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— OF THE —
world's music

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2023
Festival Schedule

August 18 –
November 26, 2023





The Southwest Michigan Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists
presents

Bach Around the Block



SAVE THE DATE

Monday, June 3, 2024



CONNECTING
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DONATE ONLINE:

Scan the QR code above to
donate to our organization,
or see page 7 for more
donation options.

**Michigan Festival
of Sacred Music**

P.O. Box 50566
Kalamazoo, MI 49005
(269) 382-2910

www.ccmusicfest.com

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We continue in our efforts to contribute to the sacred music repertoire by seeking to commission new works. The Michigan Festival of Sacred Music welcomes inquiries from donors interested in commissioning works for future festivals.



Join our email list
at ccmusicfest.com



Search **Connecting
Chords Music Festival**



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on Instagram



“I’ll stand before
the Lord of Song
with nothing on my
tongue but
Hallelujah.”

- Leonard Cohen

Congregation
of **Moses**

Let's do things that matter.

Welcome to the Festival!



Thank you for joining us for our 2023 Connecting Chords Music Festival! We have a great lineup of events, similar to our pre-2020 Festivals. Our schedule – which may seem more spread out than in the past – reflects our efforts to engage artists when they are already touring through our area; this helps reduce our costs as well as the impact of their travel on the environment.

We are featuring new and returning artists, in both familiar and new-to-us indoor venues. We retain some of the outdoor programming created during the pandemic, recently presenting area artists at the **Dr. T.K. Lawless Dark Sky Park** on August 18 and **Migratory Music** at the Kalamazoo Nature Center on September 16. We continue with another popular outdoor location, new to us last season – **Kleinstuck Preserve** – for an October 14 event which involves a short trail walk into a performance in this beautiful natural setting.

Our 2020-21 hybrid events, the **Resonance Project** and **Music in Place** (celebrating our community with a musical map of treasured locations) are still available to experience on our website.

We are proud of the innovative projects and events we created to keep music in our lives and keep the shared experience of music possible. We continue to look for new ways to connect with our community; we are pleased to be collaborating with **K-RESA Education for the Arts** in presenting **The String Queens**, and we are delighted to have formed a partnership with **Rootead**, funded in part by a MACC Community Partner grant.

The support from our donors and funders continues to sustain us. Our many community partners – too numerous to mention in this welcome note – continue to help us connect with our community in meaningful ways. We are pleased to be partnering again with the **Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home** to bring our artist **Rahim AlHaj** to visit their students.

We believe it is truly “sacred” to focus some of our funds locally – celebrating and supporting our area artists – while also bringing in unique artists who reflect aspects of our mission: cultural preservation, differences and commonalities of various belief systems, and community building.

As we move into the 2023-24 season, we trust we will all continue to enjoy the thrill and value of live performances, as well as the excitement of hearing different genres of music in a variety of locations.

Thank you again for joining us. Please visit our website (ccmusicfest.com) to learn more about us, enjoy our events together, and stay connected.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Start
Executive Director, Michigan Festival of Sacred Music



CONNECTING
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**celebrate the
unifying power**
OF THE
world's music

Our Mission

We serve audiences and communities of all faiths and cultures by providing opportunities to connect with each other through music.

Our Vision

The connecting power of music fosters mutual understanding and respect and builds community harmony.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Our partnership with Rootead and Ayodele Drum & Dance



We are excited this year to partner with **Rootead** for a project funded, in part, by a Michigan Arts and Culture Council Community Partner grant, which we were awarded on September 22, 2023.



Rootead is a nonprofit organization that centers on the lived experiences of Black, Indigenous and People of Color by providing connection and support through birth justice, youth empowerment, and community healing. Included in these activities are drum and dance classes for all ages, as well as youth and professional adult drum and dance groups.

This project brings together our organization and Rootead in presenting a series of drum and dance workshops in Rootead's teaching venue with members of Chicago-based **Ayodele Drum & Dance**. These visits will culminate in Ayodele's full ensemble participation in Rootead's December celebration events, including a free public performance. The MACC funds will help support the presence of members of Ayodele for these workshops and final performance on **December 16** at Comstock Auditorium. Stay in touch with us for further details!

As part of this partnership, performers from Rootead will appear in a 6:30 PM pre-concert event prior to the Festival performance by The String Queens on November 7 at Comstock Auditorium.

From the Board President



I am delighted to welcome you to the 23rd season presented by the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music, and our sixth under the name “Connecting Chords.”

This is my seventh year involved with the Festival, and I can’t remember when I’ve been more excited about the lineup of world-class musicians – and world-spanning musical traditions – that we have been able to put together.

From the improvisational wizardry of **Edmar Castañeda** on the harp (Oct. 25, see page 28 in this program) and **David Briggs** on the organ (Oct. 2 & 4, pages 15 and 16) to the gorgeous contemporary tango composition of **Pedro Giraud** (Oct. 24, page 26) and the thrilling Ukrainian klezmer of **Kommuna Lux** (Oct. 11, page 20)... our fall calendar is full of must-see events for any music lover.

To put on my other hat as a music professor at Kalamazoo College, I can’t resist assigning a bit of homework for the really adventurous listeners among you:

- **Step 1** – Make yourself a mini-series of the four bewilderingly different trios that we have invited to perform this fall: **Slow Bell Trio** (Oct. 14, page 23), the **Rahim AlHaj Trio** (Oct. 15, page 25), **Tres Souls** (Nov. 5, page 31) and **The String Queens** (Nov. 7, page 32)
- **Step 2** – Go, listen, and think about the incredible variety of ways that three musicians can communicate with one another and an audience.
- **Step 3** – Find me after the festival, have a beverage and geek out about what we’ve heard. (No essay required.)

In the spirit of combining the familiar and the unfamiliar, the local and the global, we hope that you will sample liberally from the music presented this fall. Bring a friend with you when you come. Or make a new one when you arrive! Thanks to the generous support of our donors and sponsors – and your ticket purchases – I can say with confidence that if you listen to enough Connecting Chords, you will hear something that you’ve never heard before.

As you partake of this year’s musical offerings, please keep an eye out for me or any of the other board members, identifiable by our nametags. We are always happy to meet fellow music lovers, to hear about your ideas for the festival, and to chat about how you might be able to get more involved in Connecting Chords.

Gratefully,

Beau Bothwell
President, Michigan Festival of Sacred Music

2023 Festival Supporters

The Michigan Festival of Sacred Music appreciates and gratefully acknowledges the support of the organizations and donors listed on these pages.

GRANT SUPPORT

The Arts Fund of Kalamazoo County
*A grant program of the
 Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo*

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Donations from January 1 to October 11, 2023

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Please consider becoming a supporter of the Connecting Chords Music Festival!

As the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation, all donations made to our organization are tax deductible to the extent of the law. You can donate on our website at ccmusicfest.com or:

- Scan the QR code at right to donate online via Paypal directly.
- Donate at any of our Festival events – look for the purple box!
- Mail a check payable to the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music to P.O. Box 50566, Kalamazoo, MI 49005.



On-going Music Projects

When faced with the challenges of 2020, we thought “outside-the-box,” creating two amazing music projects with the help of local organizations and area musicians.

Resonance Music Project

In partnership with the **Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** *Unveiling American Genius* exhibit, local musicians created short recorded works in response to selected artwork.

Each musician was invited to browse the collection and choose two works that resonated with them. The short 1-to-2-minute compositions are always available for listening from **ccmusicfest.com**. So when you attend the exhibit, be sure to bring your headphones, and keep an eye out for QR codes! Visit the Resonance page on our website and read the musicians’ artist statements and bios, see the artwork and hear the music.

Explore the exhibit hours by visiting the KIA website at **www.kiarts.org**. Regular admission fees for the KIA do apply.

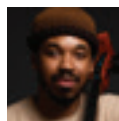
Featuring original works from



Ashley Daneman



Rufus Ferguson



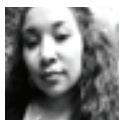
Jordan Hamilton



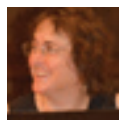
Laurie Jarski



Elden Kelly



Monica Washington
Padula



Elizabeth Start



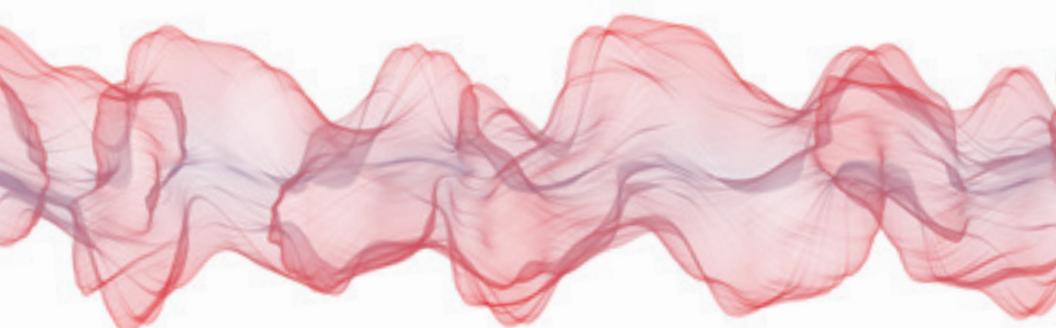
Helen Yee

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



KALAMAZOO INSTITUTE OF ARTS

*On-going availability sponsored by Kalamazoo RESA
for their 2022-23 Education for the Arts curriculum.*



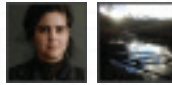


In 2021, we asked local musicians to write pieces about meaningful locations for them in the Kalamazoo area and engage other artists in their creation. The results were amazing!

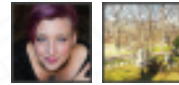
Listen to the music and learn more about the stories behind the pieces at ccmusicfest.com.



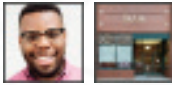
Dave Crider
Asylum Lake Preserve



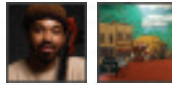
Ashley Daneman
Kleinstuck Nature Preserve



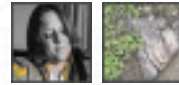
Megan Dooley
Riverside Cemetery



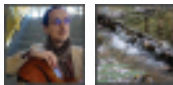
Rufus Ferguson
Union Cabaret and Grille



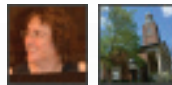
Jordan Hamilton
Mural at
Stockbridge & Portage



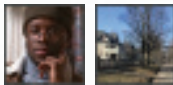
Laurie Jarski
Stretch of road near
6749 W Kl Ave.



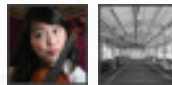
Andrew Saliba
Kalamazoo Valley
River Trail



Elizabeth Start
Stetson Chapel,
Kalamazoo College



Stratø
Stuart Neighborhood



Helen Yee
Kalamazoo Farmers Market
(Bank Street Location)



This engagement was supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Crane Group.

2023 Festival Schedule

All events are in Kalamazoo/Portage unless otherwise noted. Schedule subject to change.

| AUG | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | |

FREE Selkie at the Dark Sky Park
Fri, August 18 at 8:00 PM
 Dr. T.K. Lawless Park,
 Vandalia, MI

FREE Migratory Music
Sat, September 16 at 2:00 PM
 Kalamazoo Nature Center

IX David Briggs, organ
Mon, October 2 at 7:00 PM
 St. Luke's Episcopal Church

IX Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1920)
 SILENT FILM WITH IMPROVISED SCORE
 BY DAVID BRIGGS, ORGAN
Wed, Oct 4 at 7:00 PM
 First United Methodist Church

FREE Friends of the Gamelan
Sat, October 7 at 2:30 PM
 Kalamazoo Public Library
 (Downtown)

IX Kommuna Lux
Wed, October 11 at 7:00 PM
 Bell's Eccentric Café

Trail Walk with Slow Bell Trio
Sat, October 14 at 6:00 PM
 Kleinstuck Preserve
\$10 suggested donation

II **Rahim Alhaj Trio**

Sun, October 15 at 4:00 PM
Stetson Chapel,
Kalamazoo College

II **Pedro Giraudó** **Tango Quartet**

Tues, October 24 at 7:00 PM
Wellspring Theater

II **Edmar Castañeda** **Quartet**

Wed, October 25 at 7:30 PM
PRE-CONCERT TALK AT 7:00 PM
Dalton Center Recital Hall,
Western Michigan University

II **Tres Souls**

Sun, November 5 at 4:00 PM
Dormouse Theatre

II **The String Queens**

Tues, November 7 at 7:00 PM
PRE-CONCERT EVENT WITH ROOTEAD AT 6:30 PM
Comstock Auditorium

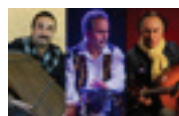
FREE **Messiah Sing**

Sun, November 26 at 4:00 PM
First Congregational
United Church of Christ

T Buy tickets in advance at
ccmusicfest.com or at the door.

Festival Ticket Information

- A **Festival Pass** good for one admission to all our ticketed events is available for just **\$75!** (Passes held at will call before each show.)
- **We're committed to making our shows accessible to everyone:** we offer discounts for seniors (age 65+) and patrons age 25 & under for most events. A limited number of pay-what-you-can tickets will also be available at each show.
- Tickets are always less expensive in advance – with no ticket fees! Order from our website at **ccmusicfest.com**.
- Seating at Festival events is general admission, and no tickets are required for entry to our free events. It's not a bad idea to arrive early to get your choice of seats.
- Except where noted, our Festival events are held at large venues with plenty of seating – there's almost always a seat available for you the day before the performance.



Michigan Festival of Sacred Music

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Volunteers Welcome!

If you enjoy inspirational music, like to meet new people and receive free admission to concerts, please volunteer! Contact us at **(269) 382-2910 / director@mfsm.us** and join us!

The Michigan Festival of Sacred Music follows an Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and employs personnel and provides programs and services without regard to gender (including pregnancy), gender identification, race, sexual orientation, color, ethnic or religious background, descent or nationality, disability (including past, present, or future physical, intellectual or psychiatric disability, learning disorders or disease), marital status, age, height and weight.

This EEO policy applies to employment, internal promotions, training, opportunities for advancement, terminations, relationships with outside vendors and customers, use of contractors and consultants and in dealing with the general public.



Music at the Dark Sky Park

Friday, August 18 at 8:00 PM

Dr. T.K. Lawless Park

15122 Monkey Run Street, Vandalia, MI

Our annual return to the Dark Sky Park was perfect in every way – we were once again blessed with perfect (almost fall-like) weather, a great turnout from enthusiastic patrons, and fantastic music!

The sounds were provided by **Selkie**, a trio of dynamic Celtic musicians – **Jim Spalink**, **Michele Venegas**, and **Cara Lieurance**. The ensemble played two long sets of music, going well past being able to read their sheet music!

Thank you to the wonderful staff at the **Cass County Parks & Recreation** department for once again being amazing hosts!

IN COLLABORATION WITH
CASS COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION





Migratory Music

Saturday, September 16 from 2:00–4:00 PM

Kalamazoo Nature Center

7000 N Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo

In partnership with the **Kalamazoo Nature Center**, we reprised our popular Migratory Music in the Nature Center arboretum area. It was a beautiful day in a great setting!

A lineup of Festival favorites were on hand: **Hazeltree** (Celtic and Americana songs on traditional acoustic instruments) were stationed at the entrance to the butterfly garden; **Birdseed Salesmen** (gypsy jazz) played at the front amphitheatre; and **Joel Mabus** performed an all-banjo set at the back stage.

Members of the **Bahar Ensemble** – Ahmed Tofiq (violin), Beau Bothwell (oud) and Zollie Schut playing traditional Middle Eastern music – took the term “roving musicians” to heart, performing inside a large tree canopy by the end of the afternoon!

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
KALAMAZOO NATURE CENTER





 Ticketed Event

David Briggs, organ

Monday, October 2 at 7:00 PM

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

247 W. Lovell Street, Kalamazoo

ADVANCE TICKETS:

\$12 / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

AT-THE-DOOR:

\$15 / \$12 SENIORS / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

GET A TICKET TO BOTH OCTOBER 2 & OCTOBER 4 SHOWS FOR \$20!

David Briggs is an internationally renowned organist whose performances are acclaimed for their musicality, virtuosity, and ability to excite and engage audiences of all ages. Consistently ranked as one of the finest organists of his generation, David's extensive repertoire spans five centuries.

Described as "an intrepid improviser" by Michael Barone (host of American Public Media's *Pipedreams*), David frequently performs improvisations to silent films such as *Phantom of the Opera*, *Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, and a variety of Charlie Chaplin films. **Don't miss David's Festival performance to the 1920 silent-film classic *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* on October 4!**

Monday night's program will include the United States premiere of his piece *Sonata for Violoncello and Organ* featuring guest cellist **Elizabeth Start**.



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OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

www.ccmusicfest.com



 Ticketed Event

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1920)

Silent-era film with a live improvised score by organist David Briggs

Wednesday, October 4 at 7:00 PM

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

212 S Park Street, Kalamazoo

ADVANCE TICKETS:

\$12 / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

AT-THE-DOOR:

\$15 / \$12 SENIORS / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

GET A TICKET TO BOTH OCTOBER 2 & OCTOBER 4 SHOWS FOR \$20!

Internationally renowned organist **David Briggs** will improvise the score for the 1920 silent-film classic *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* starring John Barrymore.

In this film based on the Robert Louis Stevenson story, Dr. Henry Jekyll's enthusiasm for science and his selfless acts of service have made him a much-admired man. An encounter at a social gathering leads him to meddle with the darker side of science, wanting to bring out his "second" nature.

After extensive work in his laboratory, Jekyll devises a formula that allows him to alternate between two completely different personalities – his own and that of a brutish person whom he names Mr. Hyde. It is not long before the personality of Hyde begins to dominate Jekyll's affairs.

CO-SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS





Also Showing: *Frankenstein* (1910)

Also showing at our October 4 event will be Thomas Edison's 1910 13-minute silent film *Frankenstein* with a score composed by **Brandon Pacheco**, performed live by the six-piece ensemble "Silent But Deadly":

- **Brandon Pacheco** – Composer/conductor
- **Audrey Jansma** – Violin
- **Taylor Crow** – Cello
- **Jon Moody** – Bass
- **Morgan Arndt** – Clarinet
- **Rachel Ramirez** – Viola
- **Cara Lieurance** – Flute

 **fontana**
P R E S E N T S

FRI, OCT 13, 2023 · 7:30 pm
FRY STREET QUARTET

SUN, NOV 5, 2023 · 3:00 pm
BEN GULLEY, TENOR
PETER DUGAN, PIANO

FRI, FEB 23, 2024 · 7:30 pm
CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET

FRI, MAR 15, 2024 · 7:30 pm
CYRILLE AIMÉE, JAZZ VOCALIST

SAT, APR 20, 2024 · 7:30 pm
AMERICAN BRASS QUINTET

All performances
held in WMU's
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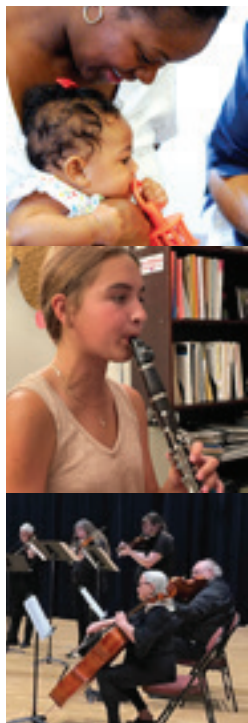
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Free Event

Friends of the Gamelan

Traditional music of central Java in Indonesia

Saturday, October 7 at 2:30 PM

Kalamazoo Public Library (Downtown)

315 S Rose Street, Kalamazoo

Friends of the Gamelan is a Chicago-based community group dedicated to the performance, instruction and promotion of gamelan, traditional ensemble music of the Javanese, Sundanese, and Balinese peoples of Indonesia, performed predominantly with percussive instruments.

Affectionately known as FROG, the group traces its roots to the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History was founded to preserve, catalog, and exhibit the many cultural treasures from this Exposition, including the gamelan.

In the late 1970s, a group began to meet regularly at the museum to play on those very instruments. FROG formed in 1980 as a not-for-profit educational organization to continue the work begun at the Field Museum.

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 Ticketed Event

Kommuna Lux

Ukrainian klezmer music with a dose of rocket fuel

Wednesday, October 11 at 7:00 PM

Bell's Eccentric Café

355 E Kalamazoo Avenue, Kalamazoo

ADVANCE TICKETS:
\$12 / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

AT-THE-DOOR:
\$15 / \$12 SENIORS / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

**“In Odessa, people find togetherness.
In Odessa, all will laugh and sing.”**

Ukraine’s **Kommuna Lux** validates these words from an old poem, performing their own style called “Odessa Gangsta Folk” – thrilling klezmer music and common folk songs from their hometown, all with a dose of rocket fuel.

Seven musicians all the way from Ukraine, self described as “a group of talented and energetic musicians who like to create unforgettable musical experiences for their audience. Our goal is not just sound, but real emotions and unforgettable impressions from our music.”

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CLOVER ROOM





The bohemian and nostalgic temper from the Ukrainian Black Sea coast is set to a timeless level by the vibrant performances of lead singer **Bagrat Tsurkan** and his fellow musicians, playing joyful songs and melodies from Odessa and all Eastern Europe in spiced-up arrangements.

In addition to the band's presence on the largest festivals in Ukraine such as the Koktebel Jazz Festival and Kyiv Klezmer Fest, the band has received cheers from the audiences in the United States and all over the world.

Since the beginning of the Russian aggression in Ukraine, Kommuna Lux has collected donations at all their concerts to support humanitarian causes. They honor their hometown and Ukraine's heroes with a brilliant sound and spectacular concert!

**Please note: Bell's is an age 21 and over venue.
Attendees must have valid photo ID to verify age and identity at the door.**



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Trail Walk with Slow Bell Trio

Saturday, October 14 at 6:00 PM
Kleinstuck Preserve (outdoor event)
Meet at the tennis courts behind the Maple Street YMCA
(1001 W Maple Street, Kalamazoo)

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$10

Kalamazoo-based sound artist and percussionist **Mike Weis** (Zelienople), along with Chicago musicians **Steven Hess** (Locrian, Cleared) and bass clarinet player **Keefe Jackson** – collectively known as **Slow Bell Trio** – will perform an improvised concert of ambient music in the Kleinstuck Preserve.

The ensemble will be joined by **P.M. Tummala** (harmonium/percussion) and Chilean trumpeter **Benjamin Vergara**.

The hike to the performance location takes about 10 to 15 minutes. As the audience will be walking to an area without seating, **we recommend wearing appropriate footwear and bringing a portable chair**. And although we *plan* to be done before dark, it can't hurt to bring a flashlight!

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 Ticketed Event

Rahim AlHaj Trio

Oud / santour / percussion

Sunday, October 15 at 4:00 PM
Stetson Chapel, Kalamazoo College

1200 Academy Street, Kalamazoo

ADVANCE TICKETS:

\$17 / \$14 SENIORS / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

AT-THE-DOOR:

\$20 / \$15 SENIORS / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

Rahim AlHaj was born in Baghdad, Iraq, and he began playing the *oud* – the grandfather of all stringed instruments – at age nine. In his nearly 50-year career, he has won many awards and accolades, including two Grammy nominations and the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship in 2015. *Rahim will visit classes at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home during his stay.*

Sourena Sefati was born in Ramsar, Iran. He started playing *santour* (hammered dulcimer) at the age of eleven, and he has performed all over the world in his over 20-year career. Sourena moved to the United States in 2014 and teaches Iranian music in Albuquerque.

Javier Saume Mazzei (percussion) is a native of Caracas, Venezuela, and he has performed internationally in concerts, master classes, and residencies in Beijing, China, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and Carnegie Hall in New York.



 Ticketed Event

Pedro Giraud Tango Quartet

Tuesday, October 24 at 7:00 PM
Wellspring Theater

359 South Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo

ADVANCE TICKETS:

\$17 / \$14 SENIORS / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

AT-THE-DOOR:

\$20 / \$15 SENIORS / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

The **Pedro Giraud Tango Quartet** is widely acknowledged as one of the most compelling tango ensembles today, moving forward from the giant footsteps of **Astor Piazzolla** and continuing to take this musical genre into new territories.

With immense respect for its roots and rich musical past, the New York City-based ensemble effectively serves as an active ambassador of tango and a proponent of its evolution. The quartet's fervent and virtuosic musical style gracefully and organically combines elements from Argentine tango, European classical music, and American jazz.

THE
GILMORE

*Thank you to The Gilmore (piano) and Beau Bothwell (bass)
for their loans of instruments for this performance.*

Pedro Giraudó Tango Quartet

Pedro Giraudó – Bass

Nicolás Danielson – Violin

Rodolfo Zanetti – Bandoneón

Ahmed Alom – Piano

As bassist, composer and arranger, **Pedro Giraudó's** biography includes two decades performing with the most important interpreters of tango, including **Paquito D'Rivera, Pablo Ziegler, Hector Del Curto** and **Luis Bravo**. He has also collaborated as a performer/arranger for the New York Philharmonic.

The other members of the quartet are three of the most prominent musicians in the tango world: **Nicolás Danielson** (violin) is Assistant Concertmaster of the NYC Ballet Orchestra and enjoys a distinguished career in both the classical and tango worlds; **Rodolfo Zanetti** (bandoneón) is recognized as one of the most illustrious solo bandoneonists in the United States, performing at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center; **Ahmed Alom** (piano) has been considered a prodigy since the age of 14, winning numerous international prizes in piano competitions.

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 Ticketed Event

Edmar Castañeda Quartet

Jazz ensemble led by the Latin Grammy-nominated harpist

Wednesday, October 25 at 7:30 PM

PRE-CONCERT TALK AT 7:00 PM

**Dalton Center Recital Hall
Western Michigan University**

1300 Theatre Drive, Kalamazoo

ADVANCE TICKETS:

\$12 / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

AT-THE-DOOR:

\$15 / \$12 SENIORS / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

“The Jimi Hendrix of the Andean harp”

NEW YORK LATIN CULTURE MAGAZINE



IN COLLABORATION WITH THE IRVING S. GILMORE
SCHOOL OF MUSIC BULLOCK SERIES

Edmar Castañeda Quartet

Edmar Castañeda – Harp

Itai Kriss – Flute

Andrea Tierra – Vocals

Rogerio Bocatto – Drums



Upon arriving in the United States in 1994, Colombian-born **Edmar Castañeda** has made a name for himself as the preeminent jazz harp virtuoso. He brings forth a brilliance that beautifully merges the jazz tradition with a diverse set of styles and genres while bringing unbridled attention to a somewhat unfamiliar instrument: the harp.

Singlehandedly, Edmar has cemented the harp's place in jazz with innovative technique and heartfelt creativity from a wealth of formidable collaborations with music titans such as **Sting, Bela Fleck, Paquito D'Rivera, Hiromi, John Scofield, Ricki Lee Jones,** and **Pedrito Martinez.**

Edmar's latest album *FAMILY* was nominated for a Latin Grammy. He also consulted and recorded harp for Disney's *Encanto*, which earned Oscar nominations for Best Original Score and Best Original Song.

NPR's "Fresh Air" touts, "...his technique is the real astonishment. Castañeda juggles lead, rhythm and bass lines, using a variety of hard and soft string attacks to keep those voices distinct — all without giving up the groove... His amazing technique...raises the bar for every harpist."

There will be a pre-concert talk at 7:00 PM with Matthew Fries (Assistant Professor, Jazz Piano, Jazz Studies – Western Michigan University) and Beau Bothwell (Assistant Professor of Music – Kalamazoo College).

JOHN STITES
JAZZ AWARDS 

*This engagement is supported by a **John Stites Jazz Event Award** from the **John Stites Jazz Artist Organization**, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) honoring the memory of John Stites and his passion for jazz music.*

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EXHIBIT

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EXHIBIT FEB. 2024 - MAY 2024

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PUBLIC HOURS:

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269.373.7990

www.kalamazoomuseum.org

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 Ticketed Event

Tres Souls

Latin Bolero

Sunday, November 5 at 4:00 PM

Dormouse Theatre

1030 Portage Street #3008, Kalamazoo

ADVANCE TICKETS:

\$17 / \$14 SENIORS / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

AT-THE-DOOR:

\$20 / \$15 SENIORS / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

For the last decade **Rocio Mendoza, Roberto Carlos, and Jesus Martinez** have serenaded audiences with their own interpretations of the timeless slow-tempo Latin Bolero sound, interspersed with bilingual renditions, bridging the borders between the past and present.

They relive the vintage sounds and songs of the 1940s-1960s, stylized during the Golden Era of Mexican Cinema.

Each accomplished musician inherited the knowledge and importance of heritage music through their family and generations before them. **Tres Souls** released their first album in 2019 titled “Boleros Made In LA” where they celebrate their roots while branching out into uncharted territory.

*Limited seating is available for this performance,
buying tickets in advance is strongly recommended.*



 Ticketed Event

The String Queens

Dynamic string trio

Tuesday, November 7 at 7:00 PM

PRE-CONCERT PERFORMANCE BY ROOTEAD AT 6:30 PM

Comstock Auditorium

2107 N 26th Street, Kalamazoo

ADVANCE TICKETS:

\$17 / \$14 SENIORS / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

AT-THE-DOOR:

\$20 / \$15 SENIORS / \$5 AGES 25 & UNDER

IN COLLABORATION WITH KALAMAZOO RESA – EDUCATION FOR THE ARTS

Praised for its authentic, soulful and orchestral sound, **The String Queens** (TSQ) is a dynamic trio that creates stimulating musical experiences that inspire diverse audiences to love, hope, feel and imagine!

With a repertoire spanning from the Baroque era to the Jazz Age to today's Billboard Hot 100, TSQ performs versatile programs that take listeners on a rousing musical journey through time and a multitude of musical genres.

Based in Washington, D.C., TSQ has been featured in performances at renowned concert halls and venues across America, including Carnegie Hall in New York City and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in the nation's capital.

About The String Queens



Kendall Isadore, Violin – Kendall is originally from Houston, Texas. Though classically trained on violin, piano and voice, Kendall’s niche is performing a wide range of musical genres on violin. She has performed at a variety of legendary venues all over the country

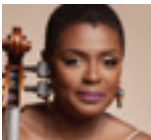
with artists including **Roberta Flack, Josh Groban, Fantasia, Kurt Carr, Sheryl Lee Ralph** and **Kim Jordan**, to name a few.

Kendall is a graduate of The George Washington University where she earned a Master of Arts degree in Education Policy and Administration. She currently works at Bishop McNamara High School in Prince George’s County, Maryland, where she is the Director of Enrollment Management.



Dawn Johnson, Viola – Named as the recipient of the 31st Annual Mayor’s Award for Excellence in Performing Arts Teaching in Washington, D.C., Dawn is a graduate of The Juilliard School in New York City. She has been recognized by her alma mater for her “Outstanding Achievement and Leadership in Music” as a recipient of the Jerome L. Greene Fellowship, the Irene Diamond Scholarship, and the Peter Mennin Award in Music.

A native of Miami, Florida, Dawn has been featured as soloist with orchestras all over the world. Her contributions to the field of music education have earned her recognition as a quarter-finalist for the 1st Annual GRAMMY Music Educator Award, a recipient of KIPP DC’s Executive Director’s Award, and the title of one of *GLAMOUR Magazine’s* “Top 10 College Women”.



Élise Sharp, Cello – A native Washingtonian, Élise began playing the cello in the DC Youth Orchestra Program (DCYOP) when she was eight years old, touring with the orchestra to China and Taiwan. Inspired by the rigorous training and diverse experiences she received at DCYOP,

Élise pursued a Bachelor’s degree in Music Education at Howard University.

Élise has graced some of the world’s most renowned stages in performances alongside musical legends, including **Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin** and **Dionne Warwick**. In addition, she has performed for three former Presidents – **George H. W. Bush, William J. Clinton** and **Barack Obama**.

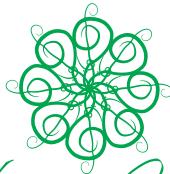
Élise is currently the director of the music program at a public charter school in the District of Columbia.

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Free Event

Messiah Sing

Sunday, November 26 at 4:00 PM

First Congregational United Church of Christ

345 W Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo

A community tradition since 1995, the annual **Messiah Sing** is a collaboration between the Connecting Chords Music Festival and the First Congregational United Church of Christ.

The Sing features a chamber orchestra made up of professional musicians and soloists from the Kalamazoo area. Portions of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* will be sung by those who wish to participate. Those who wish only to listen are welcome and encouraged to join us!

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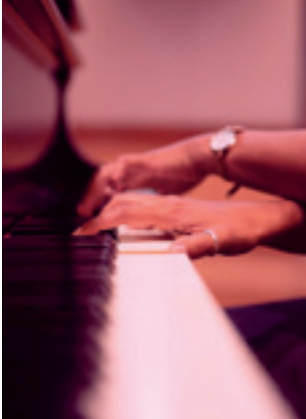
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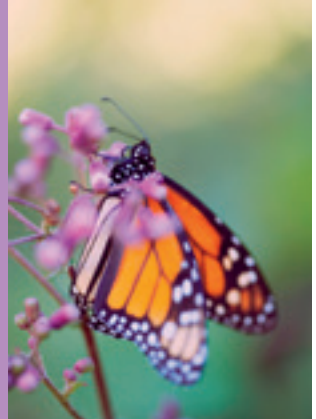
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