



College of Music  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ARTIST-FACULTY SERIES  
Sponsored by WKAR

# North American Conference on Video Game Music

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Richard Anatone, piano  
Ben Carlee, flute  
Madison Drace, voice  
Jane Fiske, piano  
James Heazlewood-Dale, bass  
Laura Intravia, voice  
John MacDonald, drums  
Matthew Thompson, piano  
Gregg Rossetti, guitar  
Cynthia Schilling, piano  
Marco Schirripa, marimba  
Matheus Souza, violin

**MSU Video Game Acoustic Collective**  
Ricardo Lorenz, director

**MSU Saxophone Quartet**

Saturday, March 16, 2024  
Murray Hall, 8:00 p.m.

# PROGRAM

- from *Duck Tales*  
Moon theme  
Yoshihiro Sakaguchi  
trans. Emmet Lewis
- from *Zelda II: The Adventure of Link*  
Temple Theme  
Akito Nakatsuka  
trans. Ethan Smith
- from *Pokémon Ruby*  
Littleroot Town  
Go Ichinose  
trans. Helen Hanchin
- from *Sonic the Hedgehog*  
The Marble Zone  
Masato Nakamura  
(b. 1958)  
trans. Maura Drinkert

## MSU Video Game Acoustic Collective Ricardo Lorenz, director

- from *C.A.R.D.ware Discount Sale at the  
Interstellar Mall*  
II. Level 2 (Interstellar Mall)  
Eileen Snyder  
**MSU Saxophone Quartet**

- from *Wario Blast: Featuring Bomberman!*  
Piano Suite  
Title Screen  
Classic (World 1)  
Arctic (World 8)  
Forest (World 3)  
Factory (World 4)  
Boss Theme  
Yasuhiko Fukuda  
(b. 1957)  
arr. Richard Anatone  
Richard Anatone, piano

- from *Octopath Traveler*  
Rhapsody on Eight Themes  
Yasunori Nishiki  
(b. 1985)  
arr. Thomas B. Yee  
Ben Carlee, flute  
Matthew Thompson, piano

- from *Final Fantasy Tactics Advance*  
Suite (2004)  
Hitoshi Sakimoto  
(b. 1969)  
assist. Nobuo Uematsu, Kaori Ohkoshi, Ayako Saso  
arr. Marco Schirripa  
Marco Schirripa, marimba; and Matheus Souza, violin

## PROGRAM (cont.)

from *Celeste Piano Collections*  
Reach for the Summit

Lena Raine  
(b. 1984)

arr. Trevor Alan Gomes

Jane Fiske, piano  
Cynthia Schilling, piano

from *Metal Gear Solid 2*

Rika Muranaka

Can't Say Goodbye to Yesterday

Madison Drace, voice  
Gregg Rossetti, guitar  
James Heazlewood-Dale, bass  
John MacDonald, drums

A Medley of Chiptune Rock

from *Castlevania III*  
Beginning

Hidenori Maezawa and Jun Funahashi  
(b. 1958) (b. 1964)

Yukie Morimoto and Yoshinori Sasaki  
(b. 1961)

from *Mega Man 2*

Takashi Tateishi

Dr. Wily Stage 1

(b. 1964)

from *Duck Tales*

Hiroshige Tonomura

The Moon Theme

(b. 1962)

from *Castlevania III*

Hidenori Maezawa, Jun Funahashi,

Dracula's Curse

Yukie Morimoto, & Yoshinori Sasaki

James Heazlewood-Dale, electric bass

Rich Anatone, keyboard

Gregg Rossetti, guitar

John MacDonald, drums

all arrangements by Laura Intravia

from *Ico*

Michiru Ōshima

You Were There

(b. 1961)

from *The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask*

Koji Kondo

Zora Band Song

(b. 1961)

from *Chrono Cross*

Yasunori Mitsuda

Radical Dreamers

(b. 1972)

from *Journey*

Austin Wintory

I Was Born for This

(b. 1984)

Laura Intravia, voice  
Matthew Thompson, piano

## PROGRAM NOTES

*Octopath Traveler* is a game with a unique premise. Featuring eight main characters with eight distinct stories, *Octopath Traveler* offers a narrative and gameplay experience as infinitely variable as its players. As the game website states: "You alone can choose your path." Each character's musical theme encapsulates their distinctive identity and personality. This piece weaves together a selection of those themes in an arrangement determined by the audience, mirroring the interactivity of *Octopath Traveler's* gameworld. Today, we will hear a rhapsody on the themes of [1], [2], [3], and [4].\*

\*The four themes used for the NACVGM performance will be determined by the results of the poll conducted electronically before the performance.

### *Final Fantasy Tactics Advance*

Marco Schirripa and Matheus Souza will perform a short original suite from *Final Fantasy Tactics Advance*. Part of a longer, multi-movement composition, it will feature three tracks, including the title theme, "Gathering Allies", from the party management screen and "The Road We Both Aim For", one of the boss themes.

### *A Medley of Chiptune Rock*

Gregg Rossetti (guitar), Rich Anatone (keyboard), James Heazlewood-Dale (bass), and John MacDonald (drums) will be performing NES chiptune music arranged for a rock band. This music translates perfectly to this kind of ensemble, with the four channels from the NES soundchip each suggesting one of the instruments. The project was spawned from the recent scholarship of its members: Gregg has published an article on the influence heavy metal has had on early Nintendo music and has collaborated with Rich on analyzing formal relationships with popular music, while James has written extensively on the relationship between Nintendo music and jazz.

## ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS

**Richard Anatone** is a Professor of Music Theory and Coordinator of Applied Music at Prince George's Community College. He is also a pianist and he earned his doctorate in piano performance from Ball State University in 2015. Aside from his totally normal obsession with the music from Final Fantasy, he loves music from Game Boy games, and is currently working on transcriptions of his favorite soundtracks from the greatest handheld system to ever grace God's earth. This short collection from *Wario Blast: Featuring Bomberman!* was arranged during the COVID pandemic and is but a snippet of the stylistically eclectic soundtrack to the wacky action/puzzle game released in 1994.

Some composers found their love of music at the symphony hearing Brahms or Beethoven — **Thomas B. Yee** (b. 1992) discovered his from the beeps and boops of the family Super Nintendo. Blending the roles of composer and music theorist, Thomas specializes in writing Holocaust remembrance music and fusions of 8-bit retro chiptune music with interactive live performance; his research focuses on music semiotics and the representation of gender, race, and religion in video game music. Thomas completed his DMA at the University of Texas at Austin and is Assistant Professor of Instruction in Music Composition & Theory at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

A native of San Antonio, TX, **Ben Carlee** (he/him) is a gay Chicano flutist pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at UW-Madison as an Advanced Opportunity Fellow. He has performed across the U.S. and has been featured as a guest artist/clinician at the Wisconsin Flute Festival and Chicago Flute Club. He serves as the National Flute Association Lessons Scholarship Coordinator where he oversees funding distribution to young, underrepresented flutists across the United States. Ben also serves as the Executive Artistic Director for the Madison Gamer Symphony Orchestra, a nascent organization in its early phases of establishment. It aims to become the inaugural professional symphony in the United States exclusively devoted to showcasing symphonic video game music compositions.

## ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Growing up in Sydney's vibrant music scene, scholar, performer, and Grammy-nominated bassist **James Heazlewood-Dale** relocated to Boston to study jazz double bass at the Berklee School of Music on full scholarship. He has since performed with world-renowned artists including Jacob Collier, Maria Schneider, and Terence Blanchard. A recipient of Brandeis University's Provost Research Award, his Ph.D. research focuses on the intersection between jazz and video game music. His work can be read in *Jazz and Culture* (University of Illinois Press) and *Environmental Humanities and the Video Game* (Palgrave Macmillan), and he appears as a scholarly guest in Adam Neely's video essay "The Nintendo-fication of Jazz".

**Madison Drace** is a Master of Musicology student at Florida State University. Her current research centers on singer-protagonists in video games. In 2023, she presented at GameSoundCon and at the College Music Society regional and national conferences. This work is the basis for her forthcoming article in the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Voice Studies*. In addition to her musicological pursuits, she is an occasional performer. Recent performances include the 2023 NACVGM recital, a solo recital of songs composed by women, and a lecture-recital on Madeleine Dring's humorous cabaret song "I HATE Music!"

The **Fiske-Schilling Piano Duo** has performed throughout the New England area since 2017. The duo specializes in women's music, featuring the works of Amy Beach, Cecile Chaminade, and Lady Gaga. Recently, game music by women composers has been added to their repertoire, including the work being performed tonight, "Reach for the Summit" from *Celeste* by Lena Raine.

**Jane Fiske** has performed as a recitalist throughout the New England area and as a soloist with the Indian Hill Symphony Orchestra, Salem Philharmonic Orchestra, Marlboro Symphony Orchestra, and Thayer Symphony Orchestra as winner of the Concerto Competition. Dr. Fiske serves as Professor of Humanities (Music) at Fitchburg State University and is currently developing a course on the art of game music. She formerly served as Humanities Department Chair, FSU Founding Dean of the Division of Arts & Sciences, and Assistant Director of the Young Artists Piano Program at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute. Dr. Fiske received the Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching at Fitchburg State University. Her research areas include music and the related arts, women in music, and critical and NACVGM

## ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

creative thinking. She has presented papers at the International Conference on the Arts in Society in Portugal, Italy, Canada, and Scotland, as well as at the Foundation for Critical Thinking in California. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Boston University and Master and Bachelor degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music.

**Cynthia Schilling** has performed solo piano and chamber music at Bowdoin International Music Festival, Buffalo Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Music, and Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival. She has also performed piano, violin, and viola in the UMass Symphony Orchestra, Five-College Baroque Ensemble, UMass Women's Choir, UMass Percussion Ensemble, Symphony Pro Musica, and Fitchburg State Community Orchestra. Ms. Schilling earned a Bachelor of Music degree from University of Massachusetts Amherst Commonwealth Honors College, where she received the Chancellor's Talent Award and Eugenie M. May Piano Award for outstanding musicianship. In addition to her musical pursuits, she holds Bachelor and Master degrees in graphic design. Currently, she teaches graphic design at Fitchburg State University and Anna Maria College and worked previously as a graphic designer for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She enjoys teaching music lessons through the Fitchburg State University Community Music Program and the Joy of Music Program in Worcester.

Composer, vocalist, and instrumentalist **Laura Intravia** is internationally renowned for her multi-faceted musical career in opera, concert music and video game/film soundtracks. Laura's work as a remote session musician has appeared in over 70 video game and film soundtracks. Her versatility in various vocal styles has led to an equally wide range of recording projects; from the classic soprano sound of *Destiny*, *Destiny 2*, *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang*, *Honor of Kings*, and *ReCore*; to pop-inspired belting in *Code Vein*, *Arknights*, *Tekken Tag Tournament 2*, and *Erica*; to genre-bending, world music vocals in *Darksiders 3* and *Mortal Kombat 11*. In addition to her studio choir work on projects such as *God Eater 3* and *The iDOLM@STER - Cinderella Master*, Laura is well-versed in the techniques of vocal multi-tracking, emulating the effect of childrens' choir in projects such as *Kaladin*, *Buttons* and *Super Lucky's Tale*. Her classical, jazz and world flute techniques can be heard in games such as *Rainbow Billy*, *Mages of Mystralia*, *Otomedijs Excellent*, *Tin Hearts*, and *Cornerstone: Song of Tyrim*.

## ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

The compositions of Venezuelan-born **Ricardo Lorenz** have garnered praise for their fiery orchestrations, and rhythmic vitality as well as for raising awareness about global societal challenges that concern the composer. These impressions have earned him two Latin Grammy Award nominations, multiple commissions, and performances of his works at prestigious international and national festivals. His orchestral compositions have been performed in the United States by Los Angeles Philharmonic, by the Chicago, Minnesota, Detroit, Dallas, Atlanta symphony orchestras, and by orchestras in South America, Europe, and the Middle East. Ricardo Lorenz was Composer-in-Residence of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's *Armonia Musicians Residency Program* and held the position of Associate Director of the Indiana University Jacob School of Music's Latin American Music Center. He has received many awards and commissions including from, among others, the National Endowment for the Arts, MacDowell Colony, Meet-the-Composer Midwest, Barlow Endowment for Music Composition, and was honored with the Michigan State University César Chávez Community Leadership Award. He is currently Professor and Chair of Music Composition at MSU College of Music and his compositions are published by Keiser Southern Music, Boosey & Hawkes, and they can be heard in labels released in the U.S., Europe, and South America.

**Gregg Rossetti** holds a Ph.D. in music composition with a dissertation on how musical tropes build worlds in early role-playing video games. His composition styles are eclectic; he writes for new music ensembles, rock bands, and video games. He has presented his research at GameSoundCon, the North American Conference on Video Game Music, College Music Society, Music and the Moving Image, and Society of Music Theory. In addition to running a studio of students and recording artists, he is lecturer, music technology coordinator, recording studio manager at Rutgers University, and adjunct professor at Montclair State University.

**Marco Schirripa and Matheus Souza** – After meeting through a *vgmtogether* collaboration in 2021, the duo serendipitously became colleagues at Central Michigan University last fall. Marco is an international award-winning percussionist, arranger, and composer of video game-inspired music, while Matheus can be heard in *Mortal Kombat 11*, *Star Wars Outlaws*, the Videri String Quartet, and *DiscoCactus*.



## ARTIST-FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

**Matthew Thompson**, DMA, joined the SMTD faculty in 2011 and was recently described by a former student as “giving one of the most wholesome, nerdy, epic-but-modest unicorn professor experiences you’ll ever find at U-M.” Dr. Thompson is active as both a pianist and a vocal coach. His pioneering pedagogy using video game music has established him as an authority in this interdisciplinary academic field.

A lifelong gamer, Dr. Thompson’s interests in game audio have become a major component of his work. Over 1000 students have taken his groundbreaking Video Game Music class. This class provided the genesis of a 2021 chapter in *Teaching the Game* co-authored with Karen Cook, Julianne Grasso, Dana Plank, and Ryan Thompson. In 2020, Thompson released the world premiere recording of “For the Piano”, by *Halo* and *Destiny* composer Marty O’Donnell. Thompson has presented multiple times at the North American Conference on Video Game Music (2018): “There’s no question you’ll be popular after performing these in front of your friends!”: The pedagogy and performance of piano transcriptions of video game music. Also in 2018, Dr. Thompson chaired and presented for the first ever academic ludomusicology/sound studies track at GameSoundCon, historically an industry based conference. During the same academic year, Thompson

won a grant allowing him to create the first ever collegiate studio of pianists studying video game piano. As part of this experimental year, Thompson invited video game pianist Dr. Martin Leung to have a residency at U-M and Thompson joined Leung for Leung’s first public performance of video game piano duets. Dr. Thompson has written proactively commissioned book reviews published in the *American Journal of Play* and maintains a blog at [videogamemusicnerd.blogspot.com](http://videogamemusicnerd.blogspot.com). Thompson is currently writing a book about everything video game piano.

# **MSU STUDENT ENSEMBLES PERSONNEL**

## **MSU Video Game Acoustic Collective**

Ricardo Lorenz, director

Claire Oselador, assistant

Helen Hanchin, flute

Tyler Mazone, B-flat and bass clarinet

Haruka Taguchi, alto saxophone

Parker Fritz, tenor and baritone saxophones

Eric Hall, bassoon

Emmet Lewis, trumpet

Austin Wilson, french horn

Maura Drinkert, percussion

Claire Oselador, piano and synthesizer

Aidan Chapman-Anderson, viola

## **MSU Saxophone Quartet**

Jeff Allardyce, soprano saxophone

Haruka Taguchi, alto saxophone

Parker Fritz, tenor saxophone

Nathan Jasper, baritone saxophone

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- **Sam and Mary Austin** (Musique 21 concerts)
- **Sam and Mary Austin Fund for New Music** (Kaia String Quartet, Wind Symphony, Oct. 27 and Symphony Orchestra, Oct. 29)
- **Ken and Sandy Beall** (Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival Series and Jazz Spectacular)
- **James and Susan Bonfiglio** (Red Cedar Organ, Sept. 17 and Spring Opera)
- **Jenny Chung and Family for Human Rights Fund** (Jazz Nonets, Nov. 17, Feb. 9 and Apr. 11)
- **Joanne and Bill Church (West Circle Series)**
- **April Clobes and Glen Brough** (Rachmaninoff at 150)
- **Dean Transportation** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Trustee Emerita Dee Cook in memory of her husband Byron Cook** (Celebrating Jewish Identity in Music)
- **Susan Davis** (Spring Opera)
- **Double E Family** (Marc Embree, Oct. 1)
- **John and Gretchen Forsyth** (Woodwind Trio, Sept. 6 and Flute and Piano, Jan. 25)
- **Thea Glicksman** (Trio Cantilena, Nov. 5)
- **Dr. Charles Gliozzo in memory of Marjorie Gliozzo**, This sponsorship honors Marjorie Gliozzo, a beloved teacher who taught Spanish, English, and ESL. She was a passionate traveler and leader in cultural exchange programs, with a deep appreciation for Spanish language and history. (MSU Symphony Orchestra, Oct. 29)
- **Howard and Pam Gourwitz** (Saxophone and Piano, Nov. 6 and Jazz Works, Jan. 12)
- **Belle S. Harris and Julius N. Harris Endowed Distinguished Visiting Artists Fund in the College of Music** (Leo Spellman, Oct. 14 & 15 and Trio Cantilena, Nov. 5)
- **Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowment for Chamber Music** (Trio Cantilena, Nov. 5)
- **Eileen G. Houston** (Lindberg and Pöntinen, Jan. 24)
- **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, Mar. 21)

- **Michael and Paula Koppisch** (The Music of Water: Power and Beauty, Nov. 13)
- **Robert Last and Jill Canny** (MSU and Temple University Jazz Concert, Feb. 25)
- **Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Fall and Spring Opera)
- **Ann, John and Abby Lindley** (Holiday Cheer, Happy Birthday Mozart!, and Percussion Ensemble, Mar. 27)
- **Merritt Lutz** (Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert; Celebrating the Spectrum; and Wind Symphony, Mar. 17)
- **Clare Mackey** (Piano Monster)
- **Joseph and Jeanne Maguire** (A Jazzy Little Christmas)
- **Pat & Mary McPharlin** (Musique 21, Oct. 30 and Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert)
- **Dr. Roy and Christine Meland** (Puccini: Con Amore)
- **Gordon E. Miracle** (Friends and Family, Feb. 18)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union** (Showcase Series, Spartan Spectacular, and Celebrating the Spectrum)
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- **Liz and Tony Raduazo in honor of Andrew Raduazo** (Sensory Friendly Spartan Concert, April 16)
- **Nancy and Charlie Seebeck** (Votapek and Friends, Sept. 18 and Happy Birthday, Bach!, Apr. 12)
- **Michael and Elaine Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel** (Leo Spellman, Oct 14 & 15)
- **Leonard and Sharon Tabaka** (Annual Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **TechSmith** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Dr. Robert W. Uphaus and Dr. Lois M. Rosen** (DSO String Quartet, Oct. 10; MSU Chamber Trio, Oct. 12; Dmitri Berlinsky, Nov. 30; Violin and Organ Recital, Mar. 13; and Happy Birthday, Bach!, Apr. 12)
- **Linn Van Dyne and Mike Knox** (Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 1)
- **Barbara E. Wagner** (Wagner Chamber Music Competition)
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- **Andrea L. Wulf** (Piano Monster)

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