

the michigan pops orchestra presents

# a quarter century of pops love

*Executive Director*  
**Jessica Wu**

*Music Director*  
**Tal Benatar**



**Premieres on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> | 7 PM**

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

## Welcome to A Quarter Century of Popslove!

To our lovely audience members,

Thank you for joining us for a night of fun performances and also celebration as we complete our 25th year! We invite you to sit back and enjoy music from timeless classics such as The Lion King, Studio Ghibli films, and if you stick around, you might catch some Smash Mouth hits famously featured in, none other than, Shrek. We also hope you will reminisce with us upon these past 25 years in Pops and take a look at what has defined Popslove in the past and present.

Although we had imagined this 25th anniversary to occur in our home at the Michigan Theater, we knew we could still make a virtual concert special. This would not have been possible without the support of our wonderful alumni. We sincerely thank those who have offered guidance to us this year and those who submitted content for our concert! Additionally, I'd like to recognize our Pops Executive Board members who continue to go above and beyond in all aspects. Extra thanks to those on our 25th Anniversary committees!

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; and University Unions for the use of their facilities.

Finally, we'd like to express how grateful we are toward you, the audience, for joining us. We know that although it may not be the same experience as sitting in the Michigan Theater, we hope that, as always, you can feel the Popslove (a quarter century of it, to be exact).

Jessica Wu  
Executive Director





# PROGRAM

Baba Yetu from Civilization IV - Christopher Tin (arr. Johnnie Vinson)

Sara Huang & Elayna Sabelhaus, flutes

Ben Stensen & Will Zhang, clarinets

Ishpreet Kohli, french horn

Evan Chung, trombone

Highlights from Walt Disney Pictures' The Lion King - Hans Zimmer, Elton John, and Tim Rice (arr. Michael Brown)

Aruna Ganesan & Rose Sproat, violins

Rachel Moloney, viola

Malin Andersson, cello

Seve Williams, Bass

Knights of Cydonia - Muse (arr. Vitamin String Quartet)

Katie Sesi & Lex Fortune, violins

Stephen Moss, viola

Lydia Peters, cellos

Studio Ghibli Medley - Joe Hishaishi (arr. AnArtisticFangirl)

Melissa Beyrand & Max McLoughlin, violins

Paul Fedorowicz, viola

Avi Weingarten & Lauren Hertzner, cello

Music from Aladdin (arr. Johnnie Vinson)

Calise Wang, violin

Jessica Wu, viola

Jinwook Lee & Jagienka Timek, cellos

Alex Raistrick, bass

The Best of Smash Mouth (arr. Paul Murtha)

Janeen Zheng & Claire Wan, flutes

Andrew Kevic, clarinet

Philip Barrison, bassoon

Austin Lan, trombone





## 2020-21 E-BOARD



Top Row (Left to Right): Katie Sesi (Publicity), Tal Benatar (Music Director), Rose Sproat (Digital Media), Seve Williams (Technical Director) Middle Row: Gloria Kang (Librarian), Jinwook Lee (Outreach), Paul Fedorowicz (Social), Jagienka Timek (Technical Director) Bottom Row: Kei Kohmoto (Programs), Rachel Moloney (Business), Jessica Wu (Executive Director), Tanya Lai (Personnel), Calise Wang (Social)

# TAL BENATAR, MUSIC DIRECTOR



Tal Benatar is an Israeli-American conductor, arranger, and guitarist and is finishing his studies towards a DMA 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 the 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.

# 2020-21 MEMBERS

## **Violin I**

Katie Sesi  
Eugenia Cho  
Hannah Zhang\*  
Matthew Yao  
Sion Kim  
Aruna Ganesan  
Samuel Maves\*  
Renee Li  
Mac Young\*  
John Yang  
Timmy Li\*  
Braden Thompson  
Jonathan Richards\*  
Michelle Li

## **Violin II**

Adham Fattah  
Jenny Zheng  
Melissa Beyrand  
Adithya Sanjay  
Alice Wou  
Tanushree Rathi  
Calise Wang\*^  
Joel Holland  
Alexandra Fortune^  
Max McLoughlin  
Jackie Edinger  
Jonathan Lee

## **Viola**

Taylor Murray  
Rachel Moloney\*  
Jessica Wu\*^  
Rose Sproat  
Matthew Proefke  
Gabrielle Flint\*  
Paul Fedorowicz  
Leina Kaehr  
Alexander Gedeon  
Stephen Moss  
Sarah Sukal

## **Cello**

Ben Hsu\*  
Ben Stefadu  
Peter Nam  
Lydia Peters\*  
Jeffrey Lin  
Benny Zhao  
Lauren Hertzner  
Jagienka Timek  
Jinwook Lee  
Malin Andersson  
Avi Weingarten  
Alex Xiong

## **Double Bass**

Alexander Raistrick\*  
Sevrin Williams\*  
Tanya Lai^  
Julia Wolf\*  
Sylvia Wei

## **Flute/Piccolo**

Claire Wan  
Sarah Huang  
Elayna Sabelhaus  
Haddie Kim\*  
Janeen Zheng

## **Oboe**

Stephanie Turner  
Jennifer Williams

## **Clarinet/Bass Clarinet**

Isabella Panse  
Gloria Kang\*  
William Zhang  
Andrew Kevic

## **Bassoon**

Philip Barrison  
Katherine Winslow

## **French Horn**

Ishpreet Kohli\*  
Dawson Hartman  
Anna Loughman  
Kathleen Patrick  
Victor Xing  
Siwei Sun  
Glenn McDevitt

## **Trumpet**

Kei Kohmoto\*^  
Greg Papaefthymiou  
Justin Welc\*  
Thomas Raistrick

## **Trombone**

Isaac Brooks  
Evan Chung  
Austin Lan^

## **Percussion**

Kiva Nguyen  
Noah Zimmerman  
Joon Choi  
Tyler Wei

\* Graduating Member  
^ Yearbook Team

# GRADUATING MEMBERS



## GABRIELLE FLINT

Gabi Flint is a Microbiology major and violist from Novi Michigan. Her favorite piece played during her time in pops was Dual of the Fates and Battle of the Heroes because playing music from Star Wars is one of her favorite things to do. Gabi joined pops because she did not want to let her passion for music and playing and her viola to die in college. She loved hosting the Pops Progressive after party in her grungy basement and her favorite memory was seeing fellow violist Paul get "married" in said basement.



## GLORIA KANG

Gloria is a senior at the University of Michigan studying Computer Science. Pops has always been her favorite extracurricular in college, and will be the thing she misses the most about her college years. Her favorite concert was Once Upon a Pops, and her favorite piece was Reflections on Earth. She is also in the (supposed) extreme minority in greatly enjoying the viennese waltzes. In her free time, Gloria likes to play board games and do various crafts. After graduation, Gloria will enjoy the warmth of Californian sunlight (Michigan winters will not be missed) where her sleep schedule will hopefully be corrected.



## HADDIE KIM

Haddie is a senior at the University of Michigan studying Industrial and Operations Engineering. She has been in Pops since her freshman year and has greatly enjoyed her time in the orchestra. Her favorite theme was From Pops, With Love. Though she did not get to participate in her last year due to the pandemic, she will always be thankful for the music and memories she got to create in her 3 years with the orchestra.



## ISHPREET KOHLI

Ishpreet is a senior studying actuarial math and physics. He is sad to be graduating this year without having a full rodeo with the entire orchestra, but he is very grateful for the work board has done to make small ensembles happen this year. He also appreciates the two directors he's had, Rotem and Tal, for making him a better musician. What is most special to Ishpreet are being a member of the Pops community and making friends that he will forever be grateful for. He would like to thank everyone involved for making Pops such a wonderful place for him during his time in the orchestra over the past three years.



# GRADUATING MEMBERS



## KEI KOHMOTO

Kei is graduating this summer with a BA in Environment and minors in Music and Japanese. She has been in Pops since her freshman year and has served as the programs director for the past two years. She is so thankful for the invaluable opportunities to meet and make great friends, play such fun music, and feel the pops love. After graduating, she will be working as an environmental education and communications fellow in her home state of Wisconsin. She would like to thank her family and friends for their endless and unconditional support. Go blue!



## TIMMY LI

Timmy is a senior at the University of Michigan. Music has been a huge part of his life and he is so thankful to have been able to continue his musical career at UMich. Joining the Pops Orchestra was one of the best decisions of his college career and one that he appreciates so much. He's made so many memories and friends, and will always appreciate how unique and special this organization was. Bringing people together to make such exciting and popular music is a special opportunity that he will never forget. Forever and always, #PopsLove and Go Blue.



## SAM MAVES

Sam is a senior studying Sociology and Biology. He joined Pops as a freshman and has been overwhelmed with the love, talent, and joy found all throughout this group over the past eight semesters. Although he is sad to leave under the current circumstances, Sam is happy to have played in five amazing concerts and made countless memories over the years. Special thanks go to his parents, to the ever so wonderful Pops board, and to his stand partner of three years, Renee Li.



## RACHEL MOLONEY

Rachel is a senior graduating with degrees in German, History, and International Studies. She had the honor of playing with Pops for the last eight semesters, as well as serving as the orchestra's Social Director and Business Director. Some of her favorite memories in Pops include organizing a Pops wedding, playing "Reflections of Earth," and camping with her fellow popsicles. Rachel is deeply grateful for the traditions, memories, and friendships she has made. She sends loving thanks to her family, boardies, and fellow violists. PL!

# GRADUATING MEMBERS



LYDIA PETERS

Lydia is senior studying chemical engineering with a minor in music. Lydia hails from Chelsea, MI. She joined the pops cello section during her very first semester on campus and has been involved ever since! Lydia especially enjoyed the pops camping trips and concert days. Outside of school and pops, Lydia loves being in the great outdoors and cooking brunch. After graduation, she will be moving to Chicago to start work as a Process Engineer at BP Whiting Refinery.



ALEX RAISTRICK

Alex is a senior studying Computer Science in the College of Engineering. He has spent seven wonderful semesters as part of the mighty pops bass section, and is thankful to the whole orchestra for all the great music, camaraderie, and fun. In the fall, he will start his Ph.D. in Computer Science at Princeton University, NJ, specializing in Computer Vision & AI.



JACK RICHARDS

Jack is a senior majoring in Biochemistry with a minor in Political Science and Being a Straight Up Idiot. He claims that he hit his head when he was younger, but says otherwise: "He's always been like that. Just, empty-headed." At Pops alone, Jack has come in early a record 763 different times, and late an impressive 478 times. However, if there's one thing Jack is, it is lucky. He's been blessed with great family, friends, and opportunities to grow. Jack is eternally thankful that he had the opportunity to meet many of them at Pops and hopes that they remain a part of his life for a long time.



CALISE WANG

Calise will be graduating with a BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences and a minor in Biology. She will be continuing at the University of Michigan to pursue a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree. She has been a violinist in Pops for the past 4 years, with 3 of them on the Executive Board. Some of her favorite Pops memories include being part of an infamous gourd flute duo in Pops Got Talent, many progressives, and each and every concert she's been a part of. Calise is thankful for all the friendships, spongebob memes, and opportunities that Pops has given her. Popslove Forever <3



# GRADUATING MEMBERS



## JUSTIN WELC

Justin is a senior graduating with a major in Computer Science and a minor in Japanese, and this would have been his sixth semester with Pops. Although Pops cannot meet as a full orchestra right now, he is incredibly grateful for all of the friendships and memories he has made, especially with his fellow trumpets. Even though he was not able to perform it due to the pandemic, his favorite piece that he got to play with Pops was Mars from The Planets. After graduating, he will be moving to California to work as a software engineer at Roblox.



## SEVE WILLIAMS

Disclaimer: this bio pic is a lie - Seve now looks like a hippie with long hair and a beard. Anyways, after studying Classical Languages and Philosophy, Politics, & Economics at UMich, he'll be pursuing a MSc in Economics at the Stockholm School of Economics. Although his time in Pops was limited to 8 semesters, the friendships and memories will follow him forever, especially the ones made in Bassalonia and at movie filming events. Bass sections are just #BuiltDifferent (it's hard to describe), and participating in movies as an actor and as a tech director has allowed Seve to goof around and get to know some amazing people.



## JESSICA WU

Jessica will be graduating with a BS in Cellular and Molecular Biology and plans to apply to medical school after taking a gap year. She has played viola in Pops since her freshman year. Her favorite memories include her Grammy-worthy Pops Got Talent performances and combing Twitter for SpongeBob screenshots for the newsletters. Some... less fond memories include playing Danse Bacchanale, scrambled Firebird, and finding that all the Oreos were already eaten during break. She's incredibly grateful for all the lovely people she's met in Pops and hopes to continue spreading Popslove!



## MACKENZIE YOUNG

Mac is senior at the University of Michigan graduating in Computer Science. He plans to move to Seattle to work for Microsoft. His favorite Pops memory is playing at the Love themed concert. His favorite piece he played was Danse Bacchanale, even though it didn't go as planned.... XD



## HANNAH ZHANG

Hannah is a senior at the University of Michigan with a major in computer science and a minor in music. She joined Pops in winter semester of her freshman year and loves all the fun people and great music that she has experienced during her time here. Her favorite program was Once Upon a Pops featuring selections from Beauty and the Beast, Les Mis, Phantom of the Opera, Romeo and Juliet, and The Sound of Music. After graduation, she plans to return to her hometown Rockville, MD, where she will begin working as a software engineer.

# THE MICHIGAN POPS ORCHESTRA



2:00 pm

Sunday, March 31, 1996

Michigan Theater



# Reflecting & Celebrating

Twenty-five years ago, a group of like-minded dreamers took the stage at the Michigan Theater. With a wave of the conductor's wand, the dramatic percussion beats of Fanfare for the Common Man erupted into the evening, and a cascade of trumpet notes heralded the start of a concert seven months in the making. For sixty-three students, it was the culmination of everything they had worked for, and everything they had hoped for. Together, they had announced the arrival of the Michigan Pops Orchestra.

I remember that night well, and all the blood, sweat, and tears we had poured into our passion project that year. But what made Pops special for us was not that we had dared to play Danny Elfman's Batman theme while whirling the Bat symbol around the auditorium (although that was super cool!). What made Pops special for us was that every second of that concert was a moment we had created all on our own. There was something uniquely gratifying in knowing that our performance was 100% student-led, student-directed, student-imagined, and student-loved. Although the phrase Pops Love would become the orchestra's unofficial motto years later, I feel that we had loved that orchestra into existence right away.

No one could have envisioned what would happen next though. As new voices added their own rich stories each year, Pops grew. Ideas like Pops Progressive, the Pops Screen Actors Guild, and Pops Pals sprung out of creative minds and turned into traditions. Sunday afternoon practices at Revelli Hall became a time to not only play fun music but to connect with friends and a new family. Pops became a place to find oneself, experience some of life's immeasurable lessons, and belong to something greater. For some, Pops would even go on to define their time at the University of Michigan and beyond.

For myself, I still like to say that I majored in Pops. It remains the single best thing I have done in my life (aside from marrying my wife and raising our three children of course). What brings me the most joy is learning about an upcoming concert, wondering what special adventures might have occurred, and knowing that it was all lovingly crafted and created by kindred spirits. I eagerly await to find out what the 25th Anniversary concert has in store for us. I can think of no better company to celebrate this with than with my Pops Family.

MPL,

Warren Hsu  
Founder of the Michigan Pops Orchestra





the first  
small ensembles logo

FALL 2003



The birth of small  
ensembles!

MARCH 2007  
First progressive!



MARCH 31, 1996  
The first Pops concert!

NOVEMBER  
1st, 1997

The first  
fall concert!



APRIL 2,  
2006



Pops turns 10

MPO  
String  
Orchestra  
debuts!



MARCH  
2008

# Pops Timeline



c. 2013



First pops cup!

← revamped  
in 2016! (jug from)

FALL 2016



The first  
Pops Pals!

NOVEMBER 3,  
2019



The first  
Pops Got Talent!

APRIL 17,  
2016



Pops turns 20

&



pops plays the  
chicago symphony  
orchestra's version  
of **The Victors** for  
the first time!

APRIL 2021



pops turns 25



# Down Memory Lane...





To:



Hannah Lynn  
2014-2018



Marqanita Consing  
2014-2017



Derek Chen  
2016-2020

## Favorite Memories

I really enjoyed Pops Pals, it helped the members of the orchestra get to know people outside of their own section. It was especially exciting to see new members of the orchestra become active participants in the organization and then eventually become board members. I got to participate in the inaugural Pops Pals during Fall 2016 and the second year it ran in the Fall of 2017.

HL

DC

Winning the beer mile relay in 2016 with the firsts, and winning Pops Cup with the firsts in 2018 and the seconds in 2019!

Pops Progressive parties were always the best way to get to know many people across the orchestra, bringing back Pops Cup in Winter 2015, and ending my time in Pops with our Pops Prom in April 2017

MC

## Favorite Concerts

Drop It Like It's Pops, it was the culminating concert during my first year on executive board. Seeing the whole year come to a successful close was so fulfilling! To this day it is one of my favorite Pops memories.

HL

Personally, the Love concert in F19 because it felt super amazing just watching everything come together after an entire semester of planning and rehearsing and running around everywhere on concert day getting things in order! A close second is the Elements concert in W19

DC

Game of Pops because playing the Game of Thrones theme was epic in addition to the rest of the amazing repertoire and it was my first Pops concert

MC

## What did you like about Pops?

The many friendships and memories I got to make. Pops was my reprieve from the stressors of college life and I am so thankful I got to be a part of it!

HL

Being surrounded by the friendliest people I've met, with everyone from different backgrounds coming together to bond over music and create the greatest community of all time! It's so nostalgic seeing all of the pictures of my early years in Pops, the people I consider the "legends", and the newer pictures of the people I think of as the future of Pops

DC

I loved how we all came from different majors and schools, yet we could all relate through playing fun, memorable music. It introduced me to so many lifelong friends than I could have imagined.

MC





# Dear Graduating Seniors...

Keep in touch with your fellow popsicles by joining MPA! One of the first things I missed about college during post-grad life was Pops. Joining MPA and MPAC really helped me continue to enjoy the Pops Love!

~Hannah Lynn (2014-18)

Savor these last moments of attending the best university in the world and be proud of all that you have accomplished!

~Margarita Consing (2014-17)





# Dear Alumni...

*Thank you for continuing to spread the Pops Love! I am so thankful that our alumni network is continuing to grow and that we are able to share our Pops experiences with each other.*

*~Hannah Lynn (2014-18)*

*I miss all of you and my memories with you were some of my favorite that made my time at UMich so special!*

*~Margarita Consing (2014-17)*





AMAZING!

BUMPIN'!

CLOSE-KNIT

WHOLESO ME LOVE

STAR WARS CONDUCT US!

25

peppermint parties!

POPS CUP

What's one word you associate with POPS?

COOL!

welcoming

LOVE

COMMUNITY

UNIQUE

MEMORIES

POPS PALS

FAMILY

PIZZA MUSIC



PROG

IRREPLACEABLE

REVELLI

LOVE HALL \* \*

FUN



FRIENDS

AYYYYY

FAMILY

BASS-ALONIA



POPS LUCK