Welcome to the 19th season of the University of Delaware’s Master Players Concert Series (“Master Players”), one of the true gems of our community because of its tradition of presenting live musical performances of the highest quality. We hope you will join us for what promises to be another amazing series of concerts.

The theme for this year is “New Beginnings,” reflecting the optimism and hopefulness that we all feel in the presence of inspirational music performed by incredibly talented artists. As individuals and as a society, we have all endured myriad challenges during the past few years. Yet it is music — especially live music, whether enjoyed in person or online — that has helped sustain us and strengthen us. When we share a musical experience, we share a deep connection with one another, and it restores us and prepares us to begin anew.

The 2022-23 season of Master Players features so many wonderful musicians. Some are UD’s own artists, some will make their Delaware debut this year, and all of them will bring tremendous passion and skill to the stage. What’s more, we will get to enjoy a special production of “Shanghai Sonatas,” created by Founding Artistic Director Xiang Gao, which tells its own compelling story of hardship, courage and rebirth.

We want to thank everyone who has supported — and continues to support — Master Players throughout this time: musicians, faculty, staff and most of all, you, the patrons who make this program possible.

We look forward to seeing you during this spectacular season.

Sincerely,

Dennis and Eleni Assanis
President and First Lady of the University of Delaware
DEAR MUSIC FRIENDS,

Welcome to “New Beginnings” - the 19th season of the Master Players Concert Series at the University of Delaware. The College of Arts and Sciences is proud to bring you both live and virtual music experiences. As the home of Master Players, we celebrate this season’s world class concert presentations planned and produced by University of Delaware Trustees Distinguished Professor of Music Xiang Gao and his team.

We thank the generous donors of Master Players and the Master Players Advisory Council members for their support and leadership. Their work and support are crucial to the success of this concert series.

I hope you will enjoy the array of virtuoso musicians featured by Master Players this season. They will not only share their impeccable musical talents with us here at UD, but signal a new beginning for our community and our students.

I look forward to seeing you at Master Players concerts this season.

Sincerely,

John A. Pelesko
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Dear friends,

The entire world experienced a profound sense of hopelessness during the pandemic. The fact that you are reading this letter means you are likely to agree with us on one thing: since its return, live music has clearly shown its healing power among all peoples, now more than ever!

Welcome to the UD Master Players Concert Series’ 19th season, which we have named “New Beginnings.”

“New Beginnings” is also the title of the original cover art created by our artist-in-residence David Brinley, UD Professor of Art. This artwork reflects our love of music and invites you to re-engage with normal life in a new chapter at Master Players.

Take advantage of our affordable world class concerts and educational offerings. We are honored to present many leading artists and young virtuosos making their Delaware debuts this season. Please book your tickets early, as these events will most likely sell out in the first few weeks of the fall. This season, we are launching a new box office platform that will make purchasing a ticket faster and easier for people of all ages. We are also proud to offer a new livestream option that will allow those who live far away or with physical limitations to experience the excitement of our live concerts at home.

Following our recent Broadway readings, the new UD-born musical Shanghai Sonatas has advanced to its 5th edition. The concert version is being created for audiences worldwide. The world premiere of the concert production will take place on March 16-18, 2023, at the world-famous Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts in Beverly Hills, CA. Before this production travels to the West Coast—representing Delaware and UD in the heart of Hollywood—we invite you to enjoy the East Coast premiere of “Music and Songs of Shanghai Sonatas - A New Musical”, presented in Mitchell Hall in November.

Among the many New Beginnings at Master Players, we are proud to announce that our beloved Little Masters Project will make its full return this fall. This community-based educational program, which offers free instruments and music lessons to
underprivileged kids, is an important one that is close to our hearts. This project is under the artistic advisory of Associate Dean Suzanne Burton. The Little Masters Project would not have been possible without the inspiring leadership of our council member, Randy Stone, who led an effective fundraising campaign in spring of 2022 to bring this important project back to our community.

Fasten your seatbelt and join us for a scenic ride through our New Beginnings!

Yours in music,

Xiang Gao, Producing Artistic Director
Michael Luck, Chair of the Master Players Advisory Council

ABOUT MASTER PLAYERS

MASTER PLAYERS CONCERT SERIES (“MASTER PLAYERS”) SERVES AS THE CULTURAL AMBASSADOR FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE. Producing Artistic Director Xiang Gao, international artist and University of Delaware Trustees Distinguished Professor of Music, brings a rich and wide array of world-class musicians to the UD campus and to underserved local communities. The series’ hallmarks are its high artistic standards, the Delaware debuts of remarkable artists, and its diverse and distinctive programming. Master Players is proud to offer a large variety of public performances in our numerous university venues and throughout the region. Master Players is co-sponsored by our long-term collaborating unit, the UD School of Music.
COUNCIL & STAFF

Advisory Council
As of September 2022

C. Michael Luck, Chair
Catriona Binder-Macleod
Justin Chou ‘13
Debi Crowley
Xiang Gao, Ex-officio
Susan B. Grossman
Dr. Charles E. Hockersmith
Linda J. Myrick ‘77
Stuart J. Sharkey
Randy Stone
Dawn Yang ‘08

Advisory Council Chairs Emeriti

Dr. Richard B. Fischer
Marichu Valencia

Ensemble-in-Residence
6-WIRE

Master Players Staff

Xiang Gao
Producing Director
Melissa Kitchen
General Manager
Ryan Touhey
Executive Assistant to Director
Brian Binrui Mo
Production Manager
Adam Davis
Artist Coordinator
Kathryn Tuttle
Outreach Coordinator
Ben Zong
Production & Finance Assistant
Esther Yixue Wang
Production Assistant
Emajé Jabali
Production Intern

College of Arts & Sciences Staff Support

Stephanie Lambert
Business Administrator
Kajsa Haracz
Director of Communications
Heather Mekulski
Manager, Arts Programs & Performances
Diana Milburn
Communications Specialist
Alexis Kocerhan
Grants Analyst
Alison Yerger
Senior Business Officer

Special thanks to the Associate Dean of the Arts, Dr. Suzanne Burton, for her support and leadership of our organization.

Special thanks to the UD School of Music staff and Interim Director Mark Clodfelter.
Among the most experienced and versatile musicians today, the American pianist Benjamin Pasternack has performed as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician on four continents. His orchestral engagements have included appearances as a soloist with the Boston Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, the Tonhalle Orchestra of Zurich, the New Japan Philharmonic, and more. He was the Grand Prize winner of the inaugural World Music Masters Piano Competition held in Paris and Nice in July 1989. Bestowed by the unanimous vote of a distinguished panel of judges, the honor carried with it a $30,000 award and engagements throughout Europe and North America. After fourteen years on the piano faculty of Boston University, he joined the piano faculty of the Peabody Conservatory of Music in September 1997. Mr. Pasternack’s Delaware debut will feature works by Mozart, Chopin, Ravel and Liszt-Horowitz. This event is underwritten by Stuart & Dorothy Sharkey.

100 minutes including intermission, Ages 10+
In Person, Livestream or On Demand

Visit www.masterplayers.udel.edu or scan the QR code to get your in-person or virtual ticket!
MUSIC & SONGS OF
SHANGHAI SONATAS: A NEW MUSICAL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 8 P.M. ET | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 3 P.M. ET (REPEAT) | MITCHELL HALL

Now entering the fourth year of its creative process, the 5th edition of the new Delaware-born musical Shanghai Sonatas will be presented on the Master Players stage as a concert production. This newly created hybrid performance conceptualized and composed by Xiang Gao combines live instrumental music with musical theater to promote the unifying power of classical music and awareness of the Holocaust, genocide and racial violence. The book of Shanghai Sonatas is written by Alan Goodson, with lyrics written by UD Professor Joyce Hill Stoner.

Based on real historical events, it shares the memoirs of Jewish classical musicians who escaped Nazi Germany, found refuge in Shanghai, China in the 1930’s, and went on to survive the war and educate the first generation of Chinese classical musicians. Today, there are roughly 60 million classical musicians worldwide who are of Chinese descent. Many of them are directly or indirectly connected to this part of history.

This concert production is directed by New York City-based stage director Chongren Fan and music directed by Asher Denburg. Broadway singing actors and orchestral musicians will share the stage with stellar UD faculty musicians, students and alumni.

East Coast Premiere | 100 minutes including intermission, ages 8+ | In Person Only

This event is in collaboration with Memor NYC Inc. and ShowTown Theatricals (General Management).

Visit www.masterplayers.udel.edu or scan the QR code to get your ticket!
SPECIAL EVENTS:

SHANGHAI SONATAS EDUCATIONAL RESIDENCY

NOVEMBER 2022 | VARIOUS LOCATIONS (TO BE ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 2022)

Special events celebrating Asian American culture and promoting Asian Hate awareness | Free of charge, registration required

Leading up to the November 18th East Coast premiere of Music and Songs of Shanghai Sonatas: A New Musical, Master Players presents the Shanghai Sonatas Educational Residency (SSER), a series of educational activities promoting the awareness of Asian hate, the Holocaust, and genocide.

We hope you will join us for the many inspiring, free-of-charge educational events offered during SSER, from a curated docufilm series to special multimedia presentations by many world-renowned scholars and historians on topics such as the Shanghai Jewish Ghetto musicians, Chinese traditional music and culture, the Holocaust, WWII and modern Chinese history.

SSER will include events such as:

- Documentary screenings, including the Oscar-winning From Mao to Mozart and The Garden Bridge, a new documentary about the making of Shanghai Sonatas
- Traveling exhibition from the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum
- “From Page to Stage”: conversations and Q&As with the creators and cast of Shanghai Sonatas
- Multimedia presentations with Dr. Sophie Fetthauer, Shanghai Jewish Refugees researcher from Germany
- Special presentation and book signing with Betty Grebenschikoff, Shanghai Jewish ghetto refugee and author of Once My Name Was Sara: A Memoir

Please sign up for our VIP newsletter list to receive the event schedule when it is announced.

Funding has been provided from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Delaware Humanities as part of the 2021 American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.
What better way to get into the holiday spirit than with songs of good cheer brought to you by The Swingles? The Grammy® winners present a banquet of music to keep out the cold, with folk- and jazz-inspired original songs served alongside traditional carols and festive favorites. The Swingles' crystalline vocals evoke icebound worlds, blankets of snow and fireside singalongs.

The unmistakable sound of the Swingles has long been associated with Christmas, and audiences can look forward to music from six decades of holiday releases including music from their recent holiday album Yule Songs vol. II. Alongside these seasonal specialities, the program includes favorite pieces from the group's year-round touring repertoire.

This event will be a homecoming celebration for Swingles member Jon Smith, one of UD's most successful music alumni.

110 minutes including intermission, Ages 6+ | In Person, Livestream or On Demand

Visit www.masterplayers.udel.edu or scan the QR code to get your in-person or virtual ticket!
Celebrating over two decades of music making as one of the most celebrated woodwind quintets in the world, the twice Grammy-nominated Imani Winds has led both a revolution and evolution of the wind quintet through their dynamic playing, adventurous programming, imaginative collaborations and outreach endeavors that have inspired audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

The ensemble’s playlist embraces traditional chamber music repertoire, and as a 21st century group, Imani Winds is devoutly committed to expanding the wind quintet repertoire by commissioning music from new voices that reflect historical events and the times in which we currently live.

In 2016, Imani Winds received their greatest accolade in their 20 years of music making: a permanent presence in the classical music section of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC.

100 minutes including intermission, Ages 10+ | In Person, Livestream or On Demand

Visit www.masterplayers.udel.edu or scan the QR code to get your in-person or virtual ticket!
Kuwento Mizik: Songs and Stories from the Philippines to Ukraine

SATURDAY, MARCH 18 | 3 P.M. ET | GORE RECITAL HALL

Kuwento (KWEN-toh), Filipino for “story,” and Mizik (mi-ZEEK), Haitian Creole for “music,” capture exactly what they do: art songs, popular songs, stories and folksongs from around the world, contemporary classical music, and Kuwento Mizik’s own original work all have a spotlight.

Baritone Jean Bernard Cerin and pianist Veena K. Kulkarni-Rankin fuse classical and world music with storytelling into transformative concert experiences. With Indian-Filipino-American and Haitian backgrounds, this duo synthesizes a broad cultural heritage with their western classical training to explore music and stories from all around the globe. This family friendly concert will create a memorable experience for audiences from all generations.

100 minutes including intermission, Ages 10+
In Person, Livestream or On Demand

Visit www.masterplayers.udel.edu or scan the QR code to get your in-person or virtual ticket!

“Forgo the coffee the night you intend to hear Kuwento Mizik. Kulkarni & Cerin break with tradition to bring you a pot-pourri of highly entertaining works that will keep you on the edge of your seats until it’s time for the standing ovation!”

– pianist Waleed Howrani
LISTENING WITH BOB:
A SPECIAL PRE-CONCERT EVENT

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 | 3 P.M. ET | ZOOM WEBINAR

Free of charge, registration required

Following last year’s successful debut of “Listening with Bob,” Master Players Music Historian-in-Residence Dr. Robert Greenberg returns to your screens in a webinar that explores the stories of great composers and their masterpieces one week before they are performed on our stage. With the help of Master Players Director Xiang Gao and our new Music Historian-in-Residence, the world renowned Dr. Robert Greenberg of The Great Courses, the audience will develop a deeper connection to classical music by learning:

• how to appreciate great music by understanding the musical language of the composers and performers
• the inspiring, fun and lesser known stories and life experiences of the master musicians
• the easy and fun ways to listen to the masterpieces we will present in the concert one week later

Dr. Greenberg will then return to host our Xiang Gao & Friends event in person on Saturday, April 29, continuing the engaging conversation and enhancing the live concert experience for our audience. This event is underwritten by Karen & Michael Luck.

60 minutes, Ages 10+

Visit www.masterplayers.udel.edu or scan the QR code to register!

“The Elvis of music history and appreciation.”
- Bangor (Maine) Daily News
XIANG GAO & FRIENDS: A COLLAGE CONCERT OF CHAMBER MUSIC AND UD STORIES
SATURDAY, APRIL 29 | 3 P.M. ET | MITCHELL HALL

Master Players Founding Director Xiang Gao invites a group of unparalleled classical musician friends to join him in a concert of chamber music and new music composed for this event. The Master Players debuts of pianist Elise Yun, cellist Hekun Wu, saxophonists Valentin Kovalev and Aiwen Zhang, UD faculty violinist Guillaume Combet, and UD faculty bassist Miles Brown will take the audience on a journey for a creative escape, conceptualized and directed by Gao.

**Listening with Bob:** Dr. Robert Greenberg will host this concert in person to interweave the performance with fascinating stories about the works, composers, and artists featured in this concert. Join us at 2:30 p.m. for a free pre-concert lecture by Dr. Greenberg.

100 minutes including intermission, Ages 8+

In Person, Livestream or On Demand

Visit [www.masterplayers.udel.edu](http://www.masterplayers.udel.edu) or scan the QR code to get your in-person or virtual ticket!
OUTREACH:

THE LITTLE MASTERS PROJECT

THE LITTLE MASTERS PROJECT (LMP) is designed to inspire and empower the children of under-served communities in the tri-state region by providing free musical instruments, private music lessons, and music theory classes to challenge them, develop their self-esteem, and show them the reward and beauty of making music. LMP also provides its participants with once-in-a-lifetime performance opportunities to share the stage with professional musicians.

We thank our council member Randy Stone for his contribution in funding & leading this project. For info about how to support LMP, contact us at masterplayers@udel.edu.

BACKSTAGE PASS

Backstage Pass is a new program (launched in fall 2019) that introduces UD and local high school students to classical music by incentivizing them to attend our world-class concert events. Through our partnerships with professors and local teachers, students are given free tickets to a concert and the opportunity to meet the artists face-to-face during exclusive post-concert events. Afterward, the students receive extra credit from their professors and teachers. The program’s goal is to educate the next generation of Americans through the experience of live music.

For information about how to support Backstage Pass, contact us at masterplayers@udel.edu.
IN-PERSON TICKETS

Single Tickets are $25 for adults; $20 for seniors, UD staff, faculty and alumni; and $10 for students.

A six-concert subscription with 15% discount is:
- $127.50 for adults
- $102 for seniors, staff, alumni & faculty
- $51 for students

A five-concert subscription with 10% discount is:
- $112.50 for adults
- $90 for seniors, staff, alumni & faculty
- $45 for students

TO ORDER IN-PERSON TICKETS:


BY PHONE: Call 302-831-2257, Monday-Friday, 9am to 3pm

BY MAIL: Fill out the order form and mail it to:
Delaware Ticket Office, Bob Carpenter Center
631 S. College Avenue, Newark, DE 19716

IN PERSON: Stop by the Delaware Ticket Office in the Bob Carpenter Center between 9am and 3pm, Monday-Friday. (Note: we are no longer using the REP Box Office.) You may park in lot 105 while purchasing your tickets (see map).

VIRUTAL TICKETS

Five of our events this season will be watchable via livestream and on demand for three days following the event. Livestream tickets are $10 per event. Visit www.masterplayers.udel.edu/tickets/livestream-tickets or scan the QR code on the right to purchase your tickets and to learn more. A livestream season subscription with a 10% discount is also available.

NEW: “MOBILE PASSES”

In-person tickets and subscriptions purchased this season will be delivered as “mobile passes” by default. After your purchase is complete, you will receive an email with a link to view your tickets. You can then download them as a PDF (to show digitally or to print at home) or add them to your Apple Wallet or Google Pay account. If you prefer physical tickets, call the ticket office at 302-831-2257 M-F 9am-3pm.

Please note that walk-up tickets will only be available as mobile passes, so be sure to bring your smartphone to the event!
# Master Players Season 2022/2023 Single Tickets Order Form

## YOUR INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Street Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State &amp; Zip Code</th>
<th>Phone (Daytime)</th>
<th>Phone (Evening)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## Master Players Concert Series Single Tickets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Seniors, Alumni, Faculty &amp; Staff</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>Benjamin Pasternack</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/18</td>
<td>Shanghai Sonatas</td>
<td>8pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/19</td>
<td>Shanghai Sonatas (repeat)</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>The Swingles</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Imani Winds</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$10</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>Kuwento Mizik</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>Xiang Gao &amp; Friends</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Payment Information

**Total Cost:**

- [ ] Check enclosed
- [ ] Credit card

**Delivery Options**

- I would like my tickets printed and mailed to me
- I would like my tickets sent to my email as mobile passes
- I would like my tickets held at will call

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Mail order form to: Delaware Ticket Office, Bob Carpenter Center, 631 S. College Ave, Newark, DE 19716
MASTER PLAYERS SEASON 2022/2023 SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

YOUR INFORMATION

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

City State & Zip Code

Phone (Daytime) Phone (Evening)

MASTER PLAYERS SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONSYOUR INFORMATION

Adults:

____# 6 Concert Subscriptions @ $127.50

Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff:

____# 6 Concert Subscriptions @ $102

Students:

____# 6 Concert Subscriptions @ $51

Choose Six:

10/9 Benjamin Pasternack
11/18 Shanghai Sonatas (8pm)
11/19 Shanghai Sonatas (3pm repeat)
12/10 The Swingles
2/11 Imani Winds
3/18 Kuwento Mizik
4/29 Xiang Gao & Friends

FIVE Concert Subscription (10% discount)

□ Adults:

____# 5 Concert Subscriptions @ $112.50

□ Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff:

____# 5 Concert Subscriptions @ $90

□ Students:

____# 5 Concert Subscriptions @ $45

Choose Five:

10/9 Benjamin Pasternack
11/18 Shanghai Sonatas (8pm)
11/19 Shanghai Sonatas (3pm repeat)
12/10 The Swingles
2/11 Imani Winds
3/18 Kuwento Mizik
4/29 Xiang Gao & Friends

PAYMENT INFORMATION

TOTAL COST: ______________________

□ Check enclosed
  Payable to the University of Delaware

□ Credit card
  A member of the box office staff will call you during business hours to obtain your credit card information.

DELIVERY OPTIONS

□ I would like my tickets printed and mailed to me

□ I would like my tickets sent to my email as mobile passes

□ I would like my tickets held at will call

Mail order form to: Delaware Ticket Office, Bob Carpenter Center, 631 S. College Ave, Newark, DE 19716
EVENT PARKING

GENERAL PUBLIC PARKING is recommended in the CFA Parking Garage between South Main (Elkton Road) and Amstel Avenue. The parking charge for the CFA Parking Garage is $3 per hour or part thereof, with a maximum charge of $7 on weekends. The CFA Parking Garage accepts cash and credit cards. For events in Mitchell Hall, the Trabant Parking Garage is also suitable. Metered spaces on South College, Kent Way and Amstel Avenue are also an option for parking at the cost of $1.25 an hour (paid by quarters or credit card). Alternatively, patrons may opt to use the Passport Parking app to pay when they arrive. The CFA Garage zone code is 1663.

GPS ADDRESSES:

- Delaware Ticket Office: Bob Carpenter Center, 631 S. College Avenue, Newark, DE 19716
- Center for the Arts (Gore Recital Hall & Thompson Theatre): 110 Orchard Rd., Newark, DE 19716
- CFA Parking Garage: 135 Amstel Ave., Newark, DE 19716
- Mitchell Hall: 134 The Green, Newark, DE 19716
- Trabant Parking Garage: 17 W. Main St., Newark, DE 19716

CONTACT US

TO PURCHASE TICKETS: (302) 831 - 2257

GENERAL INQUIRIES: masterplayers@udel.edu, (302) 831 - 3149

WEBSITE: www.masterplayers.udel.edu
Click the “stay informed” button on our website to join our email list and get concert related updates.