

Wednesday, August 26, 2015 - Highlights of the 2015 Fall Performance Season

We're back from a summer of traveling, touring, adventure and yes, a little rest. We're refreshed and once again ready to fill our performance spaces with glorious sights and sounds.

There is so, so much going on in Varner Hall and beyond. For a full listing please visit our **website** where you check our online calendar. And soon, you will also be able to view a Z-Mag of our 2015-2016 Season Brochure. This electronic magazine is a new feature this year. You can search for something, print pages, download it as a PDF and even email it to a friend. And it has links from each event to an online site where you can purchase tickets without a service fee. We still have printed copies of the brochure but we hope this electronic version will help us to become a little "greener."

Here are a few season highlights we must draw your attention to. The first "don't miss" of the semester is our **Black and Gold Performing Arts Extravaganza** on **Saturday, September 19**. It's one of the major events of OU's Fall Homecoming weekend, offering a collage of music, theatre and dance performances by students and faculty. Admission is free and especially if you're not familiar with our work, this is a great introduction to what we do, but, of course, old friends are particularly welcome.

The **Chamber Music Society of Detroit at Oakland University** series is back again this year with pianist **Angela Cheng** giving the opening concert on **Sunday, September 20**. She is a regular guest artist with international orchestras, an avid recitalist, and has toured worldwide with violinist Pinchas Zukerman since 2009.



Cover photo by Sam Paraventi, Minty Photography



Richard Stoltzman
photo by Lisa Marie Mazzucco

The second CMSD concert will feature the world-renowned clarinetist **Richard Stoltzman**, with **David Deveau** on piano, on **Sunday, November 8**. Stoltzman is a two-time Grammy Award-winner and a captivating recitalist, chamber musician, and solo performer. E your tickets early!

The **Oakland Symphony Orchestra** opens its four-concert season on **Sunday, October 4** with an exciting program featuring works by Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky. The orchestra will also perform *Mr. Tambourine Man*; *Seven Poems of Bob Dylan* by John Corigliano, with guest soprano soloist, **Katherine Calcamuggio**.

The OSO's second concert is on **Sunday, November 22**. Newly appointed assistant professor **Dr Tian Tian** will be guest soloist playing the *Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, 73 (Emperor)* by Ludwig van Beethoven. Don't miss this first opportunity to see her play on the Varner stage.

The theatre program is opening its season with the Rogers and Hammerstein classic, ***Oklahoma!*** which many believe to be the ultimate American musical. It broke new ground with its glorious, much-loved songs and its famously innovative use of dance. There will be 1 performances beginning **Thursday, October 8**. Don't delay with your ticket purchase; we expect every show to sell out.

Eisenhower Dance kicks off its twenty-fifth anniversary year with two performances of **ON THE MOVE** on **Saturday, October 24** and **Sunday, October 25**. As usual, the audience can expect to see a dazzling program

of premieres and audience favorites.

On **Friday, October 30** singer, actress and teacher **Natalie Weiss** will be in concert. Natalie has appeared on Broadway and in national tours of *Everyday*

Riffs." Visit natalieweiss.net.

Fresh from their successful tour of England and several summer concert appearances, the **Oakland University Brass Band** will perform on **Sunday, November 1** with returning guest artist, cornet soloist, **Bryan Appleby-Wineberg**. If you're still unfamiliar with British-style brass band music, what are you waiting for?



Abraham Adzenyah

Oakland University World Music Ensembles will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the world music program with two concerts featuring **Bernard Woma** on **Friday, November 6**, one in the morning and the other in the evening. Professor Emeritus Marvin Holladay established the program in 1975 with an inaugural concert that featured a performance on our then new Ghanaian drums with master Ghanaian drummer Abraham Adzenyah, who also blessed the drums with a libation ceremony.

The second theatre production of the semester will be ***Equus***, a provocative, daunting, dark-edged drama, and the winner of four Tony Awards. This story of a seemingly normal 17-year old who commits a terrible act of violence against six horses will keep you on the edge of your seat. As you might expect, *Equus* is not recommended for children under 17. It contains mature themes, nudity and strong language. There will be nine performances beginning on **Thursday, November 12**.

The **University Chorus and Oakland Chorale** concerts are always among the most popular events of our season. This fall's performances are on **Friday, November 20** and **Saturday, November 21**. In case you somehow hadn't heard, the Chorale joined the Rolling Stones on stage at Comerica Park this summer! Please note that these concerts are off-campus at St. Irenaeus Catholic Church, 771 Old Perch Road in Rochester Hills.

Finally, please join us for one of the performances by the **Oakland Dance Theatre and OU Repertory Dance Company** on **Thursday, December 3**, **Friday, December 4**, or **Saturday, December 5**, afternoon or evening. This is an annual event featuring works choreographed by OU dance faculty and guest artists. This year those guests include **Pascal Merighi** (sponsored by The Judd Family Endowed Fund), **Stephanie Martinez**, and **Teresa Muller**. The dance majors who studied German Contemporary Dance in Berlin this summer will add a little international flair as they showcase some of the work they did in Europe.



Poster art by Beth Guest