



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Joanne and Bill Church
WEST CIRCLE SERIES

Happy Birthday, Mozart!

Jane Bunnell, mezzo-soprano
Marc Embree, bass-baritone
Richard Fracker, tenor
Michael Kroth, bassoon
Elden Little, piano
Deborah Moriarty, piano
Sarah Southard, oboe
Zhihua Tang, piano
Corbin Wagner, horn
Mingzhe Wang, clarinet

Generously sponsored by
April Clobes and Glen Brough

Monday, January 24, 2022
Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Tema con Variazioni in G Major, K.501 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756–1791)
Zhihua Tang and Deborah Moriarty, piano

Quintet in E-flat Major, K.452
Largo: Allegro moderato
Larghetto
Allegretto
Sarah Southard, oboe; Mingzhe Wang, clarinet;
Corbin Wagner, horn; Michael Kroth, bassoon;
Deborah Moriarty, piano

Intermission

Vado, ma dove? Oh, Dei! K.583
Jane Bunnell, mezzo-soprano; Elden Little, piano

Le nozze di Figaro, K.492
Non più andrai
Marc Embree, bass-baritone; Elden Little, piano
Deh vieni non tardar
Anne Nispel, soprano; Elden Little, piano

An Chloë, K.524
Marc Embree, bass-baritone; Elden Little, piano

Abendempfindung, K.523
Jane Bunnell, mezzo-soprano; Elden Little, piano

Don Giovanni, K.527
Il mio tesoro
Richard Fracker, tenor; Elden Little, piano
Là ci darem la mano
Jane Bunnell, mezzo-soprano
Marc Embree, bass-baritone
Elden Little, piano

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS

Mezzo-soprano **Jane Bunnell** joined the faculty of MSU's College of Music in August, 2015, as professor of voice. She has enjoyed an illustrious international career for 40 years. She has an especially long association with the Metropolitan Opera where she has sung 30 roles in more than 420 performances, including new productions of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Otello*, *Les Troyens*, *Faust*, and *Romeo et Juliette*, and the Met premieres of Nico Muhly's *Marnie*, Britten's *A Midsummer Nights' Dream*, and Wolf-Ferrari's *Sly*. She has also recorded with the Met for Sony/BMG and has toured Europe and Japan. She is frequently heard on Sirius XM radio.

She has sung with the opera companies of Toulouse, Vienna, Cologne, and Schwetzingen, and with such American opera companies as Houston Grand Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Diego Opera, Minnesota Opera, Florida Grand Opera, and New York City Opera. Ms. Bunnell has collaborated with such notable conductors as James Levine, Valery Gergiev, Seiji Ozawa, and Robert Shaw. She has appeared in concert with the Boston Symphony, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony, and the Minnesota Orchestra.

Marc Embree is an associate professor of voice at MSU's College of Music. Actor, singer, educator and story teller, Embree was a principal singer with the New York City Opera for several seasons and has performed throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Europe. Embree received critical acclaim for his performance of Frank Maurant in the Berlin/Ludwigshafen production of *Street Scene*; filmed for television. It has been released on DVD and widely broadcast. He created the role of William Emmons in *The Village Singer* by Stephen Paulus. The American opera and film composer, Thomas Pasatieri, asked him to create the role of the ghost of Ebenezer Scrooge in his opera *God Bless Us, Everyone* in 2012. This recording joins his recordings of Carlos Chavez's *The Visitors*, Kurka's *The Good Soldier Schweik*, *Rain* by Richard Owen, and *An American Howl Quartet* by George Flynn. Embree also served as the narrator for the children's book *The Juggler* by Jeanette Hopkins. A dedicated teacher, his students have been appearing with increasing frequency in opera houses and theaters both here and abroad.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Named a Beal Outstanding Professor by Michigan State University and its current Area Chair of the Vocal Arts, tenor **Richard Fracker** has cultivated a distinguished performing and teaching resume. Career highlights include 14 international and national broadcasts from “Live at the MET”; world premiere productions of Philip Glass’s *The Voyage*, *Hydrogen Jukebox* and *Orphée*; and international and national appearances including Calaf (*Turandot*), Cavaradossi (*Tosca*), Nadir, (*Les Pêcheurs de Perles*), Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Rodolfo (*La Bohème*), Hoffman (*The Tales of Hoffman*), Tonio (*La Fille du Régiment*), Duke (*Rigoletto*), and Alfredo (*La Traviata*), among others. Fracker students have routinely appeared professionally in major opera, musical theater, television, and concert venues throughout the world, earned prominent apprenticeships and residencies; won and placed in national and international vocal competitions (including the Metropolitan Council Auditions and NATS National Student Auditions); and secured substantial merit awards and teaching assistantships to the most prestigious graduate programs in the country.

Michael Kroth, professor of bassoon and associate dean for undergraduate studies at the MSU College of Music, has earned a reputation as an excellent solo, chamber, and orchestral musician, having performed in recitals and concerts throughout the U.S. and Germany. He served as principal bassoon with the South Dakota Symphony and Dakota Wind Quintet and has held positions as principal bassoonist with the Air Force Academy Band and the Colorado Springs Symphony Orchestra. Kroth is principal bassoon with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, a faculty artist at the Colorado College Summer Music Festival, and at the Peninsula Music Festival (Door County, WI). \ He performs regularly with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the Cleveland Orchestra. He has also performed with the Trenton Symphony, the Colorado Ballet, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. He earned his bachelor’s degree in bassoon performance from Ithaca College and a Master of Music in bassoon performance from Temple University. He has released recordings on the Sound Works, Ultrasound, AFSC, and HCS labels.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Elden Little joined the faculty of Michigan State University College of Music in the fall of 2014 as a vocal coach. Previously, he worked as a pianist/coach in more than 70 operatic productions that range from baroque operas to contemporary works by composers such as Jonathan Dove, Carlise Floyd, Philip Glass, Jake Heggie, and Andre Previn. While working at Austin Opera, he worked as a pianist/coach, music administrator, orchestra manager and orchestra librarian. Additional collaborations include Des Moines Metro Opera, where he has been a member of the music staff since 2006, Opera Birmingham, Kentucky Opera, and San Antonio Opera. Since 2012, he has been a faculty member of Opera NEO, a San Diego-based summer festival/training program. In addition to his work as a vocal coach, he also was a member of the faculty of the Austin Chamber Music Summer Festival and Workshop.

He has accompanied numerous singers, most notably internationally acclaimed soprano Gilda Cruz-Romo, in recitals in Texas and Mexico. He has toured with the Austin-based choral ensemble Conspirare, and can be heard as a featured soloist on their recording "Through the Green Fuse", available on the Clarion label. He has accompanied the master classes of Jane Bunnell, Denyce Graves, Brenda Harris, Marilyn Horne, Martin Katz, Catherine Malfitano, Elizabeth Mannion, Suzanne Mentzer, Samuel Ramey, Martial Singher, and Gerard Souzay. He has a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara in piano performance, and Master's and Doctorate degrees in applied piano from the University of Texas at Austin. His collaborative piano studies were with noted collaborative pianists Eugene Bossart, David Garvey, and Gwendolyn Koldofsky.

Deborah Moriarty is professor of piano and chair of the piano area at the Michigan State University College of Music, where she is a recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award. A Massachusetts native, she made her debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at age 11. She has also served on the piano faculty at the New England Conservatory of Music and the University of Lowell.

Moriarty attended the Curtis Institute of Music, the Juilliard School, and the New England Conservatory of Music, where she received her Master of Music degree with honors. She has studied with Russell Sherman, Theodore Lettvin, and Beveridge Webster.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

An active recitalist and soloist with orchestras throughout the eastern United States, she has also performed in Belgium, Japan, Colombia, Mexico, and the Soviet Union. Moriarty is a founding member of the Fontana Ensemble of Michigan, and as an advocate of new music, has participated in numerous premiere performances including Milton Babbitt's "Whirled Series" at Merkin Hall in New York City. She has recordings on the Crystal and CRI labels.

Soprano **Anne Nispel** joined the MSU Voice faculty in 2004. She received a Bachelor of Music from Wittenberg University, a Master of Music from the University of Michigan, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan.

In a review of her New York recital debut, Ms. Nispel has "a clear, attractive timbre, ample power, and a good command of languages. She also has a fine sense of style [...] She sang with [...] crisp articulation and careful shading."

Nispel has performed more than 30 leading roles with opera companies throughout the United States, including Kentucky Opera, Virginia Opera, Mississippi Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Portland Opera, Kansas City Lyric Opera, Cleveland Opera, Opera Company of Mid-Michigan, Chattanooga Opera, Dayton Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, and Toledo Opera.

Dubbed the "quintessential soubrette" by the Virginia Press, Nispel is noted for her interpretations of Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, and Adele in *Die Fledermaus*.

Sarah Southard is currently the interim oboe instructor at Michigan State University for spring semester 2022. She is also the oboe instructor at Hope College and a member of the Holland and Midland Symphony Orchestras. As an advocate for new music, Sarah has been involved with several commissions for chamber music that includes oboe and has performed at both the International Double Reed Society and National Flute Association conferences. Additional concert performances include groups such as the Lansing Symphony Orchestra (MI), West Michigan Symphony Orchestra (MI), Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra (NY), the New World Symphony Orchestra (FL), the Cincinnati Symphony Opera Orchestra (OH), and the Madison Symphony and Chamber

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Orchestras (WI). In addition to her active performing schedule, Sarah has taught previously at Michigan State University (sabbatical replacement), Central Michigan University, University of Michigan-Flint, Northern Kentucky University, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and the Interlochen Center for the Arts All-State Orchestra and All-State Band.

Southard received her Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from Michigan State University with oboist Jan Eberle, her Master's Degree at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music with Mark Ostoich, and her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying with Marc Fink.

Zhihua Tang

Corbin Wagner received his Bachelor's Degree in 1979 from the University of Michigan. Upon graduation, he became a member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and later received his Master's degree from U of M in 1989. Prior to his appointment at Michigan State University, he served as adjunct horn professor at Oakland University, the University of Michigan, and Wayne State University.

Wagner has received many prestigious performing honors, including a third prize at the 1983 Munich International Horn Competition. He also took first prize at the Heldenleben International Horn Competition in hand horn, valve horn, and horn quartet. He will soon be releasing his second cd featuring new works for horn, soprano, and piano.

Mingzhe Wang, a recipient of the Tennessee Arts Commission's 2013 Individual Artist Fellowship award, is committed to the music of our time and the classics. He gave the Chinese premiere of Elliott Carter's *Hiyoku*, and has worked closely with some of the world's leading composers. He performed the Copland *Clarinet Concerto* in its original version with the Gateway Chamber Orchestra, and has performed on period clarinets with prominent groups such as The American Classical Orchestra and the Clarion Music Society Orchestra. As a chamber musician, Wang has collaborated and continues working with some of the most prominent young artists today. His performances have been broadcast on China's Central Television, New York's WQXR, Nashville's WPLN, and many public radio stations across North America.

ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

A native of Wuhan, China, Wang first studied clarinet at the age of nine, and gave his first public performance at the age of ten. He received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale University, where he also obtained his Master's degree and Artist Diploma. His major teachers include David Shifrin, Charles Neidich, Ayako Oshima, and Paul Green. Wang was previously an associate professor of clarinet at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. He is a founding member of the Gateway Chamber Orchestra and a co-founder of Trio Séléné.

PRIVATE GIFTS play a vital role in our ability to maintain and enhance the quality of the programs we offer. Donations support student scholarships, fellowships, student travel and performance opportunities, instrument acquisitions, guest artists, outreach activities, operations, and other crucial areas that make the College of Music an exemplary place of learning. To learn more about concert sponsorships and giving to the college, please contact the Advancement Office at (517) 353-9872.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021-2022 SPONSORS

- **AgeAlive** (MSU Wind Symphony, March Forth! March 24, 2022)
- **Brenda and Floyd Akins, Jr.**, (MSU Professors of Jazz, September 10, 2021)
- **Anonymous Donor Family** (MSU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs, *Songs of Comfort and Joy*, December 4, 2021)
- **Arts Midwest Touring Fund** (Westerlies)
- **Sam and Mary Austin** (Musique 21 concerts)
- **Sam and Mary Austin Fund for New Music** (Reverón and Khemia Ensemble, Interconnected: Chamber Work Premieres, and Chamber Fusion: Jazz Meets Classical)
- **Lorie Seitz Barbieri and Chuck Barbieri, in loving memory of Midge Seitz (MSU '52)** (Alumni Chapel New Organ Dedication)
- **Ken and Sandy Beall** (Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival Series and John Clayton Residency, April 21-23, 2022)
- **James and Susan Bonfiglio** (MSU Symphony Orchestra, September 26, 2021, and Spring Opera)
- **Joanne and Bill Church** (West Circle Series and Legends)
- **April Clobes and Glen Brough** (Happy Birthday, Mozart!)
- **Byron and Dee Cook** (Lift Every Voice)
- **Susan Davis** (Fall Opera)
- **Ed and Wanda Eichler** (Alumni Chapel New Organ Dedication)
- **John and Gretchen Forsyth** (Philip Sinder, January 19, 2022)
- **Thea Glicksman** (Richard Sherman, September 22, 2021, and Ralph Votapek, October 5, 2021)
- **Belle S. and Julius N. Harris Distinguished Visiting Artist Fund established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Dorothy DeLay Master Class Series)
- **Lauren Julius Harris** (MSU Symphony Orchestra, February 13, 2022)
- **Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowment for Chamber Music** (A Festival of Keys)
- **Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Fall Opera)
- **Doug and Brenda Jewell** (Piano Monster)
- **Taylor Johnston Early Music Series Endowment established by Taylor Johnston** (Taylor Johnston Early Music Series)
- **Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D.** (Ralph Votapek and Friends, September 1, 2021)
- **Abby and Ann-Marie Lindley** (Gwen Dease and Yvonne Lam, October 13, 2021)
- **Ann-Marie and John Lindley in memory of Marian Braund** (Bach in the U.S.A. and Marc Embree, October 10, 2021)

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021-2022 SPONSORS (cont.)

- **Merritt Lutz** (150th Anniversary Celebration of Bands, April 30, 2022)
- **Joseph and Jeanne Maguire** (A Jazzy Little Christmas and Jazz on the Grand)
- **Patrick McPharlin** (Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer, and Protest Concert)
- **Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the Crane Group** (Westerlies)
- **Dr. James M. Miller and Dr. Rebecca H. Lehto** (Fall Opera)
- **Mike and Midge Morrow** (Lift Every Voice)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union** (Showcase Series, Spartan Spectacular, and Music for Social Justice Video Series)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union Entrepreneurial Musical Artist-in-Residence Endowed Fund** (Westerlies)
- **Beth and the late Dr. Milton Muelder** (MSU Symphony Orchestra, October 24, 2021)
- **Liz and Tony Raduazo in honor of Andy Raduazo** (Sensory Friendly Spartan Concert, April 19, 2022)
- **George Orban and Rae H. Ramsdell** (Alumni Chapel New Organ Dedication)
- **Jim and Elaine Rauschert** (Richard Fracker, March 15, 2022)
- **Nancy and Charlie Seebeck** (A Night at The Movies and A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **Brenda Sternquist** (A Jazzy Little Christmas)
- **Leonard and Sharon Tabaka** (Annual Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **Dr. Robert W. Uphaus and Dr. Lois M. Rosen** (Suren Bagratuni, November 14, 2021, and Dmitri Berlinsky, November 15, 2021)
- **Linn Van Dyne and Mike Knox** (MSU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs, *Verdi's Requiem*, April 28, 2022)
- **Provost Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D. and Thomas V. O'Halloran, Ph.D.** (MSU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs, *Songs of Comfort and Joy*, December 4, 2021, and *Verdi's Requiem*, April 28, 2022)
- **Worthington Family Foundation** (Opera Season)
- **Barbara E. Wagner** (Barbara Wagner Chamber Music Competition Showcase)
- **Dr. Charles and Philippa Webb** (Beacon Hill Music Series)
- **WKAR** (Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series)
- **Andrea L. Wulf** (Vox Humana)

SPONSORSHIPS AND RECOGNITION

Sponsorships are available at \$1,000, \$2,500, and \$5,000. Sponsors will receive recognition in the form of event publicity, promotions, programs, and through online recognition. For information about event sponsorships and giving to the college, please call (517) 353-9872 or e-mail music.giving@msu.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/31 Monday

Musique 12: Devil's Tale

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$

2/1 Tuesday

Music Theory Lecture: Dr. John Paul Ito

12:45 p.m., Online, free

2/1 Tuesday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital series sponsored by WKAR

Lunar New Year Celebration

7:30 p.m., Cook Recital Hall \$

2/2 Wednesday

Tuba Euphonium Ensemble

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$

2/4 Friday

Orchestra Lecture Recital: Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10

8:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre, free

2/6 Sunday

MSU Wind Symphony: Concert Honoring Black History Month

3:00 p.m., Detroit School for the Arts

2/6 Sunday

2022 Running Start Live Pitch Competition

1:00 p.m., Hollander Hall, free

2/6 Sunday

Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre Season

A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice

3:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$\$\$

2/6 Sunday

Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre Season

A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice

3:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$\$\$

TICKET PRICES

\$ \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors (age 60 and older), Students with ID and anyone under age 18 are free but require a ticket for admission.

\$\$ \$17 Adults, \$15 Seniors, \$7 Students with ID and anyone under age 18.

\$\$\$ \$22 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$12 Students and those under age 18.

Please note: *All events scheduled in Murray Hall are general admission seating.*