

THE MICHIGAN POPS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jessica Wu

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Tal Benatar

QUARANTUNES WITH POPS

Premieres on
Saturday, December 5th | 7PM

Video available until December 19th

Visit <https://www.michiganpops.org> for concert link

Welcome to Quarantunes with Pops!

To our lovely audience members,

Thank you all for joining us virtually for a night of performances we hope will lift your spirits and remind you of comforting times spent with your family, friends, and communities. Get ready for a trip back down memory lane with the family favorites on our program! Whether you remember watching Toy Story in the living room with your siblings or putting on an Elton John record to jam out to with family, we are inviting you to reminisce with your loved ones.

We are all incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to play together, but many unique challenges presented themselves along the way. We would not have been able to push past these difficulties without our amazing Pops Executive Board who adapted very quickly to every change and dedicated themselves to making this a great Pops season despite the circumstances. I would also like to recognize Tal Benatar, our music director, who not only coordinated the groups and repertoire but also went above and beyond to coach each chamber group.

We would also like to express our gratitude for; the University Activities Center and the Center for Campus Involvement for their advising and support; the Conference and Event Services staff for helping coordinate rehearsal spaces; University Unions for the use of their facilities; and Madison Copley for the lovely poster design!

Finally, we want to thank you, our wonderful virtual audience. Although we cannot see your faces we appreciate you all and hope we can communicate through this concert the importance of spending time with and cherishing loved ones. So without further ado, we invite you to enjoy the show, get lost in happy memories of the past, and make new ones with us! And as always, Popslove.

Jessica Wu
Executive Director

PROGRAM

Crocodile Rock

Elton John and Bernie Taupin (arr. Paul Murtha)

Max McLoughlin & Lex Fortune, violins

Rachel Moloney, viola

Jagienka Timek & Alex Xiong, cello

Tanya Lai, bass

How to Train Your Dragon Suite

John Powell (arr. Madison Carmichael)

Rose Sproat, violin

Jessica Wu, viola

Lydia Peters, cello

Pixar Movie Favorites

arr. Michael Brown

Jack Richards & Calise Wang, violins

Paul Fedorowicz, viola

Jinwook Lee, cello

Music from La La Land

Justin Hurwitz (arr. Robert Longfield)

Katie Sesi, Melissa Beyrand, violins

Stephen Moss, viola

Malin Anderssen, cello

Seve Williams, bass

Highlights from Moana

arr. Johnnie Vinson (edited by Tal Benatar)

Claire Wan, Elayna Sabelhaus, & Janine Zheng, flutes

William Zhang, clarinet

Ishpreet Kohli, french horn

Evan Chung & Austin Lan, trombones

E-BOARD

2020-21



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MUSIC DIRECTOR

TAL BENATAR



Tal Benatar is an Israeli-American conductor, arranger and guitarist and is finishing his studies towards a DMA Candidate in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Michigan. In addition to serving as Music Director of the MPO, Tal has also been the Music Director of the U-M Life Sciences Orchestra since June 2019.

As a genre defying musician, Tal has performed repertoire spanning many centuries on many instruments, including organ, harpsichord, and guitar. A strong advocate of new music, Tal has conducted world premieres by four University of Michigan composers, has been featured as a guitar soloist with University of Michigan's Orpheus singers, and has performed new music with the U of M Contemporary Directions Ensemble for composers Nico Muhly, Julia Wolfe, and David Lang.

Tal also collaborates regularly with students and faculty, conducting in many recitals within the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Tal graduated from the University of Michigan in 2018 with an M.M. in Orchestral Conducting, studying with Professor Kenneth Kiesler. He completed his B.A. at University of Virginia (UVA) in 2014, majoring in Political Science with a concentration in US Constitutional Law. Tal is also a Certified Personal Trainer, and enjoys staying active and cooking delicious, healthy food to stay afloat during these COVID times.



