

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS



### [Youth StoryLab](#)

Saturday

Mar 07, 2026 - Jun 06, 2026 at 01:00 pm

Presented by [Public Media Network](#) at [Public Media Network](#), 359 S.

Kalamazoo Mall; Suite 300, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

### **Make Media That Matters.**

Have something you care about?

A story you think people should hear?

An issue that affects your school or community?

In Youth StoryLab, you'll turn your ideas into a powerful short film — and premiere it for the community. This isn't about watching documentaries.

It's about creating one.

### **What You'll Do**

Over 13 weeks, each participant will develop and produce their own 6–8 minute short film focused on a real topic that matters to them — something happening in their school, neighborhood, or community.

You'll learn how to:

Film using professional production equipment

Conduct thoughtful interviews

Shape stories people actually want to watch

Edit using industry-level software

Turn raw footage into a finished film

You'll work independently on your own project with guidance from instructors and support from a small creative cohort.

By the end of the program, you'll walk away with a completed short film you can include in a portfolio, share with others, or use for college and career opportunities.



**Edison Mural & Public Art Academy**

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
Apr 30, 2026 - May 30, 2026 at 05:00 pm

Free Admission

Presented by Kalamazoo Literacy Council at Kalamazoo Literacy Council, 420 E. Alcott St, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Edison Mural & Public Art Academy launches with WMU's Heidi Weiss

Kalamazoo, MI — Heidi Weiss, Instructor of Foundation Art and Painting in the Gwen Frostic School of Art at Western Michigan University, and the 2026 WMU/KLC Community Literacy Fellow, is partnering with the Kalamazoo Literacy Council (KLC) on an exciting community project. Together, they invite the public to join the Edison Mural & Public Art Academy, which kicks off later this month.

The Academy is a series of four classes and two field work days, using the street mural at Literacy Lane as the focal point. Weiss' instruction will focus on:

the basics of mural-making

how to keep murals lasting over time

what planning, care, and protection public art needs to endure

This work builds on WMU's Special Topics mural course and expands it into a community setting. The project emphasizes collaboration, community needs, and strengthening connections between WMU students and neighbors.

Class times:

Thursdays, April 30, May 7, 14, & 21

5:30-7:00 p.m.

420 E. Alcott St.

Kalamazoo, 49001

Field Work Days: May 29 & 30

[Sign up here](#)

Abbey (269) 382-0490 ext. 219

[aweathers@kalamazooliteracy.org](mailto:aweathers@kalamazooliteracy.org)

About the WMU/KLC Community Literacy Fellowship

The WMU/KLC Community Literacy Fellowship supports faculty members and graduate students across disciplines as they collaborate with community experts in adult literacy and education. Fellows develop strategies to improve adult literacy instruction and other learning supports. Fellows are expected to disseminate their final findings via programs, proposals, or processes, and at the annual Adult Literacy Research and Training Symposium.

About the Kalamazoo Literacy Council

The KLC is a volunteer-led nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting adult literacy in Kalamazoo County. It offers free tutoring, classes, and literacy events that empower adults to reach their full potential as employees, parents, and community members. The KLC also supports the EDISON: EDUCATION IS ON Project and the Edison Resident Scholars. To learn more about the KLC and the EDISON Project, visit [kalamazooliteracy.org/edison](http://kalamazooliteracy.org/edison).

## FREE EVENTS



### [Gallery Gathering: From Cobalt to Indigo: The Power of Blue in East Asia](#)

Thursday  
May 07, 2026 at 05:30 pm

This program is free, but preregistration is encouraged.

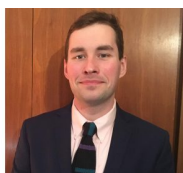
Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#) at [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Immerse yourself in shades of blue as we explore selected works from the exhibition *From Cobalt to Indigo: The Power of Blue in East Asia*, on view in the Joy Light Gallery through July 12. Together we will learn more about the cultural significance and wide-reaching influence of the color blue in the art of East Asia.

Please note that this event will not be livestreamed or posted on YouTube.

[Gallery Gatherings](#) are short, lightly-moderated conversations about selected artworks from

ongoing exhibitions. Chairs and gallery stools are available for guests. This program is free, but preregistration is encouraged.



**[Dress Code: Edward Hopper, Urban Solitude, and the Clothing of Modern Life](#)**

Thursday  
May 07, 2026 at 06:00 pm

Free, but preregistration is encouraged.

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#) at [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Explore the artwork of Edward Hopper in this lecture by Dr. James Denison, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and Kalamazoo College. Denison’s presentation will consider the use of fashion in Edward Hopper’s paintings of urban American life, interpreting his simplified representations of clothes as a strategy crucial to the sense of isolation and emotional restraint often associated with his work. Hopper’s paintings of the 1920’s, ’30s, and ’40s only represent a limited portion of the fashion landscape of the era, a potent choice given the widely held notion that his pictures thematize the psychological experience of modern life.

A native of the DC area and a graduate of Bowdoin College, James completed his PhD in art history at the University of Michigan, where he wrote a thesis on the connections between the Stieglitz Circle and racism in the interwar U.S. In 2023 he joined Kalamazoo College and the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts as a postdoctoral fellow.

All hybrid events will be livestreamed to our [YouTube page](#) and can be found under the “Live” tab. Recordings of select past events are available on YouTube as well.



**[Art Detectives: We’re All Works of Art by Mark Sperring](#)**

Saturday  
May 09, 2026 at 10:30 am

Art Detectives is a free program for children 4-8 years old (but all ages are welcome).

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#) at [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

In May, Art Detectives will be on the case, searching for how artists show people in their artwork. We’ll read a book about different artistic styles, hunt for faces and figures in the permanent collection, and finish by creating our own portrait masterpiece to take home. Arty will

be on vacation in June, July, and August. Please join us again in September when Arty has returned.

Please note that this event will not be livestreamed or posted on YouTube.

[Art Detectives](#) is a free program for children 4-8 years old (but all ages are welcome). Join us as we read a story, look at art, and make a project to take home. Caregivers must stay with their children at all times. This is a free program; preregistration is encouraged. Adults, remember to register your children!

## HISTORY & HERITAGE



### [Corks & Crafts Tasting Event](#)

May 09, 2026 at 12:00 pm

Presented by [Gilmore Car Museum](#) at [Gilmore Car Museum](#), 6865 Hickory Road, Hickory Corners, MI 49060

Our **5th Annual Corks & Crafts Tasting Event** takes you outdoors to kick off summer at the beautiful red barns of the Gilmore Car Museum! Enjoy an afternoon featuring **Southwest Michigan craft beer, wine, and spirits**, plus live entertainment, games, and unique experiences throughout the museum grounds.

#### **Admission Includes:**

- **5 tasting tokens** for beer, wine, or spirits
- **Access to the entire museum**, galleries, and collections
- **Gilmore Car Museum souvenir cup** for the **first 400 attendees**
- **Live entertainment by Barefoot Blondes**
- Outdoor yard games like giant Jenga, cornhole & more
- Door prizes
- **Caricature artists & glass blowing demonstrations**

Scott's Pig Roast will be on-site serving delicious food **available for purchase (not included with ticket price)**.

#### **Member Perk:**

Members get **early entry at 11:30 AM** and **no tokens are needed for tastings from 11:30 AM–12:00 PM**.

#### **Pricing:**

- **\$40 per person** (advance)
- **\$50 per person** day of event

- Includes **5 tasting tokens**
- Additional tasting tokens available for **\$2 each**

**Please Note:**

- Museum memberships are **not valid for free admission** to museum fundraisers.
- **Tickets are non-refundable but transferable.**
- **Capacity is limited and the event area is 21+ only.**

**Breweries, distilleries, wineries & cideries:** Details coming soon!

Grab your friends, enjoy great drinks, music, and games, and celebrate summer with us! 🌞🍷🎉

**KIDS & FAMILY**

**[Wednesday Night Cruise-In](#)**



May 06, 2026 - Oct 14, 2026 at 05:00 pm  
Presented by [Gilmore Car Museum](#) at [Gilmore Car Museum](#), 6865 Hickory Road, Hickory Corners, MI 49060

**Wednesday Night Cruise-In Presented by DeNooyer Chevrolet and your West Michigan Chevrolet Dealers** at the Gilmore Car Museum have become an annual summer tradition, and this marks the 26th Anniversary!

**NEW THIS YEAR!**

Due to popular demand, this year we have added the opportunity to explore our air-conditioned main exhibit. For \$5 per guest. This includes the bonus of access to additional restrooms inside the museum. Simply stop by the gift shop or Pedal Car Cafe to purchase your wristband. [Members](#), with a membership card, receive access to the exhibit at no additional charge.

It is **FREE** to bring your show car on the grounds during Cruise-In, and the event is open to the public. On good weather nights, the fun **starts at 5 pm and runs until 8 pm**, with both George & Sally's authentic 1941 Blue Moon Diner and The Grill serving hot dogs, hamburgers, and creamy old-fashioned custard throughout the evening. With live music providing the soundtrack, these are evenings you and your family won't forget! So, plan to bring your ride, snap a photo in front of the 1930s Shell station, cruise our amazing grounds, and enjoy an evening of great wheels and memories.

**General:**

With the exception of the Pedal Car Cafe, main exhibit, Blue Moon Diner, the Grill, and the Gilmore Bar, all other Museum buildings are **CLOSED** during Cruise-Ins. If inclement weather is predicted, the Cruise-In will still take place, but the scheduled cruise time will be shortened to 7 pm.

**Type of Cars:**

Limited to show field cars only (classics, muscle, antique, special interest, hot rods, etc).

**Parking:**

Within the museum grounds, there will be designated areas for parking. Each lot will be filled on a “first here” basis – no reserved or special parking.

**Food Service:**

The Grill will be open – serving hot dogs, hamburgers, and chips.

George & Sally’s Blue Moon Diner – serving regular diner menu items.

Pedal Car Cafe – serving select items and soda.

Carriage House – serving beer, wine, and spirits.

If inclement weather is predicted, the Grill will NOT be open. Regular menu items will be available in the Diner from 5 – 7 pm.

**MUSIC**



**Stewart Goodyear**

Monday

May 04, 2026 at 02:00 pm

Tickets \$45, \$35, \$20, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Western Michigan University - Dalton Center Recital Hall](#), 1903 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Canadian pianist **Stewart Goodyear** possesses a huge, dramatic sound, an elegant technique, and an omnivorous approach to keyboard music. Goodyear has attracted particular attention for his Beethoven “Sonatathons,” a term he coined to describe his epic performances of Beethoven’s complete piano sonatas in one day. Like Beethoven, Goodyear himself is a talented pianist-composer, frequently performing his own works in recital. His Gilmore program includes three of Beethoven’s best-loved sonatas — the “Tempest,” the “Moonlight,” and the “Appassionata” — juxtaposed with his own *Rhapsody* and *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*.

Program

**L.v. BEETHOVEN**

Sonata No. 17 in D Minor, Op. 31, No. 2 (“Tempest”)

**STEWART GOODYEAR**

*Rhapsody*

**L.v. BEETHOVEN**

Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp Minor, Op. 27, No. 2 (“Moonlight”)

**STEWART GOODYEAR**

*Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*

**L.v. BEETHOVEN**

Andante favori, WoO 57

Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, Op. 57 (“Appassionata”)



**[Brad Mehldau & Kirill Gerstein in Dialogue](#)**

Monday

May 04, 2026 at 07:30 pm

Tickets \$45, \$35, \$20, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Western Michigan University - Dalton Center Recital Hall](#), 1903 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Grammy Award–winning pianist and composer **Brad Mehldau** has long bridged musical worlds, shaping modern jazz with performances that blend intellect, emotion, and structure. **2010 Gilmore Artist Kirill Gerstein**, equally at home in classical and jazz traditions, is celebrated for his dynamic artistry and curiosity, connecting diverse musical voices with insight and imagination. Their collaboration grew from a shared fascination with the space between composition and improvisation.

As Gerstein recalls: “I felt an immediate, visceral pull to his musical language... Our friendship has deepened, as have our shared explorations of the porous border between written and improvised music.”

Mehldau shares: “He is a virtuoso with an astoundingly large and varied repertoire, but he is much more than that... Kirill and I have been exploring ways to combine written music and improvisation, and the program we put together will reflect that.”



[It's The Geezer Happy Hour!](#)

Monday  
May 04, 2026 at 05:00 pm

Free Admission

Presented by [Duke and The Loose Cannons](#) at Shakespeare's Pub, 241 E Kalamazoo Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Hot jazz and razzmatazz! Motown for your get down! 1960s and '70s rock and soul with a popcorn bowl!

It's The Geezer Happy Hour! The happiest happy hour around!



[Kandace Springs](#)

Tuesday  
May 05, 2026 at 05:00 pm, 08:00 pm

Tickets \$45, \$35, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Western Michigan University - D. Terry Williams Theatre](#), 1903 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Hailing from Nashville, Tennessee, jazz pianist and singer **Kandace Springs**'s natural gifts for lyricism and soulfulness have propelled her to some of the world's biggest stages. She has performed alongside Prince, Sting and Jack White, Norah Jones, Roy Hargrove, and more, and has released acclaimed albums of acoustic-based jazz. Her Gilmore set will include arrangements from her latest recording, *Lady in Satin*, a loving tribute to Billie Holiday and her 1958 record of the same name, with Springs on both keys and vocals, joined by her all-female trio.



[2026 Bell Young Artist Esteban Castro Trio](#)

Tuesday  
May 05, 2026 at 12:00 pm

Tickets \$25, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Kalamazoo Civic Auditorium](#), 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

**2026 Bell Young Artist Esteban Castro** began playing piano at age 4 and at 13, became the youngest-ever First Prize Winner at the Montreux Jazz Piano Solo Competition. Castro is already an in-demand bandleader and side musician. At The Gilmore, Castro's trio will perform a mix of standards as well as original, award-winning compositions.



**Eighth Blackbird**

Tuesday  
May 05, 2026 at 02:00 pm

Tickets \$45, \$35, \$20, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Western Michigan University - Dalton Center Recital Hall](#), 1903 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Four-time GRAMMY® Award-winning contemporary music sextet **Eighth Blackbird** is, according to *The Chicago Tribune*, “one of the smartest, most dynamic ensembles on the planet.” They perform *Four Organs* and *Piano Phase*, two seminal 20th-century works by pioneering American minimalist composer **Steve Reich** in his 90th birthday year, as well as the World Premiere of a new work written for them by **Clarice Assad**, commissioned by The Gilmore. A composer, vocalist, and multi-instrumentalist, Assad creatively fuses elements of classical, jazz, and Brazilian music for a sound that’s completely her own.

*Pre-concert talk at 1 pm with Dr. Beau Bothwell in the Lecture Hall at Dalton Center*

Program

**ARI SUSSMAN**

*to no end*

**CLARICE ASSAD**

World Premiere, commissioned by The Gilmore

**STEVE REICH**

*Piano Phase*  
*Four Organs*

**NICO MUHLY**

*Doublespeak*



**Lori Sims**

Wednesday

May 06, 2026 at 02:00 pm

Tickets \$45, \$35, \$20, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Western Michigan University - Dalton Center Recital Hall](#), 1903 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

A pillar of the Kalamazoo musical community, **Lori Sims** returns to The Gilmore for a recital on piano and harpsichord, demonstrating how the harpsichord and Baroque musical forms can be updated and reworked in a modern context. Opening with J.S. Bach’s Partita for keyboard No. 6, Sims then jumps to works by two of the 20th century’s most important composers, György Ligeti and Sofia Gubaidulina, who both fused traditional Baroque forms—the Passacaglia and the Chaconne—with their distinctly modern musical languages. Ligeti’s dizzyingly intricate works for harpsichord push the instrument to its limits

Program

**J.S. BACH**

Partita No. 6 in E Minor BWV 830

**G. LIGETI**

Passacaglia Ungherese  
Hungarian Rock  
Etudes, Book I, No. 5 “Arc-en-Ciel”

**S. GUBAIDULINA**

Piano Sonata (1962)



**Kirill Gerstein & KSO with Beethoven’s Piano Concertos**

Wednesday

May 06, 2026 at 07:30 pm

Tickets \$65, \$55, \$35, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Chenery Auditorium](#), 714 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Already beloved for his solo piano interpretations, **2010 Gilmore Artist Kirill Gerstein** unveils another facet of his musical life for Festival audiences: his role as conductor. In one evening with

the **Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra**, Gerstein both plays and conducts not one, not two, but three of Beethoven's beloved Piano Concertos, a mind-boggling feat that must be seen to be believed. Beethoven himself frequently performed his own concertos while conducting from the keyboard, so Gilmore audiences will experience these masterworks in much the same way that audiences would have in Beethoven's day.

*Pre-concert talk at 6:30 pm with Dr. Zaide Pixley in Room 130*

Program

### L.v. BEETHOVEN

Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major, Op. 15  
Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 37  
Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58



#### [Nicole Zuraitis](#)

Thursday  
May 07, 2026 at 12:00 pm

Tickets \$25, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Kalamazoo Civic Auditorium](#), 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

A vocalist, pianist, songwriter, and arranger who originally trained in classical voice and opera, **Nicole Zuraitis** offers powerful interpretations of jazz, pop, and anything else she sets her mind to. *How Love Begins*, her album co-produced with Christian McBride, won Best Jazz Vocal Album at the 2024 GRAMMY Awards, making her the first artist to win this award for an album entirely made up of original compositions and arrangements. Zuraitis leads a band of powerhouse artists, using her arrangements to showcase their considerable talents in the best possible light.



#### [Chopin and Viardot: A Dialogue](#)

Thursday  
May 07, 2026 at 02:00 pm

Tickets \$45, \$35, \$20, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Western Michigan University - Dalton Center Recital Hall](#), 1903 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Pauline Viardot was an accomplished pianist, a world-renowned mezzo-soprano, and a talented composer who studied with Franz Liszt, yet Viardot's name is largely unknown today. In their

dual recital, pianist **Charlotte Hu** and soprano **Raquel González** re-introduce Viardot to her rightful place alongside the greatest of Romantic composers, notably her friend and colleague Frédéric Chopin. Their program spans solo piano works by both Chopin and Viardot, Viardot’s piano-and-voice arrangements of Chopin’s mazurkas — which Chopin himself advised on and was pleased with — and some of Viardot’s own original songs for soprano and piano.

*Pre-concert talk at 1 pm with Dr. Zaide Pixley in the Lecture Hall at Dalton Center*

Program

## **F. CHOPIN**

Polonaise-Fantasia, Op. 61  
Mazurka in C-sharp Minor, Op. 63, No. 3  
Mazurka in F-sharp Minor, Op. 59, No. 3  
Mazurka in C Major, Op. 33, No. 3

## **F. CHOPIN/arr. P. VIARDOT**

Mazurka Op. 50, No. 2 “Seize ans!”  
Mazurka Op. 33, No. 2 “Aime-moir”  
Mazurka Op. 6, No. 1 “Plainte d’amour”  
Mazurka Op. 7, No. 1 “Coquette”  
Mazurka Op. 68, No. 2 “L’Oiselet”  
Mazurkas Op. 7, No. 3 and Op. 7, No. 2 “Faible cœur!”

## **P. VIARDOT**

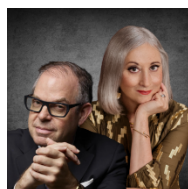
Mazurka  
Deux airs de ballet  
Serenade

## **F. CHOPIN**

Barcarolle in F-sharp Major, Op. 60

## **P. VIARDOT**

Original Songs for Soprano and Piano



[Bill Charlap & Renee Rosnes](#)

Thursday  
May 07, 2026 at 05:00 pm, 08:00 pm

Tickets \$45, \$35, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Western Michigan University - D. Terry Williams Theatre](#), 1903 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Two of today's preeminent jazz pianists, **Bill Charlap** and **Renee Rosnes** have played together in a two-piano setting since the release of their 2010 Blue Note album *Double Portrait*, a set of duets that traverse their shared musical touchstones. Downbeat declared that "the counterpoint and compatibility are so perfectly balanced, the selections and arrangements so handsome, that *Double Portrait* is a prize." On stage, the husband-and-wife duo share their interpretations of jazz standards, Great American Songbook and Broadway tunes, and their own original compositions, inspired by their work together.



**ARTEMIS**

Friday

May 08, 2026 at 07:30 pm

Tickets \$45, \$35, \$20, \$10 Students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Western Michigan University - Dalton Center Recital Hall](#), 1903 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Equally beloved by audiences and critics alike, **ARTEMIS** conjures a powerful collective voice from its five members, resulting in a sound greater than the sum of its parts. Originally assembled by pianist and musical director Renee Rosnes, the group is distinguished not only by the star power of its individual members, but also by its multi-national and intergenerational lineup. At The Gilmore, ARTEMIS will perform tunes from their three acclaimed Blue Note albums, featuring a vibrant mix of original compositions by all five band members as well as Rosnes's arrangements of pieces by Wayne Shorter, Burt Bacharach, and more.



**Keith Hall: Gilmore After Dark**

Friday, Saturday

May 08, 2026 - May 09, 2026 at 10:00 pm

Presented by [Crawlspace Comedy Theatre](#) at [Crawlspace Comedy Theatre in Historic First Baptist Church Building](#), 315 W. Michigan

Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

The party doesn't stop after Gilmore Festival concerts end! Throughout this year's Festival, keep the music going long into the night with Gilmore After Dark events at Crawlspace Theatre. Grab a drink or bite to eat and enjoy performances by exciting jazz and classical artists, including this year's talented class of Gilmore Jazz Fellows, hosted by special guest drummer and educator Keith Hall—who will also take the stage for performances of his own.

Hall has been an active performer and teacher for more than 25 years. He spent 12 years touring and recording worldwide with Curtis Stigers and has performed with artists including Betty Carter, Roland Hanna, Michael Phillip Mossman, New York Voices, Janis Siegel, Terrell Stafford, and Steve Wilson. He continues to tour and record with his NYC-based trio TRI-FI. A longtime member of the New York jazz scene, Hall also performed on Broadway's The Lion King and toured Europe with Grupo Yanqui. He is Professor of Jazz Drum Set at Western Michigan University, host of Jazz Currents on WMUK, and author of Jazz Drums Now! Vols. 1 and 2.

**Show Date:** May 8 & 9

**Show Time:** 10:00 PM-11:00 PM

**Tickets:** \$15

Friday: <https://bit.ly/4q7b3q2>

Saturday: <https://bit.ly/4qT2C30>

**Doors Open:** 9:30 PM



### [Gilmore Festival Fellows Showcase Recital](#)

Friday

May 08, 2026 at 02:00 pm

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Cori Terry Theatre](#), 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Ste. 204, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Experience the top-notch talents of some of this year's class of **Gilmore Festival Fellows**, hand selected by The Gilmore's artistic leadership. Today's successful artists need to know much more than the music. The Festival Fellows program helps young artists better navigate the industry through mentorships, master classes, Festival performances, workshops, and networking with their peers.



### [Yes! Trio featuring Ali Jackson, Aaron Goldberg & Omer Avital](#)

Friday

May 08, 2026 at 12:00 pm

Tickets \$25, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Kalamazoo Civic Auditorium](#), 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

United by three decades of friendship and a reverence for straight-ahead jazz and swing, the members of Yes! Trio are all superstar musicians in their own right. **Ali Jackson** has played with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra since 2005. **Omer Avital** synthesizes American jazz, Israeli, and other Arab styles into something new and vital. And **Aaron Goldberg** leads his own trio and tours with the Joshua Redman Quartet. Says Yes! Trio, "We want to connect the sound of the roots of jazz with the present, because this is what the future of jazz is made of!"



### [A Lineage of Voices](#)

Saturday

May 09, 2026 at 06:30 pm

Presented by Kalamazoo Violin Choir at Trinity Lutheran Church

On May 9 at 6:30 PM, violinist and teaching artist Negar Dena Afazel will present a virtuosic fundraising recital at Trinity Lutheran Church. The evening, titled “A Lineage of Voices,” will feature a demanding program of solo violin works by some of the most significant female composers of the 20th and 21st centuries.

All proceeds from the evening will directly benefit the Kalamazoo Violin Choir’s upcoming multidisciplinary projects, accessibility initiatives (including Braille program notes), and the Trinity Lutheran Church Food Pantry, supporting both the arts and local food security.

[event-featured-KVC-fundraising-event-2026](#)



### [Sara Davis Buechner: “Of Pigs and Pianos”](#)

Saturday

May 09, 2026 at 01:00 pm

Tickets \$45, \$35, \$20, \$10 Students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Kalamazoo College - Dalton Theatre](#), 1200 Academy Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49006

When asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, a young **Sara Davis Buechner** declared: “A piano player and a pig farmer.” Decades later, the first of those has decidedly come true. *Of Pigs and Pianos* is Buechner’s one-woman show, recounting Sara Davis Buechner’s life story through dramatic narration, musical performances, and projected visuals. As one of the first transgender women in the industry to transition mid-career, Buechner encountered overwhelming obstacles, and faced them with courage and integrity. *The New York Times* gave the premiere performance a rave review; Buechner herself calls it “one of the most significant artistic works of my life.”

[CONTENT WARNING: *Of Pigs and Pianos* contains strong adult content and language. Recommended for audiences 16 and older.]



**[Chucho Valdés Royal Quartet](#)**

Saturday

May 09, 2026 at 07:30 pm

Tickets \$85, \$70, \$50, \$35

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Chenery Auditorium](#), 714 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

For over six decades, NEA Jazz Master **Chucho Valdés** has defined Afro-Cuban jazz through his work as a pianist, composer, and bandleader. A winner of multiple GRAMMY and Latin GRAMMY Awards, Valdés also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Latin Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and has been inducted into the Latin Songwriters Hall of Fame. His Royal Quartet features virtuosos from the next generation of Afro-Cuban jazz, paying homage to Chick Corea, Mozart, American blues, Cuban folksongs, and more, all with their signature sense of joy and creativity.



**[Marc-André Hamelin](#)**

Saturday

May 09, 2026 at 04:00 pm

Tickets \$45, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Kalamazoo College - Stetson Chapel](#), 1200 Academy Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49006

**Marc-André Hamelin**, “a performer of near-superhuman technical prowess” according to The New York Times, is revered worldwide for his thoughtful interpretations and utter mastery of the most challenging works in the piano repertoire. His Gilmore recital opens with Haydn’s Piano Sonata in D Major, followed by Beethoven’s Piano Sonata No. 3, an early work dedicated to Haydn. The second half is devoted to Russian piano works, with short pieces by Nikolai Medtner, a younger contemporary of Scriabin and Rachmaninoff, as well as Rachmaninoff’s moody and intense Piano Sonata No. 2.

Program

**F. HAYDN**

Sonata in D Major, Hob. XVI:37

**L.v. BEETHOVEN**

Sonata No. 3 in C Major, Op. 2

## N. MEDTNER

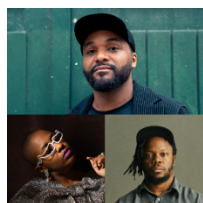
Improvisation in B-flat Minor, Op. 31, No. 1

Danza festiva, Op. 38, No. 3

## S. RACHMANINOFF

Étude-Tableau in E-flat Minor, Op. 39, No. 5

Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Minor, Op. 36 (1931 version)



### [Finale: Sullivan Fortner Trio featuring Cécile McLorin Salvant & Ambrose Akinmusire](#)

Sunday

May 10, 2026 at 04:00 pm

Tickets \$65, \$55, \$35, \$10 students

Presented by [The Gilmore](#) at [Chenery Auditorium](#), 714 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

The 2026 Gilmore International Piano Festival concludes with an exclusive performance created especially for this occasion, uniting three of today's most visionary artists. **Sullivan Fortner, 2026 Larry J. Bell Jazz Artist**, leads his trio alongside Grammy Award-winning vocalist **Cécile McLorin Salvant** and acclaimed trumpeter **Ambrose Akinmusire**, whose distinctive sound and compositional depth have earned him international recognition. Joined by **Tyrone Allen** (bass) and **Kayvon Gordon** (drums), they will explore new musical terrain where improvisation, storytelling, and collective imagination meet in a singular finale that promises to be both intimate and transcendent.



### ["Swinging in the Spring" Jazz Band Concert](#)

Sunday

May 10, 2026 at 03:00 pm

Free Admission

Presented by [Kellogg Community College](#) at [Kellogg Community College | Davidson Visual and Performing Arts Center](#), 450 North Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49017

The KCC Jazz Band's "Swinging in the Spring" concert will begin at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 10, in the auditorium of the Davidson Visual and Performing Arts Center, on campus at 450 North Ave. in Battle Creek. The event is free and open to the public.

Band members under the direction of KCC Jazz Band Director Eric Campbell will perform a diverse repertoire perfect for the season.

For more information about the KCC Jazz Band or the group’s “Swinging in the Spring” concert, contact KCC’s Arts and Communication offices at 269-965-4126.

## THEATRE



### [The Producers: A Mel Brooks Musical](#)

Sunday, Friday, Saturday

May 01, 2026 - May 17, 2026 at 02:00 pm, 07:30 pm

#### Ticket Prices

\$20 Military w/ID

\$32 Adult

\$25 Senior (65+)

\$25 Student (13+)

\$17 Children 12 & under

Presented by [Kalamazoo Civic Theatre](#) at [Kalamazoo Civic Auditorium](#), 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre’s production of The Producers: A Mel Brook Musical runs May 1 – 17, in the Civic Auditorium.

It’s non-stop laughs when a down-on-his-luck Broadway producer and his mild-mannered accountant come up with a scheme to produce the most notorious flop in history, thereby hustling their backers out of millions of dollars. Mel Brooks’ laugh-out-loud spectacle *The Producers* sets the standard for modern, outrageous, in-your-face humor.

Tickets on sale now: <https://bit.ly/TheProducersTickets-KCT>

#### Performance Dates:

Friday, May 1 at 7:30 PM

Saturday, May 2 at 7:30 PM\*^

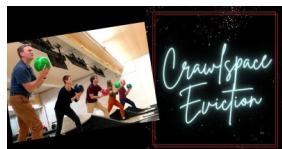
Sunday, May 3 at 2:00 PM

Friday, May 8 at 7:30 PM

Saturday, May 9 at 7:30 PM  
Sunday, May 10 at 2:00 PM  
Friday, May 15 at 7:30 PM  
Saturday, May 16 at 7:30 PM  
Sunday, May 17 at 2:00 PM

\* ASL Interpreted and Audio Description Services Available

Book by MEL BROOKS & THOMAS MEEHAN Music and Lyrics by MEL BROOKS  
Original direction and choreography by Susan Stroman  
By special arrangement with StudioCanal  
THE PRODUCERS is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)



### [Crawlspace Eviction Improv Comedy](#)

Friday

May 08, 2026 at 07:30 pm

Presented by [Crawlspace Comedy Theatre](#) at [Crawlspace Comedy](#)

[Theatre in Historic First Baptist Church Building](#), 315 W. Michigan Ave,

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Since 2003, Crawlspace Eviction has been delivering laughs, absurdity and unconditional comedy to Kalamazoo. See what happens when what's next is ANYBODY's guess? Get ready for humor-induced face-cramping like no other!

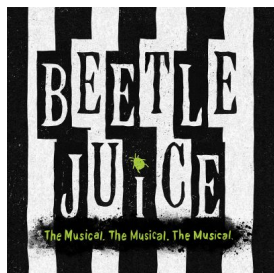
Show Date: May 08

Show Time: 07:30 PM-09:00 PM

Tickets: \$15

Doors Open: 6:30 PM

Intended for mature audiences.



### [BEETLEJUICE](#)

May 08, 2026 - May 10, 2026 at 01:00 pm, 02:00 pm, 06:30 pm, 07:30 pm

Ticket prices for all seats start at \$57.46. WMU Students may receive 50% off their ticket with a valid Bronco ID. Tickets can be purchased online at [millerauditorium.com](http://millerauditorium.com), by phone at (269) 387-2300, or at the Miller Auditorium Box Office, open Monday-Friday, Noon-6 p.m. for phone and in-person orders. For more information, please visit [millerauditorium.com](http://millerauditorium.com) or call the Miller Auditorium Box Office at (269) 387-2300.

**TICKET BUYER ALERT:** Ticket brokers regularly scam buyers for more money. These fraudulent sites list tickets at inflated prices, often selling the same ticket to multiple people. Protect yourself from fraud—ONLY purchase tickets directly from millerauditorium.com or call the Miller Auditorium Box Office for assistance.

Presented by [Miller Auditorium](#) at [Western Michigan University - Miller Auditorium](#), 2200 Auditorium Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Broadway’s “SCREAMINGLY GOOD FUN!”, Variety, musical comedy is now haunting houses all across the country!

Based on Tim Burton’s dearly beloved film, BEETLEJUICE tells the story of Lydia Deetz, a strange and unusual teenager whose whole life changes when she meets a recently deceased couple and a demon with a thing for stripes.

With an irreverent book, an astonishing set, and a score that’s out of this Netherworld, BEETLEJUICE is “A FEAST FOR THE EYES AND SOUL!”, Entertainment Weekly. And under its uproarious surface (six feet under, to be exact), it’s a remarkably touching show about family, love, and making the most of every Day-O!



**[Crawlspace Eviction Improv Comedy](#)**

Saturday

May 09, 2026 at 07:30 pm

Presented by [Crawlspace Comedy Theatre](#) at [Crawlspace Comedy Theatre in Historic First Baptist Church Building](#), 315 W. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Since 2003, Crawlspace Eviction has been delivering laughs, absurdity and unconditional comedy to Kalamazoo. See what happens when what’s next is ANYBODY’s guess? Get ready for humor-induced face-cramping like no other!

**Show Date:** May 09

**Show Time:** 07:30 PM-09:00 PM

**Tickets:** \$15

**Doors Open:** 6:30 PM

Intended for mature audiences.

## VISUAL ARTS



### [Lavendar Home Project Exhibition](#)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

May 05, 2026 - Jul 03, 2026 at 09:00 am

Presented by [Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo](#) at [James C. Westin Gallery at the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo](#), 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 203, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

The exhibit focuses on the meaning of physical shelter beyond physical form, centered around queer communities and methods of home building that exist outside of Western cultural constructions of homemaking and homelife in three sections: WELCOME HOME | Public vs. Private, PORTRAITS | Queer Homes, and CLOSET | Revelations Archived. The LAVENDER HOME PROJECT explores the meaning of ‘home’ through a queer lens and a sense of community.



### [Free Artist Lecture: Go Bonus Saves](#)

Friday

May 08, 2026 at 02:00 pm

Free Admission

Presented by [Kellogg Community College](#) at [Kellogg Community College | Davidson Visual and Performing Arts Center](#), 450 North Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49017

The lecture, presented as part of the KCC Art on Campus initiative’s DeVries Artist Lecture Series, will begin at 2 p.m. Friday, May 8, in the auditorium of the Davidson Visual and Performing Arts Center, located on the south side of campus at 450 North Ave. in Battle Creek. The event is free and open to the public.

Go Bonus Saves is the artist moniker of Kalamazoo-based artist Patrick Hershberger. In his lecture, Hershberger will discuss his mural work in the region and describe his artistic process with visual aids, followed by a Q&A.