from a tour with Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings. He is also a performer with the Deutsche Opera Chamber Players. This fall his schedule will include work in Spain with a new chamber orchestra.

## ARTIST BIOS

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**Gwendolyn Patricia Burgett** is associate professor of percussion at the Michigan State University College of Music. Burgett has maintained a career as an active solo, chamber, and orchestral musician. She is currently the principal percussionist of the Lansing Symphony and has performed with the Detroit Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Grand Rapids Symphony, among others. Burgett was awarded the Teacher-Scholar Award from Michigan State University in January 2012. She was the winner of the Keiko Abe Prize at the second World Marimba Competition and received the Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. Burgett has also performed numerous solo recitals throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and South America. She has released two solo CDs on the Blue Griffin Label. Burgett holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Peabody Conservatory, and the Yale School of Music.

Grammy award-winning soprano **Molly Fillmore** has sung with The Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Seattle Opera, Washington National Opera, Arizona Opera, Spoleto Festival, and Oper der Stadt Köln (Cologne Opera.) Her appearances as a concert soloist include performances with Boston Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Utah Symphony, and at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Tanglewood Music Festival, Interlochen Arts Festival, and the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Her appearances in the Met's *Ring Cycle* and their production of *Satyagraha* were shown live in movie theaters in 40 countries as part of the Met's "Live in HD" series as well as on PBS' *Great Performances*. She is on Deutsche Grammophon's DVD and CD of *Die Walküre* from The Metropolitan Opera. A magna cum laude graduate of American University in Washington, D.C., she also holds a M. Mus. degree from the University of Maryland and studied at the Franz-Schubert-Institut in Baden-bei-Wien, Austria. She is an associate professor of voice at the Michigan State University College of Music. Upcoming engagements include the role of Marietta in *Die tote Stadt* for Theater in St. Gallen, Switzerland.

**Peter Lightfoot** described as "vocally brilliant" by *Opera News* has been heard with companies both here and abroad. He has performed with the New York City Opera, the Greater Miami Opera, the Wexford Festival, Mercatello Festival, L'Opéra de Nice, Opera Cagli, and the Houston Grand Opera to name a few. He has appeared in such operatic roles as Scarpia, Rigoletto, Porgy, Tonio, and Count Almaviva. Lightfoot has also been a soloist with orchestras both here and abroad.

He is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music and winner of a National Opera Institute Grant and their Bronze Medal for performance. Lightfoot is delighted to have joined the faculty at Michigan State University's College of Music where he is associate professor of voice. His CD of Sea Chanties, American Songs, Native American Songs, and Spirituals will be released soon under the Blue Griffin Label and through a HARP grant from Michigan State University.

## ARTIST BIOS (CONTINUED)

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**Panayis Lyras**, winner of the Silver Medal at the 1981 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, and first prize winner of the Gina Bachauer and William Kapell International Piano Competitions, has been seen and heard by millions of television viewers on PBS and the A&E Network. He has given recitals at Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center, and performed with the orchestras of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Dallas, Minnesota, and San Francisco, among others. He is professor of piano and artist-in-residence at the MSU College of Music.

**Derek Kealii Polischuk** is associate professor of piano and director of piano pedagogy at the Michigan State University College of Music. Polischuk studied at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, where he received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree with distinction under the tutelage of renowned concert artist Daniel Pollack. At Michigan State University, Polischuk has been the recipient of the Curricular Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Award, and the Teacher-Scholar Award, given in recognition of exceptional skill in teaching. His piano solo and chamber music recordings appear on the Centaur and Blue Griffin labels.

**Ken Prouty** is associate professor of musicology and jazz studies and chair of the musicology and Ethnomusicology area in the College of Music at Michigan State University where he teaches courses in jazz history, American music, and popular music. His book, *Knowing Jazz: Community, Pedagogy and Canon in the Information Age*, was published by the University Press of Mississippi in 2012. Prouty has authored articles in scholarly journals such as *Jazz Perspectives*, *Popular Music and Society*, *Jazz Research Journal*, *The Journal of Music History Pedagogy*, and *Critical Studies in Improvisation*, and has presented at numerous scholarly conferences through North America and Europe. His current research project examines the history of the trombone in jazz and popular music through the 1920s. He holds a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as an M.M. from the University of North Texas, where he was a trombonist with the renowned One O'Clock Lab Band.

**Reginald ("Reggie") Thomas** joined the faculty of MSU in the fall of 2011 teaching jazz theory, piano, and improvisation. Thomas is also a consultant/clinician for Jazz at Lincoln Center working with the Essentially Ellington Program and Band Director Academy, and has served on several summer jazz faculties across the country and abroad. He remains an active clinician/adjudicator, guest artist, and guest director at high schools, colleges, and festivals nationally and internationally. These have included Jazz Education Network Conference, the Barbican Center, the Alberta International Band Festival and various All State conferences throughout the country.

Reggie Thomas performs with his own groups and as a sideman with great artists including Hamiett Blueit, Ann Hampton Callaway, and the Count Basie Orchestra.

Recordings include his own Fade to Blue with wife Mardra, Standard Time, and 4 as well as work with Clay Jenkins, Kim Richmond, and Clark Terry/Mike Vax.

**Ralph Votapek** has shown a wide-ranging interest in music of all periods and styles, from Bach to the avant-guard. Though refusing to specialize in any particular composer, he has sometimes been identified with the music of George Gershwin. At the age of seventeen he performed the Rhapsody in Blue with Paul Whiteman in Milwaukee. Since then he has performed the Rhapsody and the Concerto in F with numerous orchestras, including those of Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Houston, and Dallas, as well as overseas in Taipei, Lisbon, Minsk, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, and Sao Paulo. He recorded Gershwin's Second Rhapsody on London Records with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops. Tonight's complete, unabridged performance is an arrangement for piano, brass quintet, and percussion by Brian Buerkle - trumpeter of the Spectrum Brass.

**Jon Weber** is instructor of percussion at the Michigan State University College of Music, where he teaches applied percussion lessons, percussion ensemble, salsa band, and the Michigan State Drumline. He has performed and presented clinics throughout the United States, and in the summer of 2012 served as a clinician for multiple bands and orchestras and performed a recital in Colombia. He has served as a clinician at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention multiple times. Weber has performed with the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, the Brass Band of Battle Creek, the Flint Symphony Orchestra, the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra, the New York Solsti Orchestra, and the Santa Clara Vanguard. He is percussionist for the world fusion group The Nomads. In 2009, he founded the Michigan State University salsa band, Salsa Verde, which performs across Michigan. Weber is a Yamaha Performing Artist.

### BEAUMONT BRASS

**Rich Illman** has been at MSU since 1990. He is currently a member of the Beaumont Brass (the Faculty Brass Quintet at MSU), the Millennium Brass, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, and the Lansing Symphony Big Band. He is also a proponent of the use of multi-media and did a recital in recently with his entire studio at the Planetarium in Grand Rapids as part of the International Trumpet Guild Conference. Since 2002, he and his wife, Jo Martinie, have given presentations on yoga for wind musicians all around the world and at most of the International Trumpet Guild Conferences.

**Ava Ordman**, associate professor of trombone, joined the faculty at MSU in 2002. She is the principal trombonist of the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music Orchestra and the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. Prior to her appointment at MSU, Ordman was principal trombone of the Grand Rapids Symphony for 24 years and had also performed with the St. Louis Symphony, the Detroit Symphony, the Kansas