

UNIVERSITY OF
DELAWARE



MASTER
PLAYERS
CONCERT SERIES

UNITY IN VARIETY

Enjoy exceptional music making at 3 p.m. on Saturdays & Sundays.

www.masterplayers.udel.edu

MASTER PLAYERS CONCERT SERIES/ 17-18

Letter from the First Family of the University of Delaware

Welcome to the 2017-18 season of the University of Delaware's Master Players Concert Series. We thoroughly enjoyed the excellent performances last season, and we look forward to another year of unforgettable concerts.

Like you, we love live music. There's something magical about listening to music in the exact moment when it's being made. It's a unifying experience, connecting the artists and the audience in a fleeting act of creativity. Indeed, the impermanence of live music makes it all the more beautiful. Recorded music simply cannot match that, and it's why we've always loved and supported the arts.

Our community is so fortunate to have amazing arts programs like the Master Players Concert Series at UD. Now in its 14th season, the Master Players bring some of the most talented and popular musical ensembles in the world to our campus for your enjoyment. Founding Artistic Director Xiang Gao and his colleagues have again attracted an impressive set of accomplished performers, all related to this season's theme of unity.

What's more, the Master Players program works diligently to bring musical education to children and adults throughout the region. With generous help from the community, Master Players is launching a new program to provide free instruments and instruction to students, so that more people can benefit from the transformative effects of the arts. Such efforts are integral to the educational mission of the University of Delaware, and we are proud to support the Master Players program again this year. We invite you to do so, as well.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



Sincerely,

Dennis and Eleni Assanis
President and First Lady

Letter From the Artistic Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 2017-18 season! The University of Delaware is a treasure on the United States' east coast and Master Players plays a vital role as its cultural ambassador.

We hope the theme of our 14th season, *Unity in Variety*, will strike a chord with you. During this confusing and divided time in our country's history, this season we look to celebrate the beauty of life and invite you to join us in appreciating our diverse planet's universal language: music.

Our offerings this season embody our ongoing commitment to excellence in diversity and inclusion. For example, our new Little Masters Project reflects our commitment to bringing education and live music to broader communities. Through the generosity of our community, starting this fall we will provide free instruments and music education to under-served students of the greater Wilmington region with the hope to change their lives with music and bring them to our stage to be inspired.

Master Players' summer concerts coupled with the impressive culinary offerings on Main Street bring together worlds of flavors and sounds, making Newark and UD's main campus a desirable place to visit. The Master Players Festival and School (MPF) is preparing for its fourth year as the largest classical music festival in the region, featuring many of today's most celebrated musicians and pedagogues who will perform with talented young musicians from all over the world. The 2018 MPF concert schedule will be announced in May 2018 on our website under "Festival."

Master Players also aims to make music accessible. We present ALL of our concerts at 3 p.m. on weekends to encourage all types of audiences to attend and we continually sell out because of the family-friendly nature of our performances. In addition to our gold standard of professional concert presentation, our creative programming attracts highly visible guest artists while our affordable ticket prices, simple online ticketing, easy and weather-proof parking facilities, a beautiful campus and free transportation service for people with physical limitations welcome one and all.

I recommend you and your friends purchase a discounted season subscription soon, as every concert of this popular series will have limited seating. Tickets also make great gifts for loved ones and friends. For timely email reminders with concert and artist information, click "Stay Informed" on our website, www.masterplayers.udel.edu. On behalf of the entire Master Players family, I thank our Advisory Council Members who in the past four years have provided annual financial support and invaluable advice to our beloved series. I also thank all the generous individual donors and collaborating units at UD for their continued support. It is because of each of you that we may serve the tri-state community as a flagship presenter of music.

We are proud to continue to bring more of the world's top musicians and ensembles to Delaware and provide education to the next generation of leaders who will cherish and promote Unity in Variety.

In music,

Xiang Gao
Founding Artistic Director



Letter From the Advisory Council Chair

Dear Patrons,

I am so proud to introduce our 2017-18 season of the Master Players Concert Series. This series has gained momentum in the past five years and we see continuing growth in our future. Master Players is one of the foremost ambassadors for music and the University of Delaware. We bring virtuoso performers, talented students and our local community together to celebrate the joy of music.

Our Little Masters Project launched in the 2016-2017 season. It serves local children who have budding talent but have not the advantage nor opportunity to have one-on-one instruction. We bring the rigor and discipline of musical instruction to improve outcomes for them academically. Our hope is to broaden their horizons by providing them with learning experiences in a higher education setting at UD.

The members of our council and I attend most concerts, so please take a few minutes to introduce yourselves and let us know your thoughts on how we can make the concert experience more delightful in years to come. We appreciate your patronage and generosity to Master Players. We can only improve the quality and scope of our programs with your support.

Yours in Music,

C. Michael Luck
Advisory Council Chair



Advisory Council Members as of August 10, 2017

C. Michael Luck, *Chair*
Catriona Binder-Macleod
Ralph P. Ferretti
Xiang Gao, *Ex-officio*
Wendy C. Gill
Dr. Charles Edwin Hockersmith
Adam Koper
Mark L. Manniso '84
Dr. Phillip Mink, *Esq.*
Linda J. Myrick '77
Dr. TW Fraser Russell '64
Nancy M. Saunders
Stuart J. Sharkey
Randy L. Stone
Steven J. Waidley '99
Dawn Yang '08

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Dr. Richard B. Fischer
Marichu Valencia

Advisory Council Members Emeriti

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Susan B. Grossman
Margaret J. Hirsh
Louis L. Hirsh
The Honorable Jack B. Jacobs
Marion A. Jacobs '92
Marie G. Marx '79

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6-wire
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*Staff Collaborative Pianist &
Assistant to Artistic Director*

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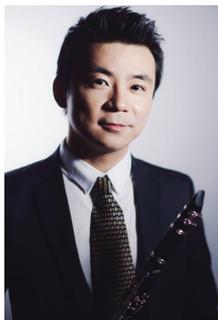
Cover Artwork

Dona-Marie Altemus
*Master Players Intern & Department
of Art & Design Student*

The Stars of Baltimore: Season Opening Gala

Sunday, October 1, 2017 | 3:00pm | Gore Recital Hall

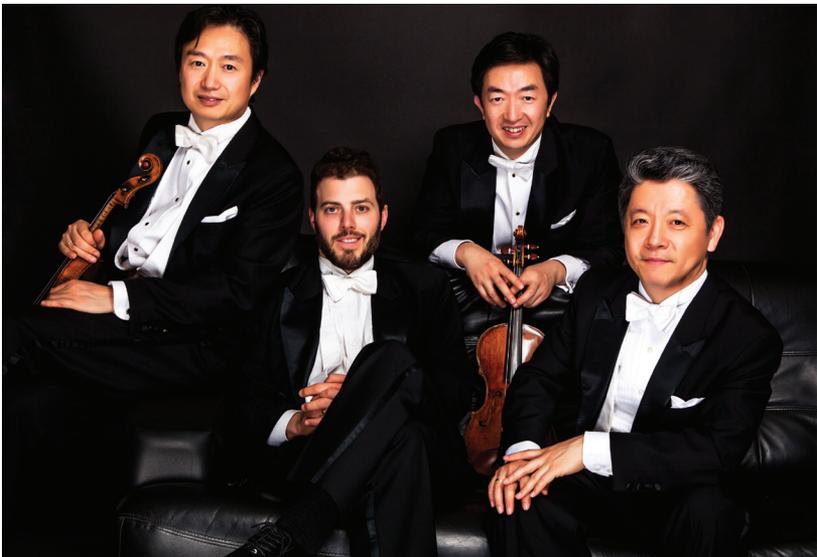
Located in one of the country's most historic cities, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) is internationally recognized as having achieved a preeminent place among the world's most important orchestras. In this season-opening gala concert, leading BSO musicians and superstars of the Baltimore classical music scene will perform solo and chamber works for woodwinds, brass and piano by master composers from the Romantic period to the 21st century. Performers will include Principal Clarinet Yao Guang Zhai, Principal Bassoon Fei Xie, Principal Trumpet Andrew Balio, and Principal Horn Philip Munds, among others. Sharing the stage is Dr. Howard Watkins, renowned collaborative pianist, vocal coach and assistant conductor of the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.



The Shanghai Quartet: 35 Years of Our American Experience

Saturday, November 4, 2017 | 3:00pm | Gore Recital Hall

Renowned for its passionate musicality, impressive technique and multicultural innovations, the Shanghai Quartet has become one of the world's foremost chamber ensembles. Formed at the Shanghai Conservatory in 1983 and based in the U.S., the string quartet's elegant style melds the delicacy of Eastern music with the emotional breadth of Western repertoire, allowing it to traverse musical genres including traditional Chinese folk music, masterpieces of Western music and cutting-edge contemporary works. This concert will feature clips from the quartet's upcoming documentary film interspersed with selected movements to tell the story of their experiences in America.



Holiday Pops: Frank Sinatra's Coming to Town

Saturday, December 9, 2017 | 3:00pm | Mitchell Hall

Want to experience your favorite holiday classics with a twist? Bring the whole family along for the ride with this festive concert featuring a unique mix of performers, genres and styles! Be serenaded by Las Vegas singer Steve Lippia performing some of Sinatra's biggest holiday hits. See UD jazz faculty Tom Palmer directing UD's Jazz Ensemble I. Experience UD's Faculty Jazz Ensemble and award-winning student a cappella ensembles Vocal Point and the Deltones. Enjoy the acclaimed Omni Brass Quintet from Los Angeles and see the Master Players Ensemble-in-Residence 6-wire performing familiar holiday tunes.

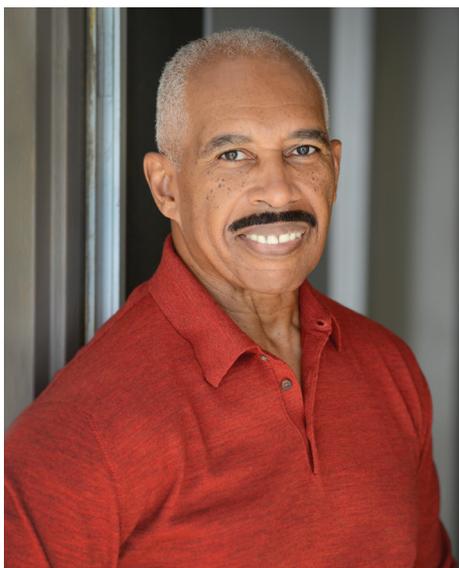
\$5 tickets for children ages 5-14 are supported by a private gift.



Franz Liszt: Poet, Prophet and Protector

Celebrating Black History Month

Saturday, February 17, 2018 | 3:00pm | Gore Recital Hall



Perhaps best known for his virtuosic piano works, Franz Liszt's reputation as "the world's first rock star" fails to reflect the seriousness of his influence on the course of Western art music. As a leader of the New German School of composers, Liszt left behind a prolific and diverse body of work. He was also a close benefactor, teacher and friend of many of the most prominent composers and musicians of his time, including Frédéric Chopin, Richard Wagner and Robert

Schumann. African American virtuoso concert pianist Leon Bates, a former UD music faculty member, takes on this challenging program of works composed by Liszt and his associates to tell the story of Liszt's life, work and influence. This concert celebrates Black History Month at UD and is hosted by Ralph Ferretti, UD professor of education, and conceptualized by Mr. Ferretti and Master Players director Xiang Gao.

This concert is supported by the UD Center for Black Culture.

A Scottish Showcase: The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

This concert is co-presented by the UD Institute for Global Studies.

Sunday, March 18, 2018 | 3:00pm | Gore Recital Hall

Located in Glasgow, Scotland, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) is a world-leading conservatoire of music, drama, dance, production and film. In addition to being impressively ranked as one of the top three performing art institutions in the world, the school is also one of Scotland's busiest performing art centers, with more than 500 performances each year. This concert is hosted by Delaware native and RCS principal Jeffrey Sharkey, who will bring some of RCS' most talented students and faculty from the UK, Scotland, and the U.S. to his home state for a variety showcase including classical music, musical theatre and drama. The presentation will culminate in a special performance of "Dear Scott, Dearest Zelda," featuring students from the BA acting course alongside faculty from the School of Music, inspired by the deeply personal letters between Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald.



Xiang Gao and Friends: A Special Event and Season Finale

Saturday, April 28, 2018 | 3:00pm | Mitchell Hall



Master Players founding director Xiang Gao performs a multi-genre concert with performing artists he personally invites from all over the world. In this season finale, Mr. Gao will perform virtuoso solo violin music as well as chamber and world music he will select and compose with creative elements and ideas. Themes of unity and cultural understanding will be central to this one-of-a-kind performance that celebrates global culture at the University of Delaware.

Education & Outreach



The third annual **Master Players Festival and School (MPF)** took place between July 25 and August 6, 2017. In addition to featuring many of today's leading classical, jazz

and world musicians in daily concerts, talented music students were selected from elite music institutions worldwide to attend MPF and its music training summer camp on UD's beautiful Newark campus. These students were given the opportunity to work with professional concert artists and pedagogues in master classes; chamber music coaching sessions; orchestral rehearsals and private lessons; and received the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share the stage with some of those inspiring faculty artists. Solo and concerto competitions also allowed many future masters to test their wings. To learn more about the 2018 Master Players Festival and School, visit www.masterplayersfestival.com.

The Little Masters Project (LMP) is a brand-new community outreach project designed by Master Players artistic director and international concert violinist and producer Xiang Gao to benefit the children of under-served communities in the tri-state region. With the increasing crime rate in the city of Wilmington and other neighboring communities reported by the state government and public resources, LMP is designed to protect, inspire and empower the children who live in these communities. LMP will offer these children free instruments and free private music lessons during after-school hours to challenge them, develop their self-esteem and show them the reward and beauty of playing a musical instrument. LMP will also inspire young students by providing them a once-in-a-lifetime performance opportunity to share the stage with world-class musicians, and will empower them by using their own music to change other people's lives at the venues of Master Players community partners. These partners may include (but are not limited to) retirement homes, medical facilities, community centers, schools and libraries. For more information about how to support LMP, contact us at masterplayers@udel.edu.



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 \$2 per hour or part thereof, with a maximum charge of \$5 on weekends. The CFA Parking Garage accepts cash and credit cards.

Great news! This Fall, UD Parking Services is expanding their current program of "Pay Upon Arrival" to the Center for the Arts garage. This means no gates to get stuck behind! Pre-paid parking vouchers will go on sale after September 1, which will guarantee parking in this increasingly busy garage. If you purchase a subscription, the box office staff will contact you directly regarding the prepaid parking once it becomes available.

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 in quarters or by credit card.

Ticketing

Subscriptions are available for purchase starting **August 23, 2017**.

Single tickets are available for purchase starting **September 1, 2017**.

For advance ticket sales, there is a \$3 processing fee *per total single ticket order* and \$3 processing fee *per subscription*.

TO ORDER ADVANCE TICKETS:

By mail: Fill out the order form, include your check or Visa/MasterCard/Discover/American Express number, and mail it to: REP Box Office, Roselle Center for the Arts, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716

By fax: Fax order form to 302-831-0358

By phone: Call 302-831-2204, Monday-Friday, noon to 5 p.m.

Online: For single tickets only, visit www.masterplayers.udel.edu

In person: Stop by the REP Box Office in the Roselle Center for the Arts between noon and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Single tickets are \$25 for adults; \$20 for seniors, staff, faculty and alumni; and \$10 for students. Special \$5 tickets to the Holiday Pops concert are available for children ages 5-14.

DISCOUNTED SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

The special \$5 Holiday Pops ticket price for children ages 5-14 has been made possible by a private gift and is not eligible for any subscription.

MASTER PLAYERS SEASON 2017-18 ORDER FORM

YOUR INFORMATION	
First Name	Last Name
Email Address	Street Address
City	State & Zip Code
Phone (Daytime)	Phone (Evening)

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$_____ in support of Master Players to honor _____ in memory of _____.

(Please make a separate check payable to the University of Delaware for donations and write "Master Players" in the memo line.)

MASTER PLAYERS CONCERT SERIES SINGLE TICKETS	
10/1 Stars of Baltimore <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Adults (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Students (____ # of tickets)	2/17 Franz Liszt <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Adults (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Students (____ # of tickets)
11/4 Shanghai Quartet <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Adults (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Students (____ # of tickets)	3/18 Royal Conservatoire of Scotland <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Adults (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Students (____ # of tickets)
12/9 Holiday Pops <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Adults (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Students (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Children, ages 5-14 (____ # of tickets)	4/28 Gao and Friends <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Adults (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff (____ # of tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Students (____ # of tickets)
Mail Order Form To: REP Box Office, Roselle Center for the Arts University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716	Total Tickets Cost: _____ Processing Fee (per order): \$3.00 TOTAL COST: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed <i>(Payable to the University of Delaware)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Charge my: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express Account Number: _____ Expiration: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

MASTER PLAYERS SEASON 2017-18 SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

YOUR INFORMATION	
First Name	Last Name
Email Address	Street Address
City	State & Zip Code
Phone (Daytime)	Phone (Evening)

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$_____ in support of Master Players to honor _____ in memory of _____.

(Please make a separate check payable to the University of Delaware for donations and write "Master Players" in the memo line.)

MASTER PLAYERS SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

SIX Concert Subscription Tickets (15% discount off single ticket prices)	FIVE Concert Subscription Tickets (10% discount off single ticket prices)
<input type="checkbox"/> Adults: ____ # of Six Concert Subscriptions @ \$127.50 = ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff: ____ # of Six Concert Subscriptions @ \$102 = ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Students: ____ # of Six Concert Subscriptions @ \$51 = ____ 10/1: Stars of Baltimore 11/4: Shanghai Quartet 12/9: Holiday Pops 2/17: Franz Liszt 3/18: Royal Conservatoire of Scotland 4/28: Gao and Friends <i>\$5 Holiday Pops tickets for children ages 5-14 not eligible for any subscription.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Adults: ____ # of Five Concert Subscriptions @ \$112.50 = ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors, Alumni, Faculty & Staff: ____ # of Five Concert Subscriptions @ \$90 = ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Students: ____ # of Five Concert Subscriptions @ \$45 = ____ Choose Five: <input type="checkbox"/> 10/1: Stars of Baltimore <input type="checkbox"/> 11/4: Shanghai Quartet <input type="checkbox"/> 12/9: Holiday Pops <input type="checkbox"/> 2/17: Franz Liszt <input type="checkbox"/> 3/18: Royal Conservatoire of Scotland <input type="checkbox"/> 4/28: Gao and Friends <i>\$5 Holiday Pops tickets for children ages 5-14 not eligible for any subscription.</i>

Mail Order Form To:
 REP Box Office, Roselle Center for the Arts
 University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716

Total Tickets Cost: _____
Processing Fee (\$3/sub): _____
TOTAL COST: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed <i>(Payable to the University of Delaware)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Charge my: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express Account Number: _____ Expiration: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____
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Photo by James X. Sui

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Master Players Ensemble-In-Residence

Our Sponsors



Master Players Concert Series 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 www.DelawareScene.com.

A special thank you to the College of Arts & Sciences Office of the Dean and the UD Office of the Provost.

Contact Us

GENERAL INQUIRIES

masterplayers@udel.edu
(302) 831 - 3149

BOX OFFICE (for ticket purchases and questions only)

(302) 831 - 2204

WEBSITE

www.masterplayers.udel.edu

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to get concert related updates.

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***“The essence of beauty
is unity in variety.”***

-FELIX MENDELSSOHN
(1809-1847)

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