

MICHIGAN POPS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS:

# ONCE UPON A POPS

SATURDAY APRIL 7TH, 2018 | 7PM

MICHIGAN THEATER, 603 E. LIBERTY

MUSIC DIRECTOR:  
ROTEM WEINBERG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:  
REBECCA LYNCH



WWW.MICHIGANPOPS.COM



# Welcome to *Once Upon a Pops*

It is a unique trait of humanity to be able to tell stories — to pass on legends, to share myths and folklore, to tell tales that bring us to another world. Even more profound is our ability — our gift — to tell stories without speaking a word. This winter, the Michigan Pops Orchestra is proud to present a concert that is sure to be one for the books.

Tonight, we invite you to join us as we bring life to the page like you've never heard before. Take a ride with *Aladdin* as we soar over the sand, fall in love with your favorites from *Beauty and the Beast* to *Romeo and Juliet*, and revel in the sounds of modern classics like *Forrest Gump*, *The Godfather*, and many more.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the University Activities Center and the Center for Campus Involvement for their support; Print Tech; the incredible staff at Michigan Theater, including Patty Havey, 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; Irene Ng for poster design; Mary Blaske and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra; and the staff at the School of Music, Theatre, & Dance for the use of their facilities and equipment.

We owe endless gratitude to Rotem Weinberg and Tal Benatar, our Music Director and Assistant Music Director, respectively, for their guidance and persistence to drive us to perform at the highest level. I want to also offer many thanks to the members of the Executive Board, all of whom work tirelessly to ensure that our concert is a success each semester. Additionally, thank you to all of the dedicated Pops musicians ("Popsicles") for sharing your talents with our group. Without you, we would not be able to create such legendary concerts every semester. Our family of students built around a common love of creating music continues to amaze me. Your dedication to this organization is inspiring, and it has been by far my favorite chapter in this story to serve as your Executive Director.

Lastly, we'd like to thank you, our wonderful audience! We work hard each semester to prepare a concert of the highest music and entertainment quality for you - the families, friends, and fans of Pops. Now, we invite you all to enjoy the show and prepare to experience your favorite stories in a way you never thought possible.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, just imagine what we can do with a song.

Pops Love,  
Rebecca Lynch  
Executive Director

# Program

Beauty and the Beast Overture

Alan Menken  
Arr. Michael Kosarin

Scheherazade, Op. 35  
IV. Festival at Baghdad

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Bare Necessities from *The Jungle Book*

Terry Gilkyson  
Arr. Franck van der Heijden

*Kevin Starnes, Soloist*

Selections from Les Misérables

Claude-Michel Schönberg  
Arr. Bob Lowden

Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2

I. Montagues and Capulets *Tal Benatar, Conductor*

Sergei Prokofiev

Suite from *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*

*Tal Benatar, Conductor*

James Newton Howard

Arr. Patrick Roszell

Aladdin – An Orchestral Suite

Alan Menken  
Arr. Danny Troob

## *Intermission*

Overture to “Candide”

Leonard Bernstein

Violin Concerto in D Major  
III. Finale

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

*Katie Sesi, Soloist*

Forrest Gump Suite

Alan Silvestri  
Arr. Calvin Custer

Main Theme from *The Godfather*

*Tal Benatar, Conductor*

Nino Rota  
Arr. Bill Holcombe

Suite from *Jane Eyre*

III. Reunion

*Tal Benatar, Conductor*

John Williams

All I Ask of You from *The Phantom of the Opera*

Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Arr. David Cullen

*Allison Prost, Michael Floriano, Soloists*

The Sound of Music

Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein  
Arr. Robert Russell Bennett

# Orchestra Members

## Violin I

Rebecca O'Brien\*  
Alissa Chan  
Jonathan Thomas  
Emily Zuo  
Fangbo Yuan~^  
Lexie Roberts  
Eric Seo~  
Hannah Zhang  
Hannah Thoms  
Derek Chen  
Samuel Maves  
Jonathan Richards  
Brian Chang  
Timmy Li

## Violin II

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

## Viola

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

## Cello

Rebecca Lynch\*~  
Camden Cheek  
Ben Hsu~  
Benjamin Zhao  
Lydia Peters  
Jamie Lai  
Erica Edwards  
Rose Beck  
Eitan Halpern~  
Deanna Shih

## Bass

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  
Annie Lim

## Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

Sahil Dagli\*  
Gloria Kang  
SoJung Ham  
Katie Gentry

## Bassoon

Brian Qian\*  
Vickie Xin  
Erin Huls

## French Horn

Rob Kohring\*  
Grace Fu  
Kathleen Young  
Brian Tang  
Kira Breeden  
Jiazheng Victor Xing  
Joshua Corsello

## Trumpet

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

## **Trombone**

Colin Huls\*

Adam Lefevre

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 Shepherd – Contrabassoon/Bassoon

Cecilia Hiros – Harp

Conor Flynn – Double Bass

Thomas Hawthorne – Double Bass



# 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



## Music Director – Rotem Weinberg

Rotem started his conducting studies at the age of 17, under the guidance of Vag Papián. 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 Zoltan 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. In the fall of 2017 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 – Allison Prost

Allison Prost is a current Master's student studying with Professor David Daniels at the University of Michigan. As a student, she frequently performs on art song recitals, instrumental chamber music concerts, and in U of M's main stage operas. Her most recent roles include La Contessa in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* and the leading role of Milicent Jordan in William Bolcom's *Dinner at Eight* (2017). As a community member, she likes to stay involved in Ann Arbor and Metro Detroit's music communities by participating as an active board member for both the Arbor Opera Theater and Detroit Women's Chorus. After graduation, she hopes to move forward in the opera world by participating in Young Artist Programs for regional opera theaters throughout the country.

### Soloist – Michael Floriano

Baritone Michael Floriano is currently a Master's student at the University of Michigan where he has been seen as Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Oliver Jordan in William Bolcom's *Dinner at Eight*. Last summer Michael sang as Sciarrone in *Tosca* with Finger Lakes Opera. In 2016 Michael was part of the Studio Program at Central City Opera where he sang as Joe in John Musto's *Later the Same Evening*, as well as Albert in *The Ballad of Baby Doe*. Other credits include Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Anthony in *Sweeney Todd*, Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Mr. Jones in *Street Scene*. An avid recitalist, Michael recently performed Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin* at the Kerry Town Concert Hall in Ann Arbor. Upcoming performances include a return to Central City Opera for the summer of 2018 where Michael will perform in *Il Trovatore* and *The Magic Flute*. Michael is also a graduate of The Oberlin Conservatory and The Janiec Opera Company at the Brevard Music Center.



### Soloist – Kevin Starnes

Kevin Starnes has performed a variety of styles in a career spanning over twenty years. Praised for his “powerful voice” and “rich tone”, Mr. Starnes is a baritone based in Fenton, Michigan. Credits include The Duke in Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*, Theseus in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Max in Bolcom's *Dinner at Eight*. Most recently, he sang the role of Bartolo in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* under the baton of Maestro Martin Katz. Mr. Starnes will soon be graduating from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance with a Master's of Music in voice performance.





# Concerto Competition Winner



Katie Sesi, 17, is a senior at Ann Arbor Huron High School, where she is the Concertmaster of the Symphony Orchestra, thanks to the devotion and attention of her violin teacher Sunmi Chang. She made her orchestral debut with the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra has been a winner of the Rosalie Edwards Youth Music Competition, the American Protégé International Concerto Competition, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, Grosse Pointe Symphony Concerto Competition, and the Huron High School Concerto Competition. She is a member of the Michigan Youth Symphony Orchestra and was named to the Michigan All-State Orchestra, and Honors Orchestra. Katie was twice nominated as an Outstanding Soloist and was chosen as a Michigan Youth Arts Festival Concerto Finalist.

Katie started the Young Musicians Mentors Alliance, a collaborative relationship in which high school orchestra students mentor local middle school orchestra students after school, receiving funding through a grant from the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation. In addition, Katie has raised \$40,000 for children with cancer at The University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital by busking at the Ann Arbor Art Fair for ten years and collecting tens of thousands of returnable cans and bottles. She also plays #1 singles for the Huron Women's Varsity Tennis Team, was named Captain, and has been selected as an All-State Athlete for three years. As a Girl Scout since the fourth grade, she has received her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards, and was selected as the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan's Young Woman of Distinction for her Gold Award project.

In her free time, she enjoys watching K-Dramas, The Office, or Harry Potter as well as drinking bubble tea with her friends. As a future Wolverine, she is extremely excited to be performing with the Michigan Pops Orchestra tonight. Katie will be attending the University of Michigan this fall, seeking a degree in Violin Performance under the instruction of Professor Aaron Berofsky.

# Program Notes

## **Beauty and the Beast Overture, Alan Menken arr. Michael Kosarin**

In this orchestral overture from the new motion picture, we venture into the forgotten castle of the Beast and his servants. Follow the story of Belle, a book-loving girl from the small town of Villeneuve as she transforms from the Beast's prisoner to his true love. This love lifts the curse from the prince and his servants. Dance through the halls of the magnificent castle with the Beauty and the Beast!

## **Scheherazade, Op. 35, IV. Festival at Baghdad, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov**

Rimsky-Korsakov's tone poem, based on *The Arabian Nights*, depicts the story of the main protagonist, Scheherazade. Rimsky-Korsakov included a program note in the score, intended for use in concert programs: "The Sultan Schariar, convinced that all women are false and faithless, vowed to put to death each of his wives after the first nuptial night. But the Sultana Scheherazade saved her life by entertaining her lord with fascinating tales for a thousand and one nights. The Sultan, consumed with curiosity, postponed from day to day the execution of his wife, and finally repudiated his bloody vow entirely." This final movement combines themes of previous movements, including the famous violin solo, depicting the enchanting beauty of Scheherazade's storytelling.

## **The Bare Necessities from *The Jungle Book*, Terry Gilkyson arr. Franck van der Heijden**

Baloo the bear tells the story of the bare necessities of life. Inspired by Rudyard Kipling's book, the animated film "Jungle Book" of 1967 brought us this extraordinarily recognizable tune, amongst many others, remembered beyond half a century! Tonight, we are thrilled to welcome Kevin Starnes, a graduate student in vocal performance to sing with us.

## **Selections from *Les Misérables*, Claude-Michel Schönberg arr. Bob Lowden**

Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil's adaptation of Victor Hugo's epic novel depicts the June Rebellion of 19th century Paris through thrilling musicality and overwhelming scale. The musical has become a favorite in the theater and on the screen through the Academy Award winning film. This suite includes famous numbers such as "At the End of the Day", "I Dreamed a Dream", "Master of the House", "On My Own", and "Do You Hear the People Sing."

## **Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2, I. Montagues and Capulets, Sergei Prokofiev**

This excerpt from Prokofiev's famed ballet paints the image of the dueling houses of Verona with a brilliant opening: juxtaposing the dissonance and power of the winds with the calm pianissimo of the strings. This gives way to the famous Dance of the Knights, in which the tragic character is brought forth. Listen for the stark contrasts and color changes, from heavy strings to a light flute solo, portraying the archaic quality of Shakespeare's masterful stage work.

### **Suite from *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, James Newton Howard, arr. Patrick Rozell**

Magi-zoologist Newt Scamander arrives in 1926 New York City with nothing but a suitcase in this prequel to the Harry Potter series. He isn't carrying an ordinary suitcase, however, but one filled with Magical creatures from around the world. These majestic beasts cannot be contained, as they run loose around the streets of New York. As Newt fights to protect the creatures, he also finds himself stuck in the middle of a bigger plot against the magical society. The suite combines the Harry Potter universe's "Hedwig's Theme", as well as the "Main Titles", "Macussa Headquarters", "Newt's Friend", and "Ending Titles".

### **Aladdin – An Orchestral Suite, Alan Menken arr. Danny Troob**

We travel across the desert into the fabled city of Agrabah. Aladdin journeys to win the heart of Princess Jasmine with the help of the genie and the magic lamp. From the jazzy tunes of the Genie as Aladdin marches into Agrabah, to the journey across the world on the magic carpet, this medley has it all! Hear the orchestra play lifetime favorite pieces such as "Arabian Nights", "Friend Like Me", "A Whole New World", and "Prince Ali."

### **Overture to "Candide", Leonard Bernstein**

In an effort to write "The Great American Opera", Leonard Bernstein wrote the opera Candide, based on Voltaire's satirical novel written in 1759. The overture has become standard concert repertoire and is known for its tight thematic structure. Within the overture, Bernstein weaves in a brass fanfare with tunes from the most notable songs of the opera, "Glitter and be Gay" and "Make Our Garden Grow." We celebrate this wonderful music on the hundredth anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's birth.

### **Violin Concerto in D Major, III. Finale, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

We are thrilled to invite Katie Sesi, 2018 MPO Concerto Competition winner, as she plays the third movement of Tchaikovsky's virtuosic Violin Concerto. Perhaps the most recognizable concerto in all the string repertoire, the third movement of Tchaikovsky's D major concerto offers a wide range of emotional content, from a thrilling Russian Dance to a lyrical song, transitioning seamlessly from one mood to another. Known for its technical difficulty, this concerto premiered three years after being finished, as most violinists were too nervous to take on the task of a public performance.

### **Forrest Gump Suite, Alan Silvestri arr. Calvin Custer**

Our favorite runner, ping-pong player, shrimper, speaker, and All-American football player Forrest Gump travels the world on an adventure, away from his home in Greenbow, Alabama. Hear his story at the bus stop as he tells you about his life as a box of chocolates. Listen as he starts from learning how to walk to running across the entire country! Will Forrest and Jenny cross paths again?

### **Main Theme from *The Godfather* - Nino Rota, arr. Bill Holcombe**

Tonight we present the famous love theme from the 1972 Academy Award winning film based on Mario Puzo's best selling novel. The score, written by Nino Rota, received much critical acclaim, only to end in a controversial withdrawal from its status as an Academy Award nominee for best original score.

### **Suite from *Jane Eyre*, III. Reunion, John Williams**

This music from the 1970 British film adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's novel brings some of the most lyrical music in the pops repertoire. Composed by John Williams, this music echoes much of British romanticism: from a beautiful flute solo accompanied by harp, evoking Ralph Vaughan Williams, to a glorious countermelody in the horns and cellos, pointing to Edward Elgar. Winning an Emmy for outstanding achievement in music composition, this excerpt portrays of the reunion of Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester, her complicated love interest.

### **All I Ask of You from *The Phantom of the Opera*, Andrew Lloyd Webber**

From famed composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, the legendary musical "Phantom of the Opera" has dazzled audiences for decades. The love duet "All I Ask of You" that concludes Act 1, is sung by Christine and Raoul from the roof of the Paris Opera after these two lovers are finally reunited. Tonight we welcome Alison Prost as Christine and Michael Floriano as Raoul, both graduate students in vocal performance.

### **The Sound of Music - Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein arr. Robert Russell Bennett**

This critically acclaimed musical drama gives life to the tale of how an Austrian family used music to survive in their struggle to evade the terrors of the Third Reich. Listen for the classic tunes "Climb Every Mountain," "My Favorite Things," and many more! These heartwarming, memorable and timeless melodies have brought music lovers of all ages together, and the musical has become a staple of the standard musical repertoire.



## About the Michigan Pops Orchestra

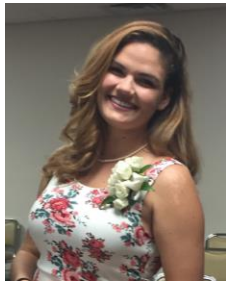
The Michigan Pops Orchestra is the oldest student-run, student-directed collegiate pops orchestra in the United States. The organization was founded in 1995 by Warren Hsu, a University of Michigan student committed to enhancing musical diversity across campus. He advertised the orchestra as one that 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



## **Kira Breeden**

Kira Breeden is a senior in the college of LSA. She has been playing French horn since she was in 7th grade after spending about three months playing trumpet. Outside of Pops, Kira has also been involved in the university band and marching band throughout her four years here at the University of Michigan. She has been a consistent member of pops since her second semester her freshman year. After graduating in April with a Bachelor of Science in computational cognitive science, Kira is hoping to take a gap year to teach English in France before returning to the US to pursue a master's degree in linguistics.

## **Alissa Chan**

Alissa is a senior at the School of Information and this is her seventh and, sadly, final semester in the Michigan Pops Orchestra. Her time in Pops has been one of the most defining parts of her college experience. It's been a dream come true to play her favorite movie soundtracks (such as Pirates of the Caribbean by Hans Zimmer), Disney masterpieces, and other amazing music over the years with such a passionate and talented group of musicians. It's also been a pleasure to share this experience with you, the audience. She wants to thank you for coming and hopes the performance is as inspiring to you as it's been for her.

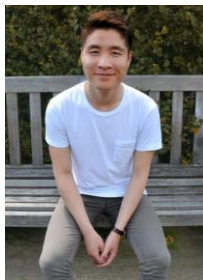


## **Brian Chang**

Brian is a Master's student in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He did his undergrad in Electrical Engineering at UM, and first joined Pops in fall 2012. During his time in Pops and at UM, Brian enjoyed playing in 11 Pops concerts, attending various Pops events, and being a GSI for EECS 281 (a course taken by a number of Pops members). What Brian will miss about Pops is some of the friends he has made during his tenure. Upon graduation, Brian will be working in the Ann Arbor area, while he figures out what his plans are going forward.

## **Camden Cheek**

After three great years with Pops, Camden is graduating in April with a Master's in Biomedical Engineering. After graduation, he will be getting married (!) to his best friend and moving to Grand Rapids, where he will be working with Blue Medora as a software engineer. As much as he has enjoyed U of M, he is looking forward to the future and can only hope that he will find new friends as awesome as those he's made in his time here.



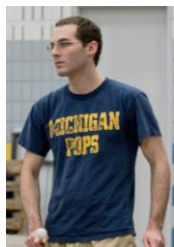
## **John Fan**

John is a senior in Civil Engineering, planning to attend Graduate School this coming Fall at the University of Michigan. He has always been passionate about music, and would like to thank Pops for the great jams these past four years. On top of the diverse and exciting music selection, Pops has become his dearest family, and John has only fond memories of the adventures they've taken together every semester. Shout out to the percussion section, new and old! Thank you all for being chill and always having his back. John knows it hasn't settled in yet, but he will miss you all - Pops love forever.



### **Cara Fleming**

Cara is a senior from Farmington Hills, MI, graduating with a B.S.E. in Civil Engineering. She has been a part of Pops for the past three years and has enjoyed all of her experiences as a flutist in the orchestra. She has really valued being a part of this quirky community of musicians and is glad to have found a group of students who share her love for performing great music! Some of her favorite Pops memories have been playing in the Diag as a part of Conduct Us, dinners with the flute section, and Pops Prom. After graduation, Cara plans to attend graduate school to earn her master's degree in Civil Engineering. She would like to thank everyone for a great semester and wish everyone a great concert! Pops Love and Go Blue!

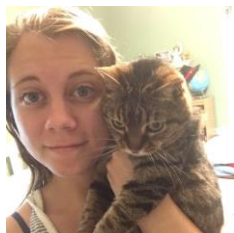


### **Saul Hankin**

Saul Hankin played percussion with the Michigan Pops Orchestra for four years as an undergraduate at U of M (LSA '13). After spending three years on the East Coast, he returned to U of M for a Master's degree in the School of Information and has played with Pops for the past two years. Saul now has 12 Pops concert posters pinned up in his apartment and owns what may be the oldest Pops t-shirt still being worn (see photo).

### **Claire Husselbee**

Claire is senior graduating with a B.S.E. in environmental engineering. This is her second semester playing trumpet in Pops and she can't thank Rotem enough for badgering her via email to join. Next fall, Claire will be pursuing a master's degree in environmental engineering and health at Johns Hopkins University. She hopes you enjoy the show and wishes you the happiest of ever-afters.



### **Tim Johnson**

This is Tim's first and last semester in Pops. Tim is studying Engineering Physics with minors in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics. He enjoys playing trumpet and taking long hikes in the mountains. After graduation, he will attend MIT to pursue a PhD in Plasma Physics.

### **Andrew Katcha**

Andrew is proud to perform in his eighth and final concert with the Michigan Pops Orchestra. Since joining the orchestra his freshman year, he has not missed a concert and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. He held the Executive Board position of Orchestra Liaison during his junior year. He leaves Pops remembering the fun massive games of rock-paper-scissors during rehearsals as well as pops progressive parties. After graduation, he will begin his career as a software engineer at Qualtrics in Seattle.





### **Jun Beom Ku**

Jun Beom is a senior studying applied mathematics at LS&A, who has been part of MPO for four years. During his time at MPO, he started out as a flautist but ultimately assumed a role of piccoloist. Some of his favorite repertoire performed with MPO includes Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*, Shostakovic's *Festival Overture*, and Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*. He believes he grew both as a scholar and as a musician during his time at MPO, interacting with people of various disciplines and backgrounds. He hopes to continue his endeavors in classical music performance even after graduating from the university.

### **Rebecca Lynch**

Rebecca is a senior in Computer Science with minors in Physics and Music. She has spent four years as a cellist in Pops and served three years on the Executive Board as the Librarian, Personnel Director, and current Executive Director. You may remember her from her legendary air horn solo last year. This is her eighth and final Pops concert, but she won't be going far, as she will be working at Duo Security in Ann Arbor after graduation and bothering her fellow Popsicles on a regular basis.

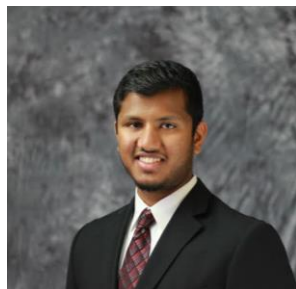


### **Hannah Lynn**

Hannah Lynn is from Ann Arbor, MI and is graduating this semester with a B.S. in Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience, along with minors in Political Science and Gender, Race, & Nation. Hannah has played the flute for twelve years, first picking it up in her fifth grade band class. She has been a member of Pops since Fall 2014, and has served on the Executive Board for the last two years as Publicity Director. Hannah's most memorable Pops experience has been the lasting friendships she made with her Pops Pals, during both her junior and senior year in the orchestra. This will be her eighth and final concert performing with the Michigan Pops Orchestra.

### **Sagar Singichetti**

Sagar Singichetti is a senior at the University of Michigan studying computer science and entrepreneurship. This is his first year as a violinist in the Michigan Pops Orchestra and it is exactly how he wanted to close out his four-year career here in Ann Arbor. He would like to thank his parents and sister for supporting him throughout his undergraduate education and for encouraging him to once again pursue his passion for the violin. He would also like to thank all of his friends for being his moral support during his four years in Ann Arbor as he would not have made it through without them. Upon graduation, he will be taking his talents to either New York City or Seattle to work for Amazon as a software development engineer.





### **Brian Tang**

Brian is a graduating as a Chemistry major with a minor in Computer Science from the University of Michigan. This concert is his 4<sup>th</sup> winter concert with the Michigan Pops Orchestra. Besides Pops, Brian is involved with the Michigan Marching Band, Alpha Chi Sigma (Professional Chemistry Fraternity), A2 Code Blue Jump Rope Club, and the Michigan Basketball Band. His favorite pieces with Pops include Der Hexenritt (W15), The Dark Knight(W16), Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1 (W17), and Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them(W18).

### **Rachel Woods**

Rachel Elaine Woods will be graduating this year with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Judaic Studies. While Rachel is very excited to graduate and make progress in finding her dream career in social science and health, she will be very sad to leave her Pops family. She joined Pops at the beginning of her sophomore year, and only wishes that she had found it sooner! Rachel has been listening to both classical music and movie soundtracks since she was a little girl and being in this orchestra has brought her so much nostalgia and fantasy. But most importantly, it has given her the opportunity to meet some of the most wonderful people, many of whom she would consider lifelong friends. Rachel has given a lot to Pops these last three years, both as a player and an Executive Board member, but she has gotten many more gifts in return. She will cherish her musical memories for many years to come, and her beloved friends always.



### **Vickie Xin**

Four years ago, Vickie joined pops on a whim. She has been playing the bassoon for 11 years now and never imagined that she'd be sitting here for her 8<sup>th</sup> and final concert. Vickie feels incredibly lucky to have been able to share her love for music with her fellow talented musicians and friends these last few years. She'll be graduating with a degree in Biopsychology, Cognition and Neuroscience with a minor in Asian Languages and Cultures. In a few months, she'll be relocating to East Lansing to begin medical school at Michigan State University - but don't worry, her heart will always be in Ann Arbor. Go Blue

and Pops Love!

### **Emily Zuo**

Emily joined her first orchestra in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, having chosen to play the violin because it "looked complicated." Today, she still thinks it's complicated (but also fun, of course). Emily is graduating with a degree in ecology, evolution, and biodiversity, and a minor in music. She plans on studying entomology in graduate school. Playing in the Michigan Pops Orchestra has been an irreplaceable part of her undergraduate experience, and she is thankful for all of the pieces she's played, people she's met, and movies she's had to wear ridiculous wigs for.





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

*We hope  
you enjoy the show!*