

MICHIGAN POPS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS:

# INTERGALACTIC POPS

MUSIC DIRECTOR: ROTEM WEINBERG  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: REBECCA LYNCH



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH, 7:00 PM

MICHIGAN THEATER,  
603 E. LIBERTY

\$5 FOR STUDENTS, \$8 FOR ADULTS  
STUDENTS K-12 AND SENIORS 65+ FREE AT THE DOOR

TICKETS SOLD AT MASON HALL, 11:45-1:15 PM  
ON MONDAY 11/13-FRIDAY 11/17,  
TICKETMASTER.COM  
AND AT THE DOOR THE DAY OF THE CONCERT

[WWW.MICHIGANPOPS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://WWW.MICHIGANPOPS.WORDPRESS.COM)

**UAC**  
UNIVERSITY ACTRIS CHORUS

# Welcome to Intergalactic Pops!

This fall, the Michigan Pops Orchestra is proud to present Intergalactic Pops, a musical journey to the depths of space and back again. It was once the case that space stood as a symbol in our lives; a frontier to be conquered, an expanse to be understood, a mystery to be discovered. Today, our lives are hasty and chaotic. Most often, we fill our minds and time with the worries and stress of daily life, and forget what it meant to yearn for something as incredible as the unknown. It is my hope that tonight will be a reminder of the beauty in the beyond, and our common fascination with what lies just past the clouds.

Tonight, we invite you to join us on an adventure of galactic proportions as we journey to Jupiter, lift off with Apollo 13, battle through the universes of Star Wars and Star Trek, and relive your childhood wonderment with E.T., and works from Super Mario Galaxy. We extend our deepest gratitude to those at UAC and CCI for their support; Print Tech; the incredible staff at Michigan Theater, including Amanda Bynum, Scott Clarke, and Scott McWhinney; the Michigan Marching Band staff including Maggie St. Clair, Dr. Andrea Brown, and Dr. John Pasquale; Ian Hyatt for lighting design; Dave Schall for audio recording; D Wang Zhao for poster design; Mary Blaske and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra; Tim and Mary Lynch for hosting our summer retreat; and the staff at the School of Music for the use of their facilities and equipment.

Many thanks to the members of the Executive Board who work tirelessly to ensure that our concert is a success each semester. Additionally, thank you to all of the dedicated Pops musicians for sharing your talents with our group. Without you, we would not be able to create such out-of-this-world concerts every semester. Your dedication to this organization is inspiring, and it has been a privilege to serve as your Executive Director. It's a big universe out there, but our corner of it is by far my favorite.

Finally, we thank you, our wonderful audience! We have worked hard to prepare a concert of the highest musical and entertainment quality for all of you—the families, friends, and fans of Pops.

Now, we invite you to sit back, strap in, and prepare for lift off. Enjoy the show!

Pops Love,  
Rebecca Lynch  
Executive Director

# Program

Also Sprach Zarathustra: Sonnenaufgang	Richard Strauss
Nocturnes II. Fêtes	Claude Debussy
The Force Awakens – Suite for Orchestra V. The Jedi Steps and Finale	John Williams
Music from Apollo 13	James Horner Arr. John Moss
“Sun and Moon” from <i>Miss Saigon</i> <i>Benjamin Walker and Megumi Nakamura, Soloists</i>	Claude-Michel Schönberg
Flying Theme from E.T. <i>Tal Benatar, Conductor</i>	John Williams
The Planets IV. Jupiter <i>Tal Benatar, Conductor</i>	Gustav Holst
<b><i>Intermission</i></b>	
The Phantom Menace – Suite for Orchestra IV. Duel of the Fates	John Williams
Super Mario Galaxy 2 – Main Theme	Mahito Yokota Arr. Andrés Soto
Music of the Spheres (Sphärenklänge)	Josef Strauss
Star Trek Into Darkness <i>Tal Benatar, Conductor</i>	Michael Giacchino
“When You Wish Upon a Star” from <i>Pinocchio</i> <i>Tal Benatar, Conductor</i> <i>Megumi Nakamura, Soloist</i>	Ned Washington & Leigh Harline Arr. Bill Holcombe
Reflections of Earth	Gavin Greenaway

# Orchestra Members

## Violin I

Alissa Chan\*  
Jonathan Thomas  
Emily Zuo  
Paul Brandfonbrener  
Fangbo Yuan~^  
Lexie Roberts  
Eric Seo~  
Carolyn Chen  
Andrew Katcha  
Shaung Cheng  
Alex Marshalek  
Derek Chen  
Samuel Maves  
Jonathan Richards  
Hannah Thoms  
Timmy Li

## Violin II

Rachel Woods\*~  
Jacob Kopnick  
Joel Holland  
Jonathan Li  
Elizabeth Lohr~  
Andrew Min  
Jhruee Hong  
Calise Wang  
Sushanth Sunil  
Alex Rosevelt  
Stephanie Guralnick  
Rishav Choudhury  
Steven Wang  
Sagar Singichetti  
Rohan Kapoor

## Viola

Rachel Moloney\*  
Max Tsao  
Arabella Delgado  
Michael Ward  
Ben Pochily  
Trevor Greissinger  
Tim Standen~  
Grace Fedele  
Daniela Garcia  
Gabrielle Flint  
Jessica Wu

## Cello

Camden Cheek\*  
Rebecca Lynch~  
Ben Hsu~  
Benjamin Zhao  
Lydia Peters  
Sungrae Kim  
Jamie Lai  
Erica Edwards  
Jessica Yan  
Julia Ford  
Eitan Halpern~

## Bass

Kim Truong\*  
Seraphina Provenzano  
Alexander Raistrick  
Sevrin Williams

## Flute/ Piccolo

Alina Yan\*  
Haddie Kim  
Hannah Lynn~  
Cara Fleming  
Jun Beom Ku

## Oboe

Renae Lyons\*  
Matt Eby~  
Brooks Eisenbise

## Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

Bryan Terrazas\*  
Sahil Dagli  
Phoebe Shih  
Gloria Kang  
Katie Gentry

## Bassoon

Vickie Xin\*  
Erin Huls

## French Horn

Emily Judd\*  
Grace Fu  
Kathleen Young  
Kira Breeden  
Jiazheng Victor Xing  
Joshua Corsello

## Trumpet

James Annand\*  
Kei Kohmoto  
Perry Lee  
Abby Darmofal  
Claire Husselbee

## Trombone

Colin Huls\*  
Max Berkowitz  
Tamjeed Asjad~

## Tuba

Allison Podnar

## Piano

Yuxiao Lei

## Percussion

John Fan\*~  
Joe Brenner  
Saul Hankin  
Nathan Ng  
Arjun Rajan

~ member of Executive Board

\* section principal

^ guitar

## Supplementary Musicians

Nicole Joslin - Oboe/English Horn  
Audrie Sheperd - Bassoon/Contrabassoon  
Michaela Clague - Horn  
AJ Muusse - Bass Trombone  
Tommy Hawthorne - Double Bass  
Kristin Quint - Harp  
Bethany Lancaster - Harp





## Executive Board

Rebecca Lynch – Executive Director

Ben Hsu – Personnel Director

Elizabeth Lohr – Librarian

Eric Seo – Programs Director

Eitan Halpern – Technical Director

Fangbo Yuan – Technical Director

Hannah Lynn – Publicity Director

John Fan – Outreach Director

Matt Eby – Outreach Director

Tamjeed Asjad – Small Ensembles Director

Tim Standen – Business Director

Rachel Woods – Social Director



## Opening Act – Dicks and Janes

Quirky, silly, and talented performers from all across the globe, The Dicks and Janes have been laughing, eating, and singing their hearts out together since 1998. Today, almost 20 years after their founding, this close-knit group of performing artists continues to combine intense musicality with genre-defying innovation to take audiences on an endless musical joyride across the space-time continuum. At the end of



the day, the Dicks and Janes (or DJs, for short) are an uncomfortably close family who strive for musical excellence with a wide range of songs in their rep, from 1920s Jazz standards to 1960s Psychedelic Rock to the Top 40 hits of today. Want more DJs? Please check out their music, including their newest EP, "Futura," on iTunes, Spotify, and YouTube!

## Music Director – Rotem Weinberg

Rotem started his conducting studies at the age of 17, under the guidance of Vag Papian. He earned a B.M. in orchestral conducting at the Buchman-Mehta School of Music of Tel-Aviv University, where he studied with Prof. Yoav Talmi. He earned his Master's degree in orchestral conducting at the University of Michigan. Currently, he is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A) degree at the University of Michigan with Professor Kenneth Kiesler. Rotem participated in workshops with world renowned conductors, including Simon Rattle, Zubin Mehta, and Zsolt Nagy.



In his native Israel Rotem led many orchestral, band, and vocal ensembles achieving national acclaim as a conductor and educator. He received many honors and awards for his conducting and musicianship, including the *America-Israel Cultural Foundation Excellence Grant* in orchestral conducting, and the *Tel Aviv University Dean of Arts Excellence Award* for his outstanding musical and academic achievements.

Rotem currently serves as the music director for both the Michigan Pops Orchestra and Campus Philharmonia Orchestra at the University of Michigan. This fall he served as the cover conductor for the University of Michigan's production of William Bolcom's new opera "Dinner at Eight", assisting Prof. Kathleen Kelly.

## Assistant Music Director – Tal Benatar

Tal is an Israeli-American conductor, arranger and guitarist from Columbus, Ohio. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Michigan, studying with Professor Kenneth Kiesler. He also serves as the Assistant Conductor of the U of M Life Sciences Orchestra.



Tal has made conducting appearances with the University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra, The Charlottesville Symphony, The Charlottesville Opera, The Albemarle Sinfonia and the Oratorio Society of Virginia, with which he served as Assistant Conductor for the 2015-16 season. He was the music director of the Rapidan Orchestra, a community orchestra in Central Virginia focused on bringing Western Art Music to more remote audiences.

As an arranger and orchestrator, Tal has been commissioned by the Michigan Pops Orchestra, the Rapidan Orchestra, the Academical Village People among others. He has experience arranging for a vast array of ensembles including jazz combos, vocal ensembles, as well as chamber and full orchestra.

As a genre defying musician, Tal has had a range of experiences playing music from the Baroque Era as a continuo player, to Jazz standards on the piano and guitar. A strong advocate of new music, Tal sings with the //meridian vocal ensemble, has conducted a world premiere by University of Michigan composer Aaron Hendrix, has been featured as a guitar soloist with University of Michigan's Orpheus singers and has performed on electronics with the U of M Contemporary Directions Ensemble and University Symphony Orchestra.

### **Soloist – Megumi Nakamura**

Megumi Nakamura is honored to be performing with the Michigan Pops in “Intergalactic Pops”. Megumi is a junior pursuing a BFA in Musical Theater and a minor in Community Action and Social Change. She hails from San Rafael, CA where she has been performing since the age of 8. In California, Megumi studied ballet with Marin Dance Theater, voice with Betty Schneider, and received acting at American Conservatory Theater’s Young Conservatory.



Since her time at Michigan, Nakamura has had the joy of playing Antigonus in A WINTER’S TALE, appearing in the World Premieres of ONE HIT WONDER and DEAR, and playing Christmas Eve in MUSKET’S production of AVENUE Q. Her regional theater credits include Zaneeta Shinn in THE MUSIC MAN at Weston Playhouse and Frenchplum in A CHRISTMAS CAROL at American Conservatory Theater. Megumi is Vice President the Michigan Performing Outreach Workshop and was named one of the Michigan Daily’s 2017 Students of the Year. Megumi would like to thank her parents and professors for all of their incredible support.

### **Soloist – Ben Walker**

Ben Walker is a senior musical theatre major at the The University of Michigan. He started performing when he was 9 years old and hasn't stopped since. He has been in University productions such as The Light in the Piazza, A Man of No Importance, and One Hit Wonder. He appeared in Musket's production of Big Fish and Ann Arbor In Concert's production of Spring Awakening. Last semester, he studied abroad at The Royal Academy for Dramatic Art in London studying Shakespeare. There he performed in a production of Coriolanus. He also spent a summer in Vermont at Weston Playhouse and performed in Schoolhouse Rock Live and Mamma Mia. He's looking forward to starting the next chapter of his life in New York City after graduation. He is very honored to be performing with the Michigan Pops tonight!





## Program Notes

### **Also Sprach Zarathustra: Sonnenaufgang – Richard Strauss**

We start our adventure with a simple trumpet fanfare, accompanied by a drone in the lowest instruments of the orchestra. This fanfare, also known as the nature motif, is repeated three times, each gaining intensity, until finally the whole orchestra enters, resonating through the whole theater. Many will recognize this excerpt from Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. As Strauss' program notes suggest, this music depicts a glorious sunrise, emphasized by the massive orchestral crescendo.

### **Nocturnes: II. Fêtes - Claude Debussy**

Fetes is the second of three movements in the Nocturnes, inspired by three impressionist paintings by James Abbott McNeill Whistler. Debussy wrote: "Fêtes gives us the vibrating, dancing rhythm of the atmosphere with sudden flashes of light. There is also the episode of [a] procession (a dazzling fantastic vision), which passes through ... and becomes merged ... with its blending of music and luminous dust participating in the cosmic rhythm."

### **The Force Awakens – Suite for Orchestra: Duel of the Fates - John Williams**

Next, we travel to a galaxy far far away, returning to the Star Wars saga with the introduction of Episode VII. Composer John Williams brings back familiar themes with a new twist. This grand score reminds the listener of the Star Wars universe, yet signals the beginning of a new story. From the epic main title to the ominous horn call, foreshadowing the wrath of the dark side, the suite gives us the best of all sides of the force.

### **Music from Apollo 13 - James Horner**

This suite highlights the soundtrack of the 1995 film directed by Ron Howard, starring Tom Hanks and Kevin Bacon. The film depicts the plight of the Apollo 13 astronauts--due to a mid-flight explosion, the journey of Apollo 13 turns into a mission to safely bring the three astronauts back to earth alive. A trumpet fanfare introduces a beautiful chorale, providing a patriotic feeling and the heroic nature of the rescue mission. The film was nominated for nine Academy awards and won best film editing and best sound.

## **“Sun and Moon” from *Miss Saigon* - Music by Claude-Michel Schönberg, Lyrics by Alain Boublil**

Miss Saigon is a musical based on Puccini's opera *Madame Butterfly*, a tale of a doomed romance tragedy. The musical premiered in 1989 in London. Miss Saigon ran for a decade after over four-thousand performances. Schönberg and Boublil are primarily known for composing *Les Misérables*, written prior to *Miss Saigon*. We follow the romance between the main characters, Kim and Chris, as they find love in an unlikely place. This year, the musical is back on Broadway, with a new revival production. Tonight, these characters will be portrayed by Megumi Nakamura and Benjamin Walker.

## **Flying Theme from E.T. - John Williams**

The flying theme is perhaps the most popular selection from the soundtrack of the beloved 1982 film, composed by John Williams and directed by Steven Spielberg. The film tells the story of a boy who meets an alien and helps him return to home. This theme is heard during the iconic flying bicycle chase scene.

## **The Planets: IV. Jupiter - Gustav Holst**

Composed in the early 20th century, this large symphonic suite inspired much of the music on tonight's program. The cinematic nature of this seven movement suite highlights the astrological nature of the planets of the Milky Way, based on Roman Mythology. Jupiter, the fourth of the planets depicted in the suite, is subtitled “The Bringer of Jollity,” highlighted by fleeting strings, brass fanfares, and the familiar lyrical hymn at the centerpiece of this music.

## **The Phantom Menace – Suite for Orchestra: IV. Duel of the Fates - John Williams**

Inspired by “O Fortuna” from Carl Orff's epic cantata *Carmina Burana*, Duel of the Fates depicts one of the most characteristic scenes of the Star Wars saga. The music highlights the finale of Episode I: The Phantom Menace, as 4 separate battles are taking place. Notably, this accompanies the final battle between two Jedi masters and the Sith Lord Darth Maul. The war-like nature of this music is portrayed by brass chorales, string ostinati and high trumpet crashes.

## **Super Mario Galaxy 2 - Mahito Yokota**

In this adventure, Nintendo character Mario travels the cosmos to save Princess Peach and the rest of the universe from Bowser, the villainous leader of the Koopa race. The beloved Italian plumber races around space to collect power stars with the help of Rosalina, the watcher of stars. This game was the first in the Super Mario series to use an orchestra for its soundtrack. Super Mario Galaxy and its sequel were met with huge critical praise and are widely considered some of the greatest games of all time.

## Music of the Spheres (Sphärenklänge) - Josef Strauss

Next in our journey, we take a short break for a dance, a classic Viennese waltz. Music of the spheres or “musica universalis” is an ancient philosophical concept that regards proportions in the movements of celestial bodies—the Sun, Moon, and planets—as a form of music. This “music” is not usually thought to be literally audible, but a harmonic, mathematical or religious concept. The woodwind chorale introduces the subject, as the rest of the orchestra gradually joins in, and the dance begins! We might be in space but don’t forget that Michigan Pops can dance! Join us as we play a gleeful tune as you sway in your seats.

## Star Trek: Into Darkness - Michael Giacchino

The soundtrack for the 2013 feature film composed by Michael Giacchino reflects the development of the new generation of Star Trek films, first launched in 2009. The familiar opening theme from the television series soars at the onset, leading into a darker development, featuring heavy low brass. The bold orchestration of this suite recalls the old, while also introducing the modern cinematic musical timbres.

## “When You Wish Upon a Star” from *Pinnocchio* - Ned Washington & Leigh Harline

This song was first featured in the Disney adaptation of Pinocchio. Originally sung by Cliff Edwards as the character Jiminy Cricket, it has become a symbolic song for the Walt Disney Company, as it became the first Disney song to win the Academy Award for Best Original Song. Tonight, we welcome Megumi Nakamura from the School of Music to join us for this piece.

## Reflections of Earth - Gavin Greenway

To conclude our intergalactic adventure, we finish our journey through the galaxy and make our way back to Earth. Reflections of Earth is the soundtrack to IllumiNations, the familiar nighttime show at Epcot Center in Walt Disney World. This piece is usually accompanied with fireworks, lasers and pyrotechnics. Reflections begins with a tense build-up and progresses through themes of folk music from around the globe, wrapping up with a light-hearted dance.



## About the Michigan Pops Orchestra

The Michigan Pops Orchestra is the oldest student-run, student-directed collegiate pops orchestra in the United States. The organization was founded in 1995 by Warren Hsu, a University of Michigan student committed to enhancing musical diversity across campus. He advertised the orchestra as one that performed music that students wanted to play and that no other orchestras on campus were programming. Hsu also wanted to give Ann Arbor residents unfamiliar with orchestras an opportunity to have orchestral experiences in a fun and exciting atmosphere. To this day, Hsu's initial motives are still Pops' biggest priorities.

Members of the Michigan Pops come from all parts of the University of Michigan community. Most musicians are not music-majors. Most of our music directors have been graduate students in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. Today, we have over 100 members, and we are managed by an executive board of 14 students.

The Michigan Pops Orchestra is an official University of Michigan student group. We are funded by the University Activities Center (UAC).



## Graduating Member Spotlight

### Kim Truong

Hi, I'm Kim (the one holding baklava in the picture). I'm a senior studying Sociology for education reform. I've been with Pops since freshman year, but will spend my last semester in Washington DC for an internship program. I'm gonna miss my extended Pops bass family the most. In high school, I was an angry teen and hated my stand partner, so I never knew what it was like to have fun with my bass section. They're my favorite people that let me be stupid around, mess up with, and laugh with through our long rehearsals.

I'm also gonna miss potluck popslucks where I started thinking my popslove was cool <3 I made a lot of great friends here that let me be my true weird self. I hope that I can keep playing the bass when I'm an adult, but I know that it'll be nearly impossible to find a group like Pops again. PL~







*The Michigan Pops Orchestra  
sincerely thanks you for  
coming tonight.*

*We hope  
you enjoy the show!*