



CONNECTING  
**CHORDS**  
MUSIC FESTIVAL

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

PRESENTED BY



**2024**  
**Program Book**

**August 9 —  
December 1, 2024**



# Bach Around the Block:

The Diverse Organ Music of J S Bach

Monday  
June 9,  
at 7 pm

**Free concert**

The SW MI Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents its annual, family friendly "organ crawl," played by area organists in three downtown Kalamazoo churches. The progressive walk between churches has long been a community favorite.



Concert begins at First United Methodist, 212 S. Park,  
continues to First Presbyterian and then First Baptist



CONNECTING  
**CHORDS**  
MUSIC FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY



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



**DONATE ONLINE:**

*Scan the QR code above to  
donate to our organization,  
or see page 11 for more  
donation options.*

**Michigan Festival  
of Sacred Music**

P.O. Box 50566  
Kalamazoo, MI 49005

(269) 382-2910

[www.ccmusicfest.com](http://www.ccmusicfest.com)

## Table of Contents

Welcome from the Executive Director .....	3
Note from the Board President .....	5
Our Mission & Vision .....	7
Our Organization .....	9
Festival Supporters .....	10
Individual Donors .....	11
2024 Festival Schedule .....	12

## 2024 Festival Events

Selkie at the Dark Sky Park .....	15
Kleinstuck Trail Walk .....	16
Migratory Music .....	17
Live Music for Silent Classics .....	18
Invoke .....	20
Dave Meder Jazz Trio .....	22
Lubana Al-Quntar .....	24
Kitka .....	26
Grupo Bella .....	28
Awaken to Sound .....	29
Samite .....	30
Joe Buchanan .....	32
Messiah Sing .....	35
<b>Stay in Touch + Feedback .....</b>	<b>37</b>



Join our email list  
at [ccmusicfest.com](http://ccmusicfest.com)



Search **Connecting  
Chords Music Festival**



**connectingchordsfest**  
on Instagram

# Proud to support the Connecting Chords Music Festival



The Jewish Federation®  
OF KALAMAZOO AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

The Jewish Federation helps protect and enhance the well-being of Jews worldwide through meaningful contributions to our community, Israel and civil society.

We contribute to local charities and help enhance the Jewish life in Kalamazoo.

Learn more at  
**[jewishfederations.org](http://jewishfederations.org)**

# Welcome to the Festival!



Thank you for joining us for our 2024 Connecting Chords Music Festival! We are thrilled to have you here to experience with us this wide array of excellent artists and cultural ambassadors from far and near.

Our goals include widening horizons while making connections. We hope – if you have turned out for a concert of music that is familiar – you will also be adventurous, take a chance, and attend at least one concert of music that might not be as familiar, to experience how it can also connect with you.

There is even adventure in our scheduling: we have a variety of venues and start times, and the density of events varies from week to week. There might be no events one week, and then three in the next week. This sometimes reflects the needs of our many community partners; at other times it reflects our efforts to engage artists when they are already touring through our area, helping reduce our costs as well as the impact of their travel on the environment. It also keeps our regular attendees on their toes! Keep this program book and double-check the schedule while you decide what other events you will attend.

The support from our donors, grants, and our many community partnerships help sustain us while keeping ticket prices affordable and enabling us to present so many free events. However, we can always use help in this area, as we look ahead to our 25th year. If you are able, please consider a donation (tax deductible to the extent of the law) to help us keep our low ticket prices and free event structure as we continue to present our wonderful events that connect our community.

We'd also like you to connect with us: at events, say hello to staff, board members or volunteers wearing CCMF nametags, and tell us what events and artists you would like to see featured in Kalamazoo; and consider volunteering or talking to us about board membership.

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

## **Elizabeth (Betsy) Start**

Executive Director, Connecting Chords Music Festival  
Presented by the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE

# KalamazooVALLEY™ Museum KV

**EXHIBIT** SEPT. 28, 2024 - JAN. 5, 2025

## MYSTERY AND BENEVOLENCE: MASONIC & ODD FELLOWS

Eighty carvings, sculptures, textiles and regalia bring to light the histories, symbolism and values of the Masons and Independent Order of the Odd Fellows.

*Organized by International Arts and Artists (IA&A) and The American Folk Art Museum, New York*



**EXHIBIT** NOW - MARCH 2, 2025



## COLLECTING BLACK HISTORY: MURPHY DARDEN'S LEGACY

Explore artifacts, images and historic documents collected by late Kalamazoo historian, Murphy Darden, chronicling the achievements of African Americans in a mini exhibit.

*Designed by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum*

**EXHIBIT** NOW - JAN. 19, 2025

## KALAMAZOO STATE HOSPITAL: 165 YEARS OF PSYCHIATRIC CARE

Learn about the fascinating history of the patients, employees and buildings on the Oakland Drive campus of Michigan's longest operating mental hospital.

*Created by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum*



## GENERAL ADMISSION IS FREE!

### PUBLIC HOURS:

Tuesday - Saturday | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday | Noon - 4 p.m.

*The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees.*

# KalamazooVALLEY™ Museum KV

230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo  
kalamazoomuseum.org | 269.373.7990

## From the Board President



I am delighted to welcome you to the 2024 Festival! This is my eighth year with Connecting Chords, and every year around this time I find myself gushing to friends: “Wow, this year is really special.” Well friends, this year is really special.

In keeping with my other gig as a music professor at Kalamazoo College, I can’t resist assigning a bit of homework for the adventurous listeners among you. Here is the rubric:

1. As you attend the offerings of this year’s festival, try to keep track of how many languages you hear represented in song.
2. The next time you hear someone describe Italian or French as “the most musical language,” nod politely before saying, “Did you catch **Kitka** on October 25? If you have never heard the beauty and power of Eastern European women’s choral music live, you are missing out.” Or maybe “Did you hear **Lubana Al-Quntar’s** (October 24) masterful performance of classics from the golden age of Arabic song? Or **Grupo Bella’s** (November 3) gorgeous Spanish renditions of songs from across Mexican and Mexican-American genres?”
3. If you see me around during or after the festival, let me know how many different languages you heard, and what song ended up sticking around in your ears or your heart after the concert. Hint: On this assignment, every answer gets an A.

In Kalamazoo we are lucky to be able to hear an abundance of world-class musicians; we believe our particular niche comes in bringing people together around opportunities to hear music from a range of traditions that we otherwise wouldn’t get a chance to experience in Western Michigan. Our mission is a big one – with the size of our organization and the number of events that we put on, **we need whatever assistance you have to give: your financial help through donations and sponsorships; your physical and social help as a volunteer for events; and your intellectual and philosophical guidance as a potential board member.**

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, hear about your ideas for the festival, and chat about how you might be able to get more involved as a donor, a volunteer, or a board member.

Gratefully,

**Beau Bothwell**

President, Connecting Chords Music Festival



“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.**





CONNECTING  
**CHORDS**  
MUSIC FESTIVAL



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

## About the Festival

---

The **Connecting Chords Music Festival** is an annual fall music series, with additional events and projects held throughout the year.

Organized by the **Michigan Festival of Sacred Music**, we strive to present a **diverse array of artists, genres and venues** each year – celebrating and supporting our area musicians while also bringing in unique artists from all over the world. Through this music, **we hope to promote community harmony, mutual understanding and respect among persons of different backgrounds.**

### 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.

## Volunteers Welcome!

---

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

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

# Discover what moves you

## Compelling Audio

Enriching music and captivating conversations



## Impactful stories

Perspectives from across our community and world



## Truth and Clarity

In-depth reporting with local reflections



102.1 FM - News & Conversation  
Classical WMUK 89.9 FM - Music & Local Arts  
[wmuk.org](http://wmuk.org)



CONNECTING  
**CHORDS**  
MUSIC FESTIVAL



## Staff

**Elizabeth Start**  
Executive Director

**Eric Schmidt**  
Marketing/Design/  
Social Media/Website

**Michael Krischer**  
Volunteer Coordinator/  
Festival Assistant

## Board of Directors

**Beau Bothwell**  
President

**Tawfiq Ali**  
Treasurer

**Tia Davis**  
**Kenneth Dettloff**

**Wilma J. Kahn**  
**Lexie Schroeder Kobb**  
**Janice Lakers**

**Millard Southern**  
**Helen Yee**

### Executive / Finance Committee

**Beau Bothwell**  
**Tawfiq Ali**  
**Elizabeth Start**  
Ex Officio

### Marketing & Development

**Tia Davis**  
**Kenneth Dettloff**  
**Wilma J. Kahn**  
**Elizabeth Start**  
Ex Officio  
**Eric Schmidt**  
Ex Officio

### Programming Committee

**Beau Bothwell**  
**Janet Hill**  
**Lexie Schroeder Kobb**  
**Shirley M. Wise-Szopo**  
**Helen Yee**  
**Elizabeth Start**  
Ex Officio

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.

# 2024 Festival Supporters

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

## PLATINUM

The Ravitz Foundation Initiative  
for Small Michigan Jewish  
Communities, through the  
Jewish Federation of Kalamazoo  
and Southwest Michigan



The Jewish Federation<sup>®</sup>  
OF KALAMAZOO AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN



## GOLD

Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra



## SILVER

Congregation of Moses  
Kalamazoo College Dept. of Music  
Kalamazoo Valley Museum  
WMUK



## BRONZE

Cass County Parks & Recreation  
Kalamazoo County  
Juvenile Home Foundation  
Kalamazoo Public Library



## SUPPORTERS

Ali Law  
Kalamazoo Film Society



## PARTNERS

First Congregational United Church  
of Christ  
Kalamazoo College Arcus Center  
for Social Justice Leadership  
The Gilmore Piano Festival  
Western Michigan University  
Irving S. Gilmore School of Music



## IN-KIND SUPPORT

Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church  
Congregation of Moses  
Kalamazoo College Dept. of Music  
Kalamazoo Nature Center  
Kalamazoo Public Library  
Kalamazoo Valley Museum  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
Staybridge Suites Kalamazoo  
Stewards of Kleinstuck  
Western Michigan University  
Irving S. Gilmore School of Music



## GRANT SUPPORT

The Arts Fund of Kalamazoo County  
*A grant program of the Arts  
Council of Greater Kalamazoo*  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Arts Midwest GIG Fund  
Burdick-Thorne Foundation  
Irving S. Gilmore Foundation  
Michigan Arts & Culture Council  
Music Performance Trust Fund

The Marvin & Rosalie Okun  
Foundation  
Jacob & Naomi Stucki Fund  
at the Kalamazoo  
Community Foundation  
Stucki Family Foundation  
Suzanne Upjohn Delano Parish  
Foundation  
Harold & Grace Upjohn  
Foundation

# 2024 Individual Donors

Donations from January 1 to October 24, 2024

## Sponsors

Bernard Baker –  
*In Memory of Carol Baker*  
Chris & Kathy Shook  
Elizabeth J. Start –  
*In Memory of Clarice & Lester Start*

## Benefactors

Monica R. Chen  
Art & Janet Riley  
Eric Schmidt

## Patrons

Elizabeth Burns & Roger Zinser  
George & Linda Dunn  
Lexie Schroeder Kobb  
Ann Q. Paulson & Bill Pierce

## Supporters

Anonymous – 2  
Charles Binder  
Paul A. & Marlene K. Vlietstra Bosker  
Beau & Anna Bothwell  
Dennis & Janice Burke  
Tia Davis  
Ken & Sherril Dettloff  
Diane & Randall Eberts  
Anne Fischell

## Supporters, cont.

Marian & Ken Fisher  
Caroline Ham  
Sarah Husain –  
*In Memory of Gulnar Husain*  
Barbro & Norman Jung  
Wilma Kahn  
Janice E. Lakers  
Robert & Joyce Leppard  
Bill & Jeannette Maxey  
Tom Nehil & Gail Walter  
Frank & Lois Plaver  
Bill & Carrie Venema  
Helen Yee

## Friends

Anonymous  
David & Karin Loberg Code  
Carl Doubleday  
Joe & Louise Fugate  
Yvonne & Dale Gatz  
Dorothy A. Giovannini  
Judy Jolliffe  
Patricia & Richard Kirschner  
Carol & David Overton  
Lori Sims  
Phil & Judy VanderWeg  
Diane Worden

### 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](http://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.



# 2024 Festival Schedule

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

AUG										
									9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31				

SEPT										
1	2	3	4	5	6				7	
8	9	10	11	12	13				14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
29	30									

OCT										
	1	2	3	4						5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26				
27	28	29	30	31						

NOV											
										1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30					

DEC											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7					

**FREE Selkie at the Dark Sky Park**

**Friday, August 9 at 8:30 PM**  
Dr. T.K. Lawless Park,  
Vandalia, MI

**Kleinstuck Trail Walk**

**Saturday, September 7 at 6:00 PM**  
Kleinstuck Preserve  
\$10 suggested donation

**FREE Migratory Music**

**Saturday, September 14, 2:00-4:00 PM**  
Kalamazoo Nature Center

**FREE Live Music for Silent Classics**

**Saturday, October 5**  
**11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Kalamazoo Valley Museum

**IX Invoke**

**Sunday, October 13 at 5:00 PM**  
Stetson Chapel,  
Kalamazoo College

**IX Dave Meder Jazz Trio**

**Monday, October 21 at 7:00 PM**  
Dalton Center Recital Hall,  
Western Michigan University

**IX Lubana Al-Quntar**

**Thursday, October 24 at 7:00 PM**  
Stetson Chapel,  
Kalamazoo College

## **T** **Kitka**

**Friday, October 25 at 7:00 PM**  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

## **FREE** **Samite**

**Saturday, November 16 at 3:00 PM**  
Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church

## **T** **Grupo Bella**

**Sunday, November 3 at 4:00 PM**  
Dormouse Theatre

## **T** **Joe Buchanan**

**Sunday, November 17 at 4:00 PM**  
Congregation of Moses

## **FREE** **Awaken to Sound**

**Wednesday, November 13, 6:00 PM**  
Kalamazoo Public Library  
(Downtown)

## **FREE** **Messiah Sing**

**Sunday, December 1 at 4:00 PM**  
First Congregational  
United Church of Christ



Buy tickets in advance at [ccmusicfest.com](http://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 are held at will call before each show.)
- ▶ **We're committed to making our shows accessible to everyone:** we offer discounts for seniors (age 65+); active military & veterans; and patrons age 25 & under. A limited number of pay-what-you-can tickets will be available at each show.
- ▶ Tickets are always less expensive in advance – with no ticket fees! Order from our website at [ccmusicfest.com](http://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 of the performance!**



# DISCOVER Cass County Parks

Cabin Camping  
Hiking  
Disc Golf  
Fishing  
Picnicking



Dr. Lawless International  
Dark-Sky Park

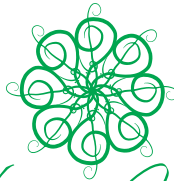
X-Country Skiing  
Inner Tube Sledding  
Mountain Biking  
Horseback Riding  
Stargazing

Season Passes Available!

## Recreation for all seasons



[www.casscountymi.org/CountyParks.aspx](http://www.casscountymi.org/CountyParks.aspx)  
or call 269-445-4456



## *Christmas in Kalamazoo*

A CONCERT PRESENTED BY THE  
**KALAMAZOO MALE CHORUS**  
**THE KALAMAZOO RINGERS**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD 7:30  
CENTERPOINT CHURCH 2345 N. 10TH STREET

ADMISSION FREE WITH FREEWILL OFFERING  
[KALAMAZOOMALECHORUS.ORG](http://KALAMAZOOMALECHORUS.ORG)





# Selkie at the Dark Sky Park

Friday, August 9 at 8:30 PM

Dr. T.K. Lawless Park

15122 Monkey Run Street, Vandalia, MI

Our annual return to the Dark Sky Park was perfect in *almost* every way – clear skies the entire week turned into a blanket of clouds on Friday night – but we still had a great turnout from enthusiastic patrons to hear fantastic music!

The sounds were provided by **Selkie**, a trio of dynamic Celtic musicians – **Jim Spalink**, **Michele Venegas**, and **Cara Lieurance**. The ensemble played long into the dark night; it was an amazing atmosphere.

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

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
CASS COUNTRY PARKS & RECREATION





# Kleinstuck Trail Walk

**Saturday, September 7 at 6:00 PM**

**Kleinstuck Preserve**

1001 W Maple Street, Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo-based sound artist/percussionist **Mike Weis**, guitarist **Tyler Bassett**, multi-instrumentalist **P.M. Tummala**, and cellist **Elizabeth Start** performed an improvised concert of ambient music in the Kleinstuck Preserve.

Prior to the performance, Mike led a 15-minute “silent walk” through the woods to the location where the other musicians were gathered. This quiet hike gave the attendees a chance to appreciate the sights (and especially the sounds) of the natural environment.

Despite the cooler temperatures, we had a great turnout, and this annual event remains a Festival favorite.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
STEWARDS OF KLEINSTUCK





# Migratory Music

**Saturday, September 14 from 2:00–4:00 PM**

**Kalamazoo Nature Center**

7000 N Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo

In partnership with the **Kalamazoo Nature Center's** "Sights & Sounds" Saturday, we reprised our popular Migratory Music event, featuring area artists stationed around the Nature Center.

A lineup of Festival favorites was on hand: **Selkie** (traditional and original Celtic music) was stationed in the butterfly garden; **Birdseed Salesmen** (gypsy jazz) played in the main amphitheater; **Bahar Ensemble** (traditional Middle Eastern music) performed on the bridge to the welcome center; and **Norse Code** (David and Karin Code) shared Scandinavian traditional folk music around the grounds.

In addition to the live music, there was an art reception for the Nature Center's new *Art Drawn From Nature* exhibit celebrating artwork by Native American artists. We were blessed with great weather, and the turnout for both the exhibit and musicians was fantastic!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





Free Event

## Live Music for Silent Classics

**Saturday, October 5 at 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
**Kalamazoo Valley Museum**

230 N Rose Street, Kalamazoo

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to sit in a movie theater 120 years ago? The six-piece ensemble collectively known as **Silent But Deadly** returns to the Festival, performing original soundtracks to silent films.

The performances will include a mix of original and compiled film scores created specially for four period silent shorts. The audience will be pulled into the world of Charles Ogle, Fatty Arbuckle, and Charlie Chaplin, in films produced between 1902 and 1914.

Join us for a trip back in time before sound films or theater organs. Back when small orchestras brought music and sound effects to the films, while the audience actively cheered the heroes and booed the villains. And yes, active audience participation will not only be encouraged but expected!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



## About the Musicians

Silent But Deadly is a chamber ensemble made up of Kalamazoo-based professional musicians whose purpose is to bring the art of the silent film soundtrack back to the modern era.

Their chief mission is to compose new music for silent classics while providing an entertaining and informative look at the world of silent film orchestration.

**Brandon Pacheco** – Violin, viola, mandolin

**Audrey Jansma** – Violin

**Taylor Crow** – Cello

**Neal Lensenmayer** – Bass

**Cara Lieurance** – Flute, accordion

**Jesse Williams** – Clarinet, saxophones

**Brandon Pacheco & Jonathan Moody** – Composers

## Filmography

### *A Christmas Carol* (1910)

Starring Marc McDermott, Charles Ogle  
Runtime: 11:00

### *Tango Tangles* (1914)

Starring Charlie Chaplin, Ford Sterling,  
"Fatty" Arbuckle  
Runtime: 12:00

### *Jack and the Beanstalk* (1902)

Starring James H. White, Thomas White  
Runtime: 10:00

### *Frankenstein* (1910)

Starring Mary Fuller, Charles Ogle  
Runtime: 16:00



2024·2025 SEASON

 **fontana**

P R E S E N T S

SUN, SEP 29, 2024 · 3:00 pm  
Dalton Center Recital Hall, WMU

**TAKÁCS QUARTET**

FRI, NOV 22, 2024 · 8:00 pm  
SAT, NOV 23, 2024 · 8:00 pm  
SUN, NOV 24, 2024 · 2:00 pm  
Wellspring Theater, Epic Center

**CHROMIC DUO  
WITH WELLSPRING'S  
FALL FESTIVAL OF DANCE**

FRI, FEB 21, 2025 · 7:30 pm  
Dalton Center Recital Hall, WMU

**ANAT COHEN  
QUARTETINHO**

SAT, APR 12, 2025 · 7:30 pm  
Dalton Center Recital Hall, WMU

**LYYRA**

FRI, JUN 6, 2025 · 7:30 pm  
Dalton Center Recital Hall, WMU

**AMIT PELED, CELLO  
DANIEL DEL PINO, PIANO**



TICKETS:

[fontanamusic.org](https://fontanamusic.org)  
269/250-6984



 Ticketed Event

# Invoke

**Sunday, October 13 at 5:00 PM**  
**Stetson Chapel, Kalamazoo College**

1200 Academy Street, Kalamazoo

**ADVANCE TICKETS:**

**\$17** GENERAL ADMISSION

**\$14** SENIORS, ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS

**\$5** AGES 25 & UNDER

**AT-THE-DOOR:**

**\$20** GENERAL ADMISSION

**\$15** SENIORS, ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS

**\$5** AGES 25 & UNDER

Described as "...not anything but everything: Classical, Folk, Bluegrass, Americana and a sound yet to be termed seamlessly merged into a perfect one" (David Srebnik, SiriusXM Classical Producer), **Invoke** strives to successfully dodge even the most valiant attempts at genre classification. *Strings Magazine* observes, "the remarkable string quartet Invoke has repeatedly proven one thing over its first 11 years: it simply cannot be contained by any one label."

CO-SPONSORED BY





The multi-instrumental quartet encompasses traditions from across America, including bluegrass, Appalachian fiddle tunes, jazz, and minimalism. Fueled by their passion for storytelling, Invoke weaves all of these styles together to form a unique contemporary repertoire.

Invoke's latest album *Evolve & Travel* (2023) lets the group completely abandon any semblance of the traditional "string quartet" formality and focus on what makes "Invoke" Invoke – best friends who

make the music they love to hear, weaving together threads of classical technique, folk improvisation, and musical camaraderie.

Invoke is strongly committed to championing diverse American voices through commissioning and highlighting new music. They have commissioned eight new works since 2017; the latest addition is *The Lessons of History* by Jonathan Bingham.



## WELLSPRING *Celebrates 44 Years!*

CORI TERRY & DANCERS

Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers exists to offer a unique and authentic voice in modern dance which serves to inspire, engage and educate our community.



At Wellspring Dance Academy, we place value in training our students to be authentic, judgement-free, creative community members. With both youth and adult class offerings, there's something for everyone!

Follow us on social media at @wellspringacademy for news and updates!



FALL CONCERT OF DANCE |  
NOVEMBER 22-24, 2024  
IN COLLABORATION WITH  
FONTANA CHAMBER ARTS

MOVEMENT IN THE MUSEUM |  
JANUARY 16TH  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE KALAMAZOO  
INSTITUTE OF ARTS

16TH ANNUAL RADFEST |  
FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 2, 2025

SPRING CONCERT OF  
DANCE |  
APRIL 27, 2025

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE  
KALAMAZOO SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

[www.wellspringdance.org](http://www.wellspringdance.org)



 Ticketed Event

# Dave Meder Jazz Trio

Monday, October 21 at 7:00 PM

Dalton Center Recital Hall, Western Michigan University

1300 Theatre Drive, Kalamazoo

---

**ADVANCE TICKETS:**

**\$17** GENERAL ADMISSION

**\$14** SENIORS, ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS

**\$5** AGES 25 & UNDER

**AT-THE-DOOR:**

**\$20** GENERAL ADMISSION

**\$15** SENIORS, ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS

**\$5** AGES 25 & UNDER

---

Pianist, composer, and educator **Dave Meder** is one of the prominent artists of his generation, known for a broad musical palette and interdisciplinary approach recognized in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition, the American Pianists Awards, and the Chamber Music America New Jazz Works commissioning program.

His defining aesthetic is a strikingly postmodern sense of stylistic adventure, skillfully balancing “post-bop harmonies with soulful gospel warmth and contemporary classical sophistication” (*All Music Guide*).

Meder will be joined by **Martin Jaffe** (bass) and **Michael Piolet** (drums).

IN COLLABORATION WITH

**GILMORE**





## About Dave Meder

Meder has headlined stages or held educational residencies at Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, as well as internationally in Beijing, Tokyo, Sao Paulo, and most recently Egypt as a United States Fulbright Scholar.



The beginnings of Meder's jazz education were mostly self-guided. He was still a teenager

when he began teaching professionally at a local music shop. While ensconced in his classical studies, he formed an after-school jazz band with friends in their middle school. With oversight from a generous band director, the jazz ensemble became a reality, and Meder became enamored of the art form, working at it until college.

Meder holds undergraduate degrees from Florida State University, an MM from New York University and an Artist Diploma from The Juilliard School. Concurrent to his graduate studies, Meder worked for three years as the music director of Fordham Lutheran Church in the Bronx.

"I was raised in the church, and I've always played in it too," Meder says. "In the context of all the other 'brainy' stuff I've studied in music school, [the church] forced me to make a soulful connection to it – to try and make what I was absorbing more personal and musical."

*In addition to his performance, Meder will be conducting a jazz workshop for area students.*

# THE GILMORE

2024  2025  
SEASON



TICKETS  
ON SALE  
[thegilmore.org](http://thegilmore.org)





 Ticketed Event

# Lubana Al-Quntar

**Thursday, October 24 at 7:00 PM**  
**Stetson Chapel, Kalamazoo College**  
1200 Academy Street, Kalamazoo

**ADVANCE TICKETS:**

**\$12** GENERAL ADMISSION  
**\$5** AGES 25 & UNDER

**AT-THE-DOOR:**

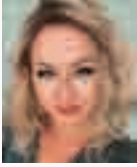
**\$15** GENERAL ADMISSION  
**\$12** SENIORS, ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS  
**\$5** AGES 25 & UNDER

Born in Syria, **Lubana Al-Quntar** showed an unusual gift for singing challenging music at an early age. Today Lubana performs a wide range of repertoire within the Arab music canon, which includes music from the classical, contemporary, folk, and pop genres. Her expressive voice allows her to add luster and richness to the various singing styles.

Throughout her performance in Kalamazoo, Lubana will be joined by members of **Bahar Ensemble**, Kalamazoo College's **Bayati Ensemble**, as well as the children's group **Orchestra Rouh**.

CO-SPONSORED BY



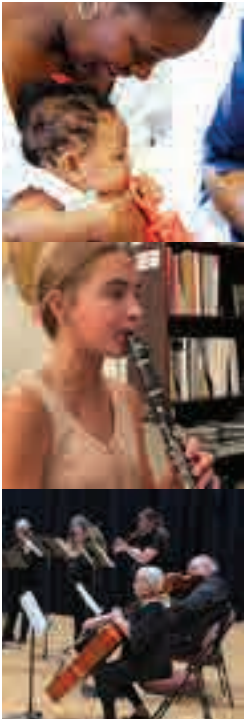


### **About Lubana Al-Quntar**

In addition to traditional Arab song, Lubana studied opera and became the first Syrian opera singer to attain international recognition. She comes from a Syrian family that is deeply rooted in classical Arabic music.

She is related to singer/actress **Amal Al-Atrash** (known by her stage name, **Asmahan**) and her brother, renowned composer and singer **Farid Al-Atrash**. These connections influenced her musical path and played an important role in her decision to seek a career as a professional singer.

Since 1996, Lubana has toured in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and North America. In 2006, she returned to Syria to head the Department of Opera Singing at the Syrian National Conservatory. She launched the Department of Classical Arabic Singing, allowing students to study both Western and Arabic forms together for the very first time.



## *crescendo* academy of music

*your community music school*  
*Music instruction for all ages and abilities!*

*Private Lessons* on strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, guitar, ukulele, piano, and voice

*Community Voices* musical experiences for teens & adults with intellectual disabilities

*Community Chamber Orchestra* for amateur adult musicians

*Music Together® Mixed Ages, Rhythm Kids & Babies* for ages 0-6

*Need-based financial aid available*

359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 12  
information@crescendoacademy.com  
www.crescendoacademy.com 269/345-6664



 Ticketed Event

# Kitka

**Friday, October 25 at 7:00 PM**

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

247 W. Lovell Street, Kalamazoo

---

**ADVANCE TICKETS:**

**\$17** GENERAL ADMISSION

**\$14** SENIORS, ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS

**\$5** AGES 25 & UNDER

**AT-THE-DOOR:**

**\$20** GENERAL ADMISSION

**\$15** SENIORS, ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS

**\$5** AGES 25 & UNDER

---

**Kitka** is an American women's vocal ensemble inspired by traditional songs and vocal techniques from Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The women are fearless sonic explorers, and you can hear their intrepid spirit in every haunting song.

Traveling to rural communities in Armenia and Bulgaria, Ukraine and Georgia, Serbia and Turkey, they've gathered songs and communed with elders who are often the last links to centuries-old traditions. The ravishing textures of the women's voices, unearthly cadences, angular rhythms and unfamiliar languages make Kitka's performances an enthralling experience.

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE JACOB & NAOMI STUCKI FUND AT THE  
KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND STUCKI FAMILY FOUNDATION

## About Kitka

Founded in 1979 as an offshoot of the Westwind International Folk Ensemble, Kitka began as a grassroots group of singers from diverse ethnic and musical backgrounds who shared a passion for the stunning dissonances, asymmetric rhythms, intricate ornamentation, and resonant strength of traditional Eastern European women's vocal music.

Since its informal beginnings, the group has evolved into an award-winning professional touring ensemble known for its artistry, versatility, and mastery of the demanding techniques of regional vocal styling.

The ensemble has produced 14 critically acclaimed recordings on the group's independent Diaphonica label (most recently, *Evening Star*); songbooks; soundtracks for major motion pictures and independent films; and *Kitka and Davka in Concert: Old and New World Jewish Music*, a PBS television special.

### **A symbolic word in Balkan folk songs, “Kitka” means “bouquet” in Bulgarian and Macedonian.**

The members of Kitka go well beyond live performance and recording. Their activities include a home series of concerts and vocal workshops; leadership of community choirs; school programs; artist residencies; commissioning original works; community service; and adventuresome collaborations.



Another important aspect of Kitka's work has been the creation of multidisciplinary vocal theater works that tell stories of unconventional women in Eastern European folklore, myth, and history. Projects of note include *Hecuba* with **Olympia Dukakis** and **Viola Davis**, directed by Carey Perloff; and a critically acclaimed, sold-out run of *Iron Shoes*, a contemporary folk opera created by **Michelle Carter** (playwright), **Janet Kutulas** (composer), and **Erika Chong Shuch** (director and choreographer), co-produced by Shotgun Players.

With an over-arching mission of cultivating local and global community through song, Kitka's wide-ranging performance, teaching, and recording activities have exposed millions to the haunting beauty of the ensemble's exquisite and unusual repertoire.



**T** Ticketed Event

## Grupo Bella

**Sunday, November 3 at 4:00 PM**  
**Dormouse Theatre**

1030 Portage Street, Kalamazoo

---

**ADVANCE TICKETS:**

**\$12** GENERAL ADMISSION  
**\$5** AGES 25 & UNDER

**AT-THE-DOOR:**

**\$15** GENERAL ADMISSION  
**\$12** SENIORS, ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS  
**\$5** AGES 25 & UNDER

---

Join us for a special *Día de los Muertos* concert with **Grupo Bella**, a multi-faceted ensemble from the Los Angeles area. The group is quickly becoming known for their excellent musicianship and diverse repertoire.

With their use of traditional instrumentation, they have their roots in the Mariachi genre while also spanning the music of many different cultures, decades, and various Latin American and American styles.

Together, the ensemble creates a powerful musical force that performs throughout Southern California, the United States, and Mexico. Some of their greatest honors include performing for the Smithsonian American History Museum in Washington, D.C.; the Santa Barbara Bowl in Santa Barbara, CA; and the Teatro Degollado in Guadalajara, Jalisco.

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



Free Event

# Awaken to Sound

Wednesday, November 13 at 6:00 PM  
Kalamazoo Public Library (Downtown)

315 S Rose Street, Kalamazoo

The four-person ensemble **Awaken to Sound** creates relaxing, immersive sound experiences with Tibetan healing bowls and song.

- In addition to her musical pursuits, **Leni Rice** cherishes her role as a grandmother. Leni's dedication to sound healing and family underscores her passion for enriching lives through music and personal connections.
- **Sue Kuhr**'s enthusiasm for sound extends beyond performance; she finds joy in her garden and is passionate about educating others on the therapeutic benefits of sound and relaxation techniques.
- **Victory Mihalek** is recognized as an energy healer, harnessing his intuitive abilities to promote healing and balance. He practices martial arts and draws inspiration from the beauty and rhythms of nature.
- Hailing from Latvia, **Karina Enina** draws on ancient traditions to connect with nature and spirituality. She is a dedicated massage therapist, using her healing touch to promote relaxation and well-being.

With a passion for both celestial melodies and earthly connections, vocalist **Wendi Sullivan** joins the ensemble to create a unique soundscape.

CO-SPONSORED BY



Kalamazoo  
Public Library



Free Event

## Samite

**Saturday, November 16 at 3:00 PM**  
**Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church**

804 W North Street Kalamazoo

**Samite** (pronounced Sahn-ê-tay) was born and raised in Uganda, where his grandfather taught him to play the traditional flute. When he was twelve, a music teacher placed a western flute in his hands, setting him on his way to becoming one of East Africa's most acclaimed flutists. He performed frequently to enthusiastic audiences throughout Uganda until 1982, when he was forced to flee to Kenya as a political refugee.

Immigrating to the United States in 1987, Samite makes his home in upstate New York with his wife and manager Sandra. His smooth vocals accompanied by the kalimba, marimba, and various flutes mesmerize audiences worldwide.



THIS ENGAGEMENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE ARTS MIDWEST GIG FUND, A PROGRAM OF ARTS MIDWEST THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, WITH ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL.



ESTA SERIE CUENTA CON EL APOYO DE ARTS MIDWEST GIG FUND, UN PROGRAMA DE ARTS MIDWEST FINANCIADO POR LA AGENCIA DEL FONDO NACIONAL DE LAS ARTES Y CON CONTRIBUCIONES ADICIONALES DEL MICHIGAN ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL.





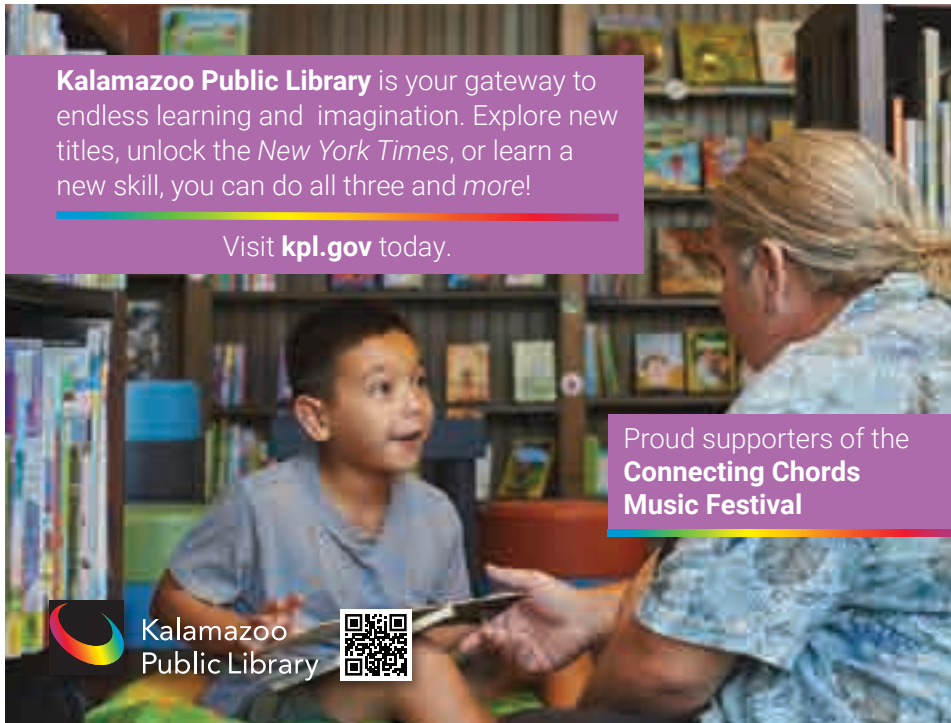


Samite is the subject of the documentary *Song of the Refugee* distributed by PBS in 1998. It was while filming this production that his work as a humanitarian began. Samite founded Musicians for World Harmony in 2002, an organization dedicated to enabling musicians throughout the world to share their music to promote peace, understanding, and harmony among peoples. He travels to sing, play music, and exchange stories with victims of war, poverty, and HIV. He has

traveled extensively to war-torn countries in Africa to work in refugee camps, with former child soldiers, and AIDS orphans.

Samite has released ten CDs internationally; his latest *Another Side of Me* was released in 2016.

*In addition to providing this concert, Samite will be conducting an outreach event at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home and visiting the nonprofit organization Rootead.*



**Kalamazoo Public Library** is your gateway to endless learning and imagination. Explore new titles, unlock the *New York Times*, or learn a new skill, you can do all three and *more!*

Visit [kpl.gov](http://kpl.gov) today.

Proud supporters of the  
**Connecting Chords  
Music Festival**



Kalamazoo  
Public Library





 Ticketed Event

## Joe Buchanan

Sunday, November 17 at 4:00 PM

Congregation of Moses

2501 Stadium Drive

---

**ADVANCE TICKETS:**

**\$17** GENERAL ADMISSION

**\$14** SENIORS, ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS

**\$5** AGES 25 & UNDER

**AT-THE-DOOR:**

**\$20** GENERAL ADMISSION

**\$15** SENIORS, ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS

**\$5** AGES 25 & UNDER

---

Texas-born and southern-raised, **Joe Buchanan** makes country music that is steeped in Torah. Grounded in the idea that there is always room at the table, Joe's music highlights the values, Torah, and history of the Jewish people to deliver stories about the struggle and triumph of the human spirit.

Raised with one foot in Houston and one in the Texas Hill Country, Joe grew up swinging off ropes on the Frio River and spending time like any kid – trying to figure out what was what. The biggest question was about G-d; despite a deep belief in a creator, he couldn't find much he agreed with in what he was hearing.



The Jewish Federation  
OF KALAMAZOO AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

CO-SPONSORED BY THE RAVITZ FOUNDATION INITIATIVE FOR  
SMALL MICHIGAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES, THROUGH THE JEWISH  
FEDERATION OF KALAMAZOO AND SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN



The struggle led to more struggles, and he finally decided that he and G-d would sort it out later.

A fateful trip to Washington D.C. changed Joe's life. During a trip to the Holocaust Museum, his wife – 13 years into their marriage – revealed that she was Jewish. An exploration of faith led the way home for the whole family and ultimately led to Joe's debut album, *Unbroken*, released in 2020.

Since his conversion, he's toured the country leading prayer, concerts, and workshops. Joe's goal is to help drive connection to what connects us all and to hold the door for other seekers. A blend of Southern soul and country charm, his music is grounded in the belief that there is always more room at the table.

Joe will be joined in this performance by his bandmates **Berek Awend**, **Russ Gold**, **Saul Kaye** and **Randy Wall**.

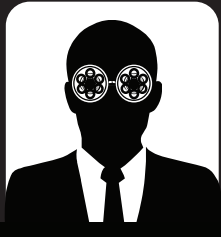
50TH ANNUAL  
**STULBERG**  
INTERNATIONAL  
STRING COMPETITION

May 17, 2025  
Kalamazoo, MI

stulberg.org  
@stulbergcomp

# Kalamazoo County JUVENILE HOME FOUNDATION

*Helping young people to become  
socially responsible, productive  
community members.*



**kalamazoo film society**

*Our mission is to support and  
encourage a vibrant cinematic  
community in Southwest Michigan.*

**join today**

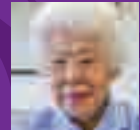
**[www.kalfilmsociety.net](http://www.kalfilmsociety.net)**



*In memory of*  
**Wen Chao Chen**  
**Lilia Chen**  
**Mike Chen**



**Dr. Wen Chao Chen**  
MFSM Founder



**Lilia Chen**  
MFSM Supporter



**Mike Chen**  
MFSM Supporter



Free Event

# Messiah Sing

**Sunday, December 1 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 with vocal soloists from the Kalamazoo area. Chorus 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!

IN COLLABORATION WITH





LAW PRACTICE

A proud sponsor of  
the Connecting Chords  
Music Festival

**Tawfiq I. Ali**

Ali Law Practice PLC    Ali Law Practice LLC  
PO Box 19855            200 E. Randolph St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49019    Suite 5100-24  
Chicago, IL 60601

**(269) 888-5011**

[www.alilawpractice.com](http://www.alilawpractice.com)

**NEW YEAR'S FEST**  
DOWNTOWN KALAMAZOO

20+ Live Performances

7 Venues

Balldrop & Fireworks at midnight

5:30 p.m. to midnight

Celebrating the New Year in  
Downtown Kalamazoo since 1986  
Join us at [NewYearsFest.com](http://NewYearsFest.com)



CONNECTING  
**CHORDS**  
MUSIC FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATES



**San Jose Taiko**

**March 25, 2025**

Comstock Auditorium

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
KALAMAZOO RESA EDUCATION FOR THE ARTS

*We'll be talking about this concert  
and more at the **March ArtBreak**  
at the **Kalamazoo Institute of Arts**  
on **March 19, 2025!***

**HUNAN GARDENS**  
CHINESE RESTAURANT



*Authentic Regional  
Chinese Cuisine*

*Our food is always freshly  
made to order with the  
finest ingredients*

**West Main Location**

5059 W. Main St.

Kalamazoo, MI 49009

(269) 373-1188

[www.hunangardenskzoo.com](http://www.hunangardenskzoo.com)



CONNECTING  
**CHORDS**  
MUSIC FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY



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



## Stay in touch!

Thank you for attending one of our events, please stay in touch!  
If you would like to **follow us on social media**, **join our email list**,  
**leave us feedback** or **donate to the Festival** – links to everything  
can be found by scanning the QR code above with your phone.

You can also visit our website directly at:

**[ccmusicfest.com](http://ccmusicfest.com)**

## Leave us feedback!

Please let us know what you think of our Festival events.  
Your feedback is incredibly helpful in shaping future programming  
and letting us know how we can improve.

**On-site evaluation forms are available at all of our events,  
and you can access our online survey from our website.**

# Yo-Yo Ma Comes to Kalamazoo!



KALAMAZOO  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

## An Evening with Yo-Yo Ma

MON | JUNE 2, 2025  
Tickets Start at \$65

Legendary musician Yo-Yo Ma comes to Kalamazoo for one night only. Get your tickets now to get the best seats to hear this incredible artist.

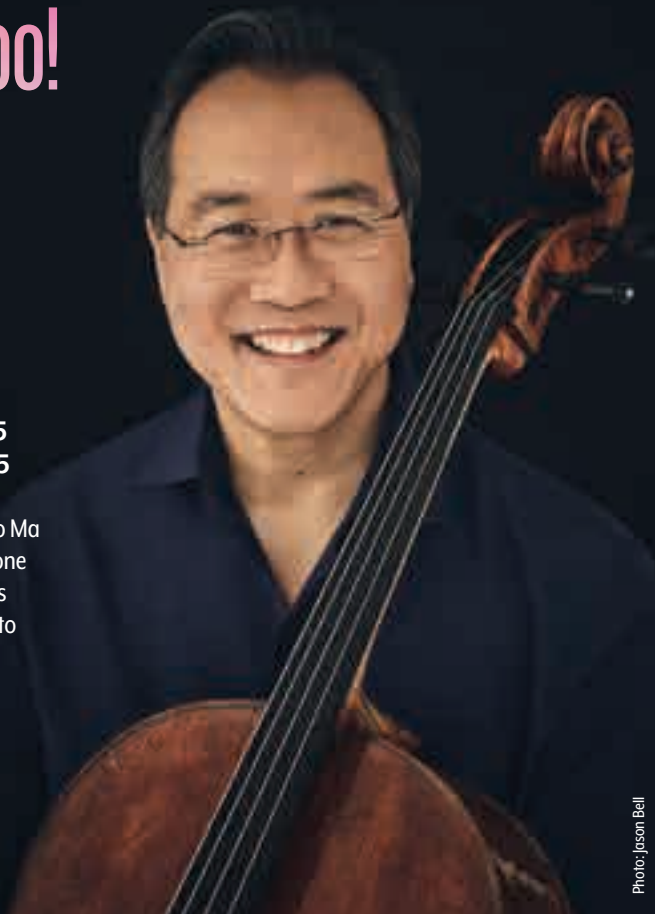


Photo: Jason Bell

Yo-Yo Ma's appearance is generously underwritten by:

*Diane S. Robertson*



*The Larry and Shannon Bell  
Donor Advised Fund*

Get Your Tickets Today! 269.250.6984 | [KalamazooSymphony.com](https://www.KalamazooSymphony.com)