

Tuesday, Jan 05, 2016

## Winter 2016 Performance Season Highlights

It's a new year, and we have another winter semester filled with reasons to leave the comfort of hearth and home, make the journey to Varner and enjoy fine performances in a diverse range of music, theatre and dance styles.

No matter how many times we say this, it's always true; we have something for everyone, as well as opportunities to experience performances you may never have seen before. How about a radical new approach to a dark sixteenth-century classic drama? The ancient music of southern India presented by modern stars of the art? We've got both of those - and more.

On January 9, acclaimed vibraphonist **Joe Locke** will be the guest at **OU's Percussion Day**, which is a free workshop open to all ages.

On January 10, **Joe Locke will play with the OU Jazz Band** at the MotorCity Casino Hotel's Sound Board in Detroit, with special guests the DSO Civic Jazz Orchestra. This will be a huge occasion for our music students and we hope you will make the trip downtown to enjoy their work in this spectacular location.

*Joe Locke*



We're delighted and proud that the **Shanghai Quartet** will perform in Varner Recital Hall on January 17. Also performing will be **David Small**, baritone. This is the third concert in our Chamber Music Society of Detroit at OU series. The Shanghai Quartet is one of the world's foremost chamber ensembles.

Dance opens its season with the annual **Detroit Dance Artists Showcase**. The Oakland dancers will perform the work of rising professional choreographers from local companies, including **Eisenhower Dance** and **Take Root**. There will be four performances from Thursday January 21 until Saturday 23.

If you're an *aficionado* of the German melodic tradition, you won't want to miss our **Faculty Collaborative Chamber Music Concert** on January 24. Expect music by Rheinberger, Spohr and Hindemith.



*The Shanghai Quartet*

On January 19, the **OU Brass Band will be joined on the Varner stage by Matthew Murchison**, one of the country's premier euphonium players. They will perform the music of British composer John McCabe.

The first theatrical production of the year, **Faust(US)**, which runs from February 4 until February 14, will be a radical new approach to Christopher Marlowe's dark sixteenth-century drama. A collaborative rehearsal process promises to yield a production utilizing multimedia and video projections.

The Oakland Symphony Orchestra will give two concerts during the winter semester. On February 14, **Rhys Burgess, Michaela Judkins, Robert Skylis and Jaleel Williams**, the winners of the 2016 Oakland University Concerto Competition, will perform at the **19th Annual Daniels Young Artists Concert**.

On April 5, the **Oakland Symphony Orchestra, the Oakland University Symphony Chorus and the Madrigal Chorale** will perform at Orchestra Hall in Detroit. A highlight of the evening will be *Alexander Nevsky* by Prokofiev. Both of these concerts are truly highlights of the season. We would love to see the entire Music, Theatre and Dance community at each of them.

On February 28, Varner Hall will resound with the sound of South India in **An Afternoon of Carnatic Music**. There will be a workshop, a concert talk and then the grand classical concert itself. It's an unmissable experience for anyone looking for a new learning or performance experience, and, of course, for people who already love Carnatica.

We're very excited about a new event on this year's calendar - the **Alumni Voice Gala Concert** on March 11. We expect some of our fine voice alumni to return to campus for an evening of operatic performances. We invite everyone to join the celebration. All proceeds from the concert will support scholarships for music majors studying voice.

The program will feature Eastern European gypsy and folk traditions in classical music.



Poster art by Beth Guest

March and April offer an abundance of musical offerings, among them, the **Univers Chorus and Oakland Chorale** on March 18 and 19; the **OU Chamber Orchestra**; **Third Annual Keyboard Concerto Competition** on March 24; and the **World Percussion and Percussion Ensemble with guest Roger Braun** on April 14.

Stephen Sondheim's **Assassins** will take over Varner Studio Theatre from March 3 until April 9. This darkly comic musical, which investigates the lives and lunacy of American presidential assassins, is a satirical and thought-provoking Tony Award winner.

**Regina Carter**, renowned jazz violinist will be at Oakland University in April. On she'll be joined by the Oakland Jazz Quartet for a **Children's Concert** that will feature everyone's favorite movie music.

The following day, April 2, **Oakland Jazz Quartet will appear with Regina Carter** at The Carr Center in Detroit. Expect an unforgettable night of passionate and creative music.

In addition to our main stage productions, every semester our theatre students are cast in Company Class productions, which are taken as classes. They offer extremely good entertainment and thought provoking theatrical experiences, and everyone is welcome to be part of the audience.

This semester **In the Red and Brown Water** by Tarell Alvin McCraney, will run from April 14 until April 17. It's a stunning modern work that tells the intoxicating story of a young girl dealing with the murky waters of life.



Regina Carter

We have two big dance events on consecutive weekends in April. The dance majors will present their annual **Young Choreographers Forum** on April 14 through April 17. In addition to the students' choreography, the work of guest **Loni Landon** will also be shown.

On April 22 and 23, our dance company in residence, **Take Root**, will present **Order to Disorder**. The concert will showcase their trademark intricate partnering, thought-provoking detail and unrestricted vision.

Our wonderful voice students will be on campus after the semester is finished to work on a production of **Die Fledermaus**, which you can see from May 3 until May 8. Some of the most melodic music ever written tells a story of mistaken identities, flirtations and frivolities of all kinds. Mark your calendar now; you'll be happy you did.



We will end the season as we always do, with our children's theatre production, which this year is **The Adventures of Pinocchio** on the weekend of May 20 to May 22. This traditional tale of the wooden puppet who longs to be a real boy will feature inventive puppetry. This family musical illuminates the bond between parents and children, the very fabric of life, and is sure to enchant audiences of all ages.

These are just a select few of our season events. We have many more performances. Visit **our website** for more information or call us with your questions, (248) 370-2030.