UMS Night School—Winter 2012

*Explore Renegade*

Course Syllabus

**Course Description**

Art is about saying something, yet its fundamental challenge is not just to be understood but to be HEARD AT ALL. Artists who get noticed, who are remembered by history, are the mavericks and renegades. These aesthetic revolutionaries not only do something different, they do something that changes art itself—making communication possible and keeping art alive. Mavericks and renegades imagine new creative procedures, they provoke, challenge, and transgress. Audiences who engage with this work, whether they like the results or hate them, never quite experience music, theatre, or dance in quite the same way again. Both art and audience are transformed. Our collective understanding of what it means to be human grows.

In the Winter 2012 term, the University Musical Society presents RENEGADE—a 10-event season within a season featuring artists who have reimagined art. These include pioneering choreographers Lucinda Childs and Wayne McGregor; conceptual playwrights Robert Lepage and Robert Wilson, plus experimental composers John Cage, Philip Glass, Olivier Messiaen, Meredith Monk, Ludwig van Beethoven, Mason Bates, and Carlo Gesualdo, among others; Performers making their works come alive include the Tallis Scholars, Philip Glass Ensemble, Random Dance, the Hagen String Quartet, and the Hamburg & San Francisco Symphonies.

UMS Night School is a series of 90-minute “classes” that include a 30-minute discussion of each performance on the series, plus a 60-minute intro session for the next performance. Each session includes a presentation by a genre expert, an interactive exercise to draw participants into the themes behind the performance, and a takeaway reading to enjoy on your own. Sessions are designed to engage you both with the performances and with other audience members.

All sessions are held on Mondays beginning at 7:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room of the Ann Arbor District Library’s Downtown Branch 343 S. Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Ph. (734) 327-4200

**Meeting Schedule**

January 9 (Night School)—Talking about Time (Is it all relative?)

• Why Renegade?

• UMS Night School: Syllabus and Expectations

• *Einstein on the Beach* (1976) by Robert Wilson, Philip Glass, et al.

• Olivier Messiaen’s *From the Canyon to the Stars* / Hamburg Symphony

Related Events (all free):

Jan. 10: Stephen Rush opera talk at Institute for the Humanities, 12:30pm

Jan. 10: Screening: *Absolute Wilson* at UMMA, 7pm

Jan. 11: Lecture on Einstein at Rackham Auditorium, 5pm: Peter Galison, “Einstein, Clocks and the Materiality of Time” (presented by U-M Institute for the Humanities)

Jan. 15: Penny W. Stamps Speaker Series: Robert Wilson and Philip Glass, 4pm Michigan Theatre (presented by U-M School of Art & Design)

Jan. 18: The Business of Einstein on the Beach: Producers Talk, 6pm at Ross School of Business, Wyly Hall, W2740.

Jan. 21: Saturday Morning Physics: Einstein as Cultural Figure, 10:30am at Rackham Auditorium (featuring Philip Glass, presented by the U-M Physics Department)

***Einstein on the Beach*, Jan. 20 & 21 @ 7pm & 22 @ 2pm • Power Center (Ticket required)** Remember to post to UMS Lobby after show

**Messiaen: *From the Canyons to the Stars*, Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, Jan. 29 @ 4pm • Hill Auditorium (Ticket required)** Remember to post to UMS Lobby after show

February 6 (Night School)— Meaning, Mysticism & Movement

• Discussion of *Einstein* and *Canyons*…

• Introduction of Carlo Gesualdo’s *Tenebrae Responses* / Tallis Scholars and Wayne McGregor/Random Dance

• Guests: TBA

Related Events (free):

Feb. 8: John Cage *“Lectures on Nothing / Something*” performed by Prof. Clague, 8pm at Blanch Anderson Moore Hall (lower level below McIntosh Theatre) in School of Music, Theatre & Dance Moore Building

Feb. 13: Screening: *The Legend of Leigh Bowery*, Q&A with director Charles Atlas at UMMA, 7pm

Feb. 14: Charles Atlas talk at Institute for the Humaties, 12:30pm

**Gesualdo Concert by Tallis Scholars, Feb. 16, 7:30pm @ St. Francis Church (Ticket required)** Remember to post to UMS Lobby after show

**Random Dance Performance, *FAR*, Feb. 18, 8pm @ Power Center (Ticket required)** Post to UMS Lobby after show

February 20 (Night School)—Beethoven the Renegade

• Discussion of Gesualdo/Tallis Scholars and McGregor’s Random Dance

• Introduction of Beethoven as Renegade and Hagen Quartet

• Guest: U-M Professor Steven Whiting (Musicology)

**Hagen Quartet Concert, Feb. 23, Rackham Auditorium @ 7:30pm (Ticket required)** Post to UMS Lobby after show

“Spring” Break

Related Event

**March 7: Screening: *Helicopter String Quartet* at Michigan Theatre @ 7pm (Ticket required – www.aafilmfest.org)**

March 12 (Night School)—Shadows of Children’s Tales

• Discussion of Beethoven / Hagen Quartet concert

• Introduction of Robert Lepage’s *The Andersen Project*

**Robert LePage—*The Andersen Project* (Ticket Required) March 15 @ 7:30; March 16 & 17 @ 8 pm; Power Center**

March 19 (Night School)—To Be or Not To Be a Musical Maverick

• Discussion of *The Andersen Project*

• Introduction of San Francisco Symphony’s Mavericks Series

• Guest: Susan Key, San Francisco Symphony

Related Event

March 20: Mark Clague talk at Institute for the Humanities, 12:30pm

**San Francisco Symphony Mavericks Series (Ticket Required) March 22 @ 7:30pm, 23 @ 8pm, 24 @ 8pm, 25 @ 4pm**

March 26 (Night School)—Graduation!

• Discussion of San Francisco Symphony’s Mavericks Series

• Wrap Up and Graduation!

Related Event

April 3: William Bolcom talk at Institute for the Humanities, 12:30pm

Course Assignments & Expectations

**Participation & Attendance**

UMS Night School encourages regular participation with an open artistic mind and heart; please fill out the daily attendance sheet whenever you are present. Attendance is not required, however, and it’s okay to come late. No preparation is expected for UMS Night School classes.

**Reflecting on Each Show—UMS Lobby Participation**

Night School attendees are asked to comment actively online after each show on the UMS Lobby social media site at <http://www.umslobby.org>. If you are not comfortable posting, consider keeping a *Renegades Diary* with your notes from Night School sessions, plus your personal reactions to each performance.

**Registration**

UMS Night School is free and open to everyone. Registration is optional but recommended as supplementary course materials and special announcements will be distributed through email. Know that your contact information will not be shared with third parties.

**UMS Night School Faculty and Staff**

Mark Clague, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. of Musicology & American Culture (UM)

James Leija, Director of Education & Community Engagement (UMS)

Michael Kondziolka, Director of Programming (UMS)

Mary Roeder, Education Coordinator (UMS)

**For performance information or to purchase tickets, visit** [**www.ums.org**](http://www.ums.org)

**Full information about related events:** [**http://bit.ly/umsevents**](http://bit.ly/umsevents)

**Partner sites:**

* U-M Institute for the Humanities: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/humanities/>
* Saturday Morning Physics <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/physics/events/saturdaymorningphysics>
* Penny W. Stamps Speaker Series
<http://art-design.umich.edu/stamps>
* Ann Arbor Film Festival
<http://www.aafilmfest.org/>

**Questions or suggestions? Please contact Mary Roeder in the UMS Education & Community Engagement Department at** **mbroeder@umich.edu** **or 734-615-4077.**

**Locations (in Ann Arbor):**

* Ann Arbor District Library: 343 S. Fifth Avenue
* Michigan Theater: 603 E. Liberty Street
* Rackham Auditorium: 915 E. Washington Street
* Ross School of Business, Wyly Hall: 724 E. University
* U-M Institute for the Humanities: 202 S. Thayer Street, First Floor
* U-M Museum of Art: 525 S. State Street
* U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance, Moore Building: 1100 Baits