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**MSU Music features new vocal artist Mark Rucker, baritone, March 1**  
*Colleagues from The Met, Rucker invites Martina Arroyo to recital*

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**EAST LANSING, Mich.** – The College of Music presents **Mark Rucker, baritone**, on **Wednesday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m.** in MSU Auditorium’s **Fairchild Theatre**. This concert, part of the Artist-Faculty Series, will feature Rucker performing “A Traditional Sampler,” with American, Italian, French and German art songs, arias, and spirituals, and the music of Dr. Lena McLin.



Rucker, who made his debut in the Opera Company of Philadelphia, has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Arena di Verona, Carnegie Hall, and many more. He continues this season on the roster at the Met. He and his wife, Sadie Rucker, vocal arts outreach coordinator, arrived in East Lansing in August 2016 from the world of New York and international opera, and immediately began a vocal outreach program to high schools and communities around the state.

Both Ruckers are intent on helping motivate young students to get the most from school, to find hidden talents, and to realize possible careers in music. “I’ve always been interested in working with young people because I believe the arts need to have new people and new ideas in order to survive,” says Mark. “And while we may not necessarily find the next great opera singer through these performances and classes, we might inspire future musicians, opera fans and business people who will go on to successful careers and support the arts. If opera is going to be saved,” he says, “it needs to reach young people.”

“Mark’s proven artistry and his international and national connections in the field are wonderful assets,” says Richard Fracker, MSU professor of voice and chair of the vocal arts area. “His leadership role in the classical performing arts, and his background as a music educator provide our faculty with an impressive colleague and our students with an impressive role model, educator and mentor.”

**Martina Arroyo**, the famous American operatic spinto soprano and one of Rucker’s longtime friends, will be in attendance at his March 1 recital. Arroyo got her start in the 1960s when she performed in Carnegie Hall in Pizzetti’s *Murder in the Cathedral*. Since then, she has performed at the Metropolitan Opera and many other locations across the globe.

In 2003, she established a non-profit organization, the Martina Arroyo Foundation, which provides opportunities and tools to young, emerging artists to become professional opera singers. In addition to his active performing career and as part of his commitment to mentoring, Rucker served as administrative and artistic director for the Foundation for a number of years. During Arroyo’s stay, she will be holding a master class for MSU students on Thursday, March 2.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (age 60 and older), and free for students with ID and anyone under 18, and can be purchased online ([music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu)), at the College of Music box office, by calling (517) 353-5340, or in person (333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing), or at the door.

For more information, use the following link: <http://music.msu.edu/event-listing/mark-rucker-baritone>

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