

MASTER PLAYERS CONCERT SERIES

'23-24 Season | Celebrating 20 years of unforgettable concerts



LETTER FROM THE *UD President & First Lady*

This is the 20th year for the Master Players Concert Series at the University of Delaware, and we could not be more excited about this wonderful season of outstanding performances by some of the world's most talented musicians. Every year, the MPCS brings a diverse lineup of concerts to our community, offering something for every taste. The University is extraordinarily proud to host and support this unique gem.

We are both lifelong admirers of music because it so beautifully expresses thoughts and emotions that words can never adequately convey. Whether played on instruments or sung by a vocalist, music emerges as something far greater than a collection of individual notes. And when we listen to it being performed live – whether in person, online or even at a later time – we connect on a deep level with each other and the musicians. Through the enjoyment of music, our differences fade away, and our community grows stronger.



The artists featured in the 2023-24 season truly exemplify the tremendous talent and virtuosity that have been hallmarks of MPCS for two decades. From jaunty favorites to more pensive compositions ... from rising stars to a choir founded more than 500 years ago ... the performance series celebrates the broad array of music today. The season closes with a can't-miss concert of masterpieces and new music performed by Founding Artistic Director Xiang Gao and his world-class musician friends, including UD's ensemble-in-residence 6-WIRE.

Your generous support – as well as your engagement as an audience member in live performances – has made MPCS a success for so long. We look forward to enjoying this season's performances with all of you.

Sincerely,

Dennis and Eleni Assanis

President and First Lady of the University of Delaware

LETTER FROM THE *Senior Associate Dean*

Greetings!

I am pleased to welcome you to the Master Players 2023-24 season! Following the strong tradition of excellence for two decades, under the artistic direction of Xiang Gao, we are fortunate to have this professional concert series on the campus of the University of Delaware. During this anniversary season, you will enjoy being in the company of extraordinary, brilliant musicians as they perform masterpieces and innovative works you may have never heard or experienced before. Be prepared for exceptional performances from exceptional artists throughout the year.

I also invite you to delve further into the mission of Master Players and its commitment to musical engagement with youth and our greater community. And be sure to keep watch on upcoming performances of the concert version of Shanghai Sonatas that premiered spring 2023.

Please join us as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the UD Master Players Concert Series. This impressive professional music series will be one to move, inspire, delight, and transform as together we experience the highest caliber of music.

Sincerely,

Suzanne L. Burton

Senior Associate Dean for the Arts, College of Arts and Sciences



LETTER FROM THE *Director & Council Chair*

Dear friends,

WELCOME to our 20th season where you will experience the Delaware debut of many of the world's top musicians, proudly presented by Master Players. In this brochure, you will find information on how to reserve the most affordable world-class concert tickets in the region.

WE ARE PROUD to work with Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Debra Hess Norris, Senior Associate Dean for the Arts, Dr. Suzanne Burton, and the newly-appointed Director of the School of Music, Dr. Mark Clodfelter, to inspire the entire community of our town and university.

OUR EDUCATION AND OUTREACH continues with our [Backstage Pass program](#), which is supported by many donors. It is designed to benefit UD students by giving them donated tickets to our concerts so they can be cultivated with live music while they are training to become the next generation of leaders. We will also continue our donor-supported [Little Masters Project](#), providing free-of-charge private music lessons and musical instruments to those from the underprivileged families in our community. Please visit our website to learn more about these programs and how to support them.

PLEASE SUPPORT this beloved concert series by [making a donation on our website](#). We cannot think of a better way to unify our community with the power of live music and music education.

Yours in music,

Michael Luck, Chair of the Master Players Advisory Council

Xiang (Sean) Gao, Producing Artistic Director



Council Chair Michael Luck



Director Xiang (Sean) Gao

Master Players Council & Staff

Advisory Council

As of August 2023

C. Michael Luck, Chair

Catriona Binder-Macleod

Hamilton Chang

Justin Chou '13

Debra Jay Crowley '73 '78M '97

Xiang (Sean) Gao, Ex-officio

Susan B. Grossman

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 (Sean) Gao
Producing Director

Melissa Kitchen
General Manager

Nicole Fassold-Harabaru
Outreach Coordinator

Ben Zong
Production & Finance Assistant

Adam Davis
Artist & Production Coordinator

Kathryn Tuttle
*Outreach & Production
Coordinator*

Esther Yixue Wang
Production Assistant

College of Arts & Sciences Staff Support

Kajsa Haracz
Director of Communications

Megan Everhart
Communications Specialist

Sue Morganstein
Senior Grants Analyst

Andrea Darsillo
HR Generalist

Andrew Holmes
Financial Processing Manager

*Special thanks to Senior
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 Director **Mark
Clodfelter**.*

*Cover art generated by
Ben Zong using Midjourney.*

CANADIAN BRASS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023 | 3 P.M. ET | MITCHELL HALL

100 minutes including intermission | Ages 8+ | In Person, Livestream or On Demand

Following their sold out Delaware debut back in 2014, Canadian Brass returns to perform a program of light classical and modern favorites. Canadian Brass is well known as the ensemble that brought the brass quintet genre to global prominence and established it as a mainstay in the chamber music world. Founded in 1970, the ensemble has recorded 138 albums, received a combined total of 24 Grammy and Juno nominations, and won the German Echo Award for Goldberg Variations. Canadian Brass places a strong emphasis on education, evidenced by the distribution of over a million quintet repertoire books to students worldwide. Their unwavering commitment to nurturing the future of chamber music is evident in their ongoing interaction with students and musicians, fostering a passion for music and learning. The ensemble's lineup has had many generations of players over the years, anchored by tubaist and founding member Chuck Daellenbach.

"These are the men who put brass music on the map with their unbeatable blend of virtuosity, spontaneity and humor."

-Washington Post

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



*Note: Gore Hall restrooms (next to Mitchell Hall)
will be open to the public during the event.*



Canadian Brass

Photo by Daniel D'Ottavio

Jiji & Danbi

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023 | 3 P.M. ET | GORE RECITAL HALL

100 minutes including intermission | Ages 8+ | In Person, Livestream or On Demand



Photo by Marty Bra

"A graceful and nuanced player...she presented an intimate, captivating performance"

-The Kansas City Star

Hailed as a top 21st-century guitarist, Jiji fascinates audiences with her impeccable musicianship and diverse repertoire. The first guitarist in 30 years to secure first prize in the Concert Artists Guild Competition, Jiji's performances range from traditional and contemporary classical to free improvisation. Beyond her musical pursuits, Jiji is a committed educator, serving as Associate Professor of Music in Guitar at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

Praised for her brilliant performances and "mesmerizing grace," Danbi Um, a Menuhin International Violin Competition Silver Medalist and Naumburg International Violin Competition prizewinner, showcases her virtuosity and interpretive sensitivity in captivating concertos, intimate solo recitals and enriching chamber collaborations.

Embark on a musical journey as the enthralling artistry of guitarist Jiji and violinist Danbi Um intertwines classical traditions with contemporary innovation.



Photo by Marco Borggreve

"Utterly dazzling, a marvelous show of superb technique."

-The Strad

Visit www.masterplayers.udel.edu
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in-person or virtual ticket!



Christmas in Vienna: VIENNA BOYS CHOIR



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023 | 3 P.M. ET | THOMPSON THEATRE

100 minutes including intermission | Ages 8+ | In Person Only

Experience the enchanting harmonies and rich history of the Vienna Boys Choir, one of the world's most renowned and oldest choirs. Established in 1498 by Emperor Maximilian I, the Choir's legacy includes alumni members Joseph Haydn, Michael Haydn, and Franz Schubert. Today, as a private, non-profit organization, the Choir continues its tradition with 300 boys and girls, aged six to 19, singing in various choirs and receiving individual voice training at the Choir's schools in Vienna's Augarten park. UNESCO designated the Choir's singing tradition as intangible cultural heritage in Austria. The Vienna Boys Choir give around 300 concerts each year, attended by nearly half a million audience members around the world.

Christmas in Vienna showcases these gifted musicians with voices of unforgettable beauty in an extraordinary program featuring Austrian folk songs, classical masterpieces, popular songs and, of course, holiday favorites.

"Pure and pristine sound..."

-San Francisco Chronicle

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



Photo by Lukas Beck

JUSTIN AUSTIN & HOWARD WATKINS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024 | 3 P.M. ET | GORE RECITAL HALL

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



Justin Austin

Photo by Gillian Riesen

"Young baritone Justin Austin sang 'Peculiar Grace'... with burnished sound and vulnerability."

-The New York Times

Discover the exceptional artistry of baritone Justin Austin, hailed as a "gentle actor and elegant musician" by **Opera News** and praised for his mellifluous voice in **The Wall Street Journal**. A multifaceted musician, Mr. Austin's repertoire spans jazz, R&B, musical theatre, opera, and oratorio, collaborating with renowned artists such as Aretha Franklin and Elton John. He strongly believes in using his artistry to benefit communities worldwide, working with organizations like MEND and QSAC to perform benefit concerts for those in need.

American pianist Howard Watkins is celebrated as a frequent collaborator with the world's leading musicians and an acclaimed assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera. He has performed in iconic venues around the globe and has served on the faculties of institutions such as Tanglewood Music Center and Aspen Music Festival.



Howard Watkins

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



In honor of Black History Month, this vocal-piano power duo will perform a diverse program that centers on pieces by composers of color.

CHRISTINA & MICHELLE NAUGHTON

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024 | 3 P.M. ET | GORE RECITAL HALL

100 minutes including intermission | Ages 10+ | In Person Only

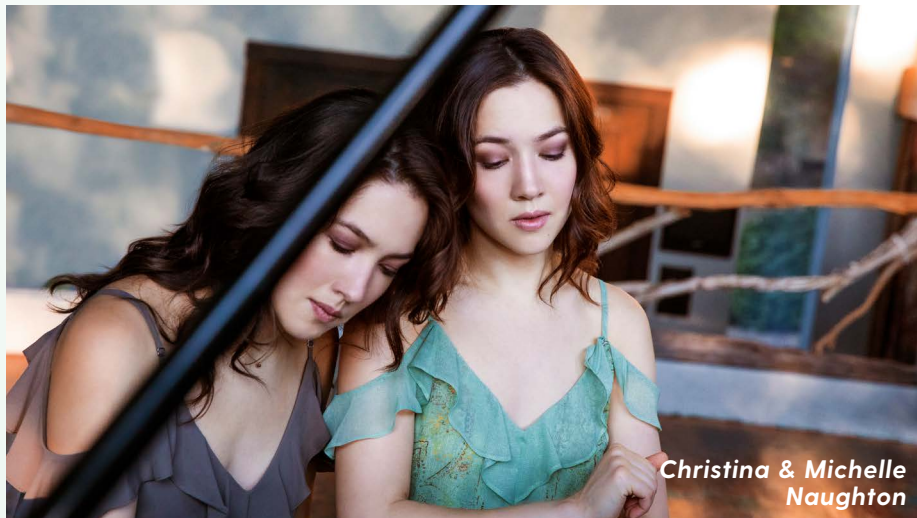
Enter the world of the mesmerizing piano duo Christina and Michelle Naughton, acclaimed by the *Washington Post* as “on a level with some of the greatest piano duos of our time.” With seamless communication and captivating performances, they have enraptured audiences worldwide, showcasing a diverse repertoire from classical to contemporary compositions. Recognized as the first piano duo to receive the Avery Fisher Career Grant, their career soared with debut recitals at the Kennedy Center and orchestral performances with prestigious ensembles.

Passionate about American 20th-century music, they have premiered works by renowned composers and curated projects dedicated to this theme. As soloists, they have graced the stages of prominent orchestras worldwide under the batons of eminent conductors. Witness the extraordinary synergy and brilliance of these two exceptional pianists as they perform the first piano four hands concert in Master Players history.

“Christina and Michelle Naughton...
enter a sphere in which duos are not
often encountered: that of downright
idyllic spontaneity”

-Rheinische Post

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



*Christina & Michelle
Naughton*

Photo by Lisa Marie Mazzucco

MozArt: XIANG GAO & FRIENDS

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024 | 3 P.M. ET | GORE RECITAL HALL

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

The crowd-favorite “Xiang Gao & Friends” concert returns! Featuring a group of unparalleled classical musicians invited by Master Players Founding Director Xiang (Sean) Gao, this event will be a creative celebration of the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and beyond. Guest artists including Master Players Ensemble-in-Residence 6-WIRE will perform in a program that interweaves masterpieces of chamber music with new music composed for this event.

Gao, international artist and University of Delaware Trustees Distinguished Professor of



Music, founded Master Players in 2003 with the goal of bringing a rich and wide array of world-class musicians to the UD campus and to underserved local communities. Over the past 20 years, many acclaimed artists have graced the Master Players stage, and the series has grown to serve as a cultural ambassador for the University of Delaware. This season finale concert will feature the Master Players premieres of must-see artists alongside the returns of some of the biggest names in Master Players history. Performers will be announced in Spring 2024.



Xiang (Sean) Gao

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



CONCERT TICKETS

Tickets & subscriptions on sale starting **August 29, 2023**.

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

ADA ACCESSIBILITY: All venues are wheelchair accessible and have ADA seating. Call the Delaware Ticket Office (302-831-2257) for assistance purchasing these tickets.

TO ORDER IN-PERSON TICKETS:

ONLINE: Visit www.masterplayers.udel.edu.

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** 9am to 3pm, Monday-Friday. You may park in lot 105 while purchasing your tickets (see map).

VIRTUAL TICKETS

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

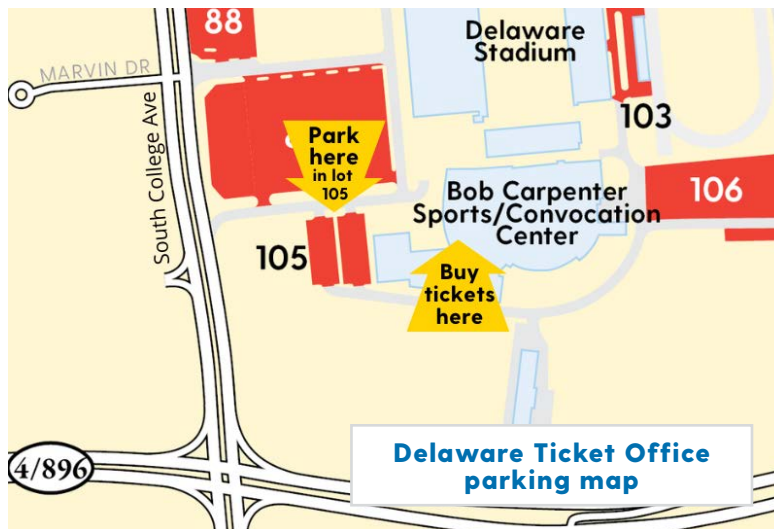
TICKET DELIVERY

Tickets can be delivered in three ways this season:

1. Mobile Passes: When you purchase your tickets, you will immediately receive one email per event. Each email will have a link that allows you to either download the tickets as a PDF (to show digitally or print at home) or add them to your Apple Wallet or Google Pay Account. No fee.

2. Mail: You can opt to have your tickets printed and mailed to you. There is a \$3 fee for this service.

3. Will Call: You can opt to have your tickets printed and given to you at the first concert for which you purchased a ticket. No fee.



MASTER PLAYERS SEASON 2023/2024 SINGLE TICKETS ORDER FORM

YOUR INFORMATION

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

City

State & Zip Code

Phone (Daytime)

Phone (Evening)

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.*

MASTER PLAYERS CONCERT SERIES SINGLE TICKETS

10/8 Canadian Brass

- ☐ \$25 Adults (____ # of tickets)
- ☐ \$20 Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff (____ # of tickets)
- ☐ \$10 Students (____ # of tickets)

2/25 Justin Austin & Howard Watkins

- ☐ \$25 Adults (____ # of tickets)
- ☐ \$20 Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff (____ # of tickets)
- ☐ \$10 Students (____ # of tickets)

11/12 JILI & Danbi

- ☐ \$25 Adults (____ # of tickets)
- ☐ \$20 Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff (____ # of tickets)
- ☐ \$10 Students (____ # of tickets)

3/17 Christina & Michelle Naughton

- ☐ \$25 Adults (____ # of tickets)
- ☐ \$20 Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff (____ # of tickets)
- ☐ \$10 Students (____ # of tickets)

12/9 Vienna Boys Choir

- ☐ \$25 Adults (____ # of tickets)
- ☐ \$20 Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff (____ # of tickets)
- ☐ \$10 Students (____ # of tickets)

4/27 Xiang Gao & Friends

- ☐ \$25 Adults (____ # of tickets)
- ☐ \$20 Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff (____ # of tickets)
- ☐ \$10 Students (____ # of tickets)

DELIVERY OPTIONS

☐ **I would like my tickets
printed and mailed to
me (add \$3)**

☐ **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

MASTER PLAYERS SEASON 2023/2024 SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

YOUR INFORMATION

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

City

State & Zip Code

Phone (Daytime)

Phone (Evening)

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.*

MASTER PLAYERS SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

SIX Concert Subscription (15% discount)

- ☐ Adults:
_____ # of 6 Concert Subscriptions @ \$127.50
- ☐ Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff:
_____ # 6 Concert Subscriptions @ \$102
- ☐ Students:
_____ # of 6 Concert Subscriptions @ \$51

Includes:

- 10/8 Canadian Brass
- 11/12 JIJI & Danbi
- 12/9 Vienna Boys Choir
- 2/25 Justin Austin & Howard Watkins
- 3/17 Christina & Michelle Naughton
- 4/27 Xiang Gao & Friends

FIVE Concert Subscription (10% discount)

- ☐ Adults:
_____ # of 5 Concert Subscriptions @ \$112.50
- ☐ Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff:
_____ # 5 Concert Subscriptions @ \$90
- ☐ Students:
_____ # of 5 Concert Subscriptions @ \$45

Choose Five:

- ☐ 10/8 Canadian Brass
- ☐ 11/12 JIJI & Danbi
- ☐ 12/9 Vienna Boys Choir
- ☐ 2/25 Justin Austin & Howard Watkins
- ☐ 3/17 Christina & Michelle Naughton
- ☐ 4/27 Xiang Gao & Friends

DELIVERY OPTIONS

☐ I would like my tickets
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me (Add \$3)

☐ 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 Street (Elkton Road) and Amstel Avenue. For events in Mitchell Hall, the Trabant Parking Garage is also suitable. UD Parking Garages charge \$3 per hour or part thereof, with a maximum charge of \$7 on weekends. Cash and credit cards are accepted. Metered spaces on South College Avenue, Kent Way and Amstel Avenue are also available at \$1.25 an hour (paid by quarters or credit card). Alternatively, patrons may opt to use the **Passport Parking app**.

HANDICAP PARKING is available in the CFA Parking Garage for events in the Roselle Center for the Arts (Gore Recital Hall & Thompson Theatre). For events in Mitchell Hall, the metered spots on Amstel Ave and Kent Way are closest, followed by the Visitors Center Lot. Spaces are limited, so early arrival is recommended. **All venues are wheelchair accessible.**

GPS ADDRESSES:

- **Delaware Ticket Office:** Bob Carpenter Center, 631 S. College Avenue, Newark, DE 19716
- **Roselle 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
- **Visitors Center Lot:** 210 S College Ave, Newark, DE 19711

***NOTE:** Gore Recital Hall is a venue in the Roselle Center for the Arts. There is another building on campus called Gore Hall. Please **do not go to Gore Hall**, as no performances are held there.

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.

SPONSORS





This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on DelawareScene.com.

Vita Nova



MASTER PLAYERS CONCERT SERIES

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Newark, DE 19716
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For the University's complete non-discrimination statement, please visit www.udel.edu/aboutus/legalnotices.html*