



HOUGHTON COLLEGE

GREATBATCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ARTIST SERIES

[2016-17]





A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 2016-2017 Artist Series concerts! The Greatbatch School of Music strives to provide the community with top-quality entertainment. This year's lineup offers new and unique musical perspectives,

broadening the scope of our traditional sound. From the Latin guitar sounds of David Burgess, to the unique 19th-century Americana sounds of the Dodworth Saxhorn Band, to the eclectic, Western-New-York-inspired sounds of Wooden Cities, prepare for a journey across the years and world. Next we add Axiom Brass quintet, covering original brass compositions, transcriptions, and jazz, and finish up with Houghton alumna Gretchen Hull tickling the ivories. The result? A diverse Artist Series that keeps you wondering just where we will take you next.

God has blessed us tremendously with a mission: to share the wonders of music and Christ's love through the talents that He has bestowed upon us. This series captures those gifts, be they re-creating the musical atmosphere of the 19th-century, improvising on the trombone, or offering up praise from the piano.

It is my prayer that you will experience the magic, mystery, and blessings of music at Houghton College.

Armenio Suzano
Dean and Director, Greatbatch School of Music



DAVID BURGESS

Praised by musicians and critics worldwide, David Burgess is recognized as one of today's outstanding guitarists. His international appearances as soloist and chamber musician have taken him to concert halls throughout North and South America, Europe, and the Far East. Highlights of recent seasons include several concert tours of Europe; repeated recitals in New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Baltimore, Boston, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Denver, Phoenix, and Nashville; along with numerous appearances as an orchestral soloist, including featured performances with the Philharmonia Virtuosi of New York, and the American Chamber Orchestra at the Kennedy Center.

First-prize winner in the Andrés Segovia Fellowship Competition in New York City, he has also won top honors in the Ponce International Competition in Mexico City, the Guitar '81 Competition in Toronto, and the 31st International Music Competition in Munich.

Mr. Burgess began studying guitar at the Estudio de Arte Guitarrístico in Mexico City with the renowned Argentine guitarist Manuel López Ramos. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music at the University of Washington, and later earned a Diploma di Merito, while on full scholarship at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy, where he studied with Oscar Bhiglia. From 1984-1987 he periodically received classes from the great Spanish maestro, Andrés Segovia.



THE DODWORTH SAXHORN BAND

The Dodworth Saxhorn Band (DSB), headquartered in Ann Arbor, Mich., is America's premier 19th-century brass band. Presenting performances in the context of the social and political issues of the time, the DSB recreates the music and atmosphere of a 19th-century community brass band.

Formed in 1985 by musical instrument collector Alexander Pollock, the DSB was originally created as a living history project. The Band is modeled after the Dodworth Band of New York City, which was the premier brass band in the United States from the 1840s to the 1880s. The original Dodworth Band was directed by brothers Allen and Harvey Dodworth, who were among the most highly respected musicians and bandmasters of the 19th-century.

In keeping with its living history origins, the DSB uses only brass and percussion instruments that were built in the 1800s. The antique horns are conical-bore instruments commonly called "saxhorns." These handmade saxhorns are pitched higher than modern 21st-century brass instruments and produce a uniquely mellow tone. This class of brass instruments was invented in the early 1800s by Belgian instrument maker Adolph Sax. These modified saxhorns were used extensively during the Civil War, and following the war many musicians returned home with their instruments and formed local community bands that played for occasions varying from funerals to political rallies. The DSB and its members currently own and play more than 60 of these period instruments.

The band performs 19th-century music including compositions and arrangements from the Smithsonian Institute, the Library of Congress, private collections, and university libraries, as well as a few new arrangements by musicologists who are experts in 19th-century brass band style and instrumentation.

The DSB's programs are composed of scripted segments that address many of the social and political issues of the era, including immigration, the suffrage movement, the Civil War, and opera. Through music and dialog, the DSB offers a wide variety of family-friendly shows that educate, entertain, and involve audience members of all ages.

Past performances include Ken Burns' 10-part PBS documentary "Baseball" and a subsequent performance for "An Afternoon of Baseball" at the White House at the invitation of President and Mrs. Clinton. The DSB was also heard in Ken Burns' series "Jazz." The band has performed at brass band festivals, museums, presidential libraries, the 1993 Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, and for numerous festivals, parades, and theaters in Michigan. DSB has appeared on Detroit Public Television's "Backstage Pass" and NPR's Weekend Edition.



WOODEN CITIES

Wooden Cities is both an ensemble and a collective of performers and composers seeking to help increase the performance and awareness of contemporary music in the Western New York area through unique, educational presentations. Formed in July 2011, the group served as a vehicle for director Brendan Fitzgerald to present John Zorn's game piece *Cobra*. Since that time, the group has grown to nearly a dozen performers and is constantly seeking new works by new composers while continuing to present works by some of the essential, yet underrepresented composers of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Wooden Cities has spent the last five years committing itself to performing and presenting works in quality

performance venues, including Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, PAUSA Art House, St. Joseph's University Parish, Unity Church of Buffalo, Silo City, Lippes Hall (SUNY Buffalo), and more. The ensemble has premiered almost 20 newly composed works, including four pieces commissioned specifically for the ensemble itself. With funding from the Muriel Wolf and Albert Steger Endowment, Wooden Cities has also reconstructed several works from Buffalo's rich history or contemporary music, presenting works – such as Lejaren Hiller's *Avalanche* (1968) – which had not seen a performance for many years. As a collective of composers and arrangers, Wooden Cities has created an extensive repertoire of new pieces of contemporary music, arrangements of works from the classical music canon, scores for silent films, and popular music arrangements, while also frequently engaging in free improvisation and game pieces.

Wooden Cities' varied repertoire allows it to present a variety of programs, which range from classically-oriented programs of chamber music, avant garde experimentalism and free improvisation, to more rock-oriented performances and arrangements of popular music tunes. The ensemble attempts to tailor programs to best suit the performance space, and invites venues to request particular pieces or assist in the goal of crafting a program which adapts the ensembles skills to suit the particular strengths of the space.



AXIOM BRASS

Praised for a “high level of musicality and technical ability” and for “clean, clear and precise sound,” the award-winning Axiom Brass Quintet has quickly established itself as “one of the major art music groups in brass chamber music.” They are winners of the Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition (2012), the Preis der Europa-Stadt Passau in Germany (2012), the 2008 International Chamber Brass Competition and prize-winners of the 2010 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, the Plowman Chamber Music Competition, and the Jeju City International Brass Quintet Competition in South Korea.

Axiom Brass is dedicated to enhancing the musical life of communities across the globe and educating the

next generation of musicians. The ensemble’s commitment to education and its blend of virtuosic performances and dynamic teaching have inspired young audiences around the nation, earning the ensemble the 2011 Fischhoff Educator Award.

Internationally recognized for groundbreaking programming, Axiom’s repertoire ranges from jazz and Latin music to string quartet transcriptions, as well as original compositions for brass quintet. Axiom’s performances have captured the hearts and imaginations of audiences, leading the ensemble to national radio and television appearances as well as concerts in Asia, Europe and across the U.S. The ensemble’s dedication to brass repertoire has led to the commission and premiere of several new works, including *Celestial Suite* by James Stephenson and *For Then and Now* by Laurence Bitensky.

Highlights of Axiom’s past seasons have included concerts in the Dominican Republic, Germany, Portugal, Spain, South Korea and Japan; a four-week residency at the Grand Tetons Music Festival; the release of the group’s debut album, *New Standards*; clinics and performances at the 2010 and 2012 Midwest Clinic; New York debuts at Symphony Space and Merkin Hall; masterclasses at The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music; as well as recitals, masterclasses, and solo appearances with orchestras and bands around the U.S.

Axiom Brass is an Ensemble-in-Residence at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute and Rush Hour Concerts’ “Back of the Yards” program in Chicago.

Axiom Brass performs exclusively on Mutec Mutes and S. E. Shires Trumpets and Trombones.



GRETCHEN HULL

Gretchen Hull is currently a doctoral student and graduate fellow at Temple University studying piano performance under Charles Abramovic. She received her master's degree from Temple and her bachelor's degree from Houghton College, where she studied under Dr. William John Newbrough, who studied under Leon Fleischer.

Gretchen has performed recitals for WSKG's televised series Expressions, the Classical Pianists of the Future series, the OASIS concert series, the Immanuel Episcopal Concert Series, and multiple times for the Civic Morning Musical Wednesday Recital Series at the Everson Museum of Art (Syracuse). She has been

featured on WCNY, WSKG, and WPEL radio stations, as well as WSKG's television show Artist Café.

A past participant in the Chautauqua Piano Program and the International Keyboard Institute and Festival in NYC, she was also recently a semifinalist in the PIANALE International Piano Academy and Competition in Schlitz, Germany. Gretchen has performed in masterclasses led by Garrick Ohlsson, Ignat Solzhenitsyn, Jerome Rose, Marcantonio Balone, Angela Cheng, and Sonia Lee (harpsichord).

Gretchen is also a member of Philadelphia-based piano trio Trio Amaranth, and serves as a member of the piano faculty at the Csehy Summer School of Music. Past teachers include Ms. Rebecca Penneys, Dr. Michael Landrum, Dr. Samuel Hsu, and Ms. Monique Leduc.



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