

Rotary Arts Minute for 5/12/2025 Information provided by the

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS



[Crescendo Community String Orchestra](#)

Thursdays, Apr 10 – June 5, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Presented by [Crescendo Academy of Music](#) at [Crescendo Academy of Music](#), 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Ste. 12, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

The [Crescendo Community String Orchestra](#) is for amateur adult string players; three or four years of instrument study is recommended. Led by Teaching Artist [Dr. Joanna Steinhauser](#), the CCSO will rehearse weekly and present an end-of-session concert.

Open to ages 16 and up.

Rehearsals: Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, at Crescendo Academy of Music from April 10 to

June 5. Cost: \$150 for the 10-week session. Need-based [financial aid](#) available!



[Dr. Margaret M. Miles: Plundered Art– Who Gets to Keep It?](#)

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 7:00 pm

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

Lovers of museums need to be aware of where art comes from, how, and when it got there. A prominent case today is the location of the Parthenon marbles: should they be in London or Athens, with the rest of the temple? In this illustrated talk, we look at how ideas about repatriation, restitution, and proper ownership of art got started: the earliest assumption was that spoils of war always go to the victor, and taking defeated peoples' property, as well as the people themselves, was the norm in antiquity—and the norm until quite recently. But already in Greek and Roman contexts, we know of notable exceptions and new, sophisticated and principled ideas about ownership of art. The Roman orator Cicero was able to steer Roman government to more ethical ideals. His

speeches in turn were inspirational for the beginnings of international law on cultural property. These ideas were then put into action after Waterloo, when about half of the art Napoleon had looted across Europe was returned: actions that have echoes in current debate over restitutions from Nazi-era plunder, and over the Parthenon marbles.

Margaret M. Miles is an archaeologist and the Edward A. Dickson Emerita Professor of Art History at the University of California, Irvine. She served a six-year term as the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Classical Studies at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens (2008-2014). Her publications include a study of the Temple of Nemesis at Rhamnous (*Hesperia* 1989), *Agora Excavations XXXI: The City Eleusinion* (Princeton, 1998), *Art as Plunder: the Ancient Origins of Debate about Cultural Property* (Cambridge, 2008), and three edited volumes: *Cleopatra: A Sphinx Revisited* (Berkeley 2011), *Autopsy in Athens. Recent Archaeological Research in Athens and Attica* (2015), and *Blackwell's Companion to Greek Architecture* (2016). Recently she and her team conducted fieldwork on a Greek temple in the Elymian sanctuary at Contrada Mango (Segesta, Sicily), for a new reconstruction of the early Classical temple.

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[Build A Mini-Teddy Bear Workshop](#)

Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 1:30 pm

Presented by [Serendipity Spot, LLC](#) and [Kzoo Makers](#), 1102 E. Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Choose a mini-teddy bear by parts and accessories by colors, and use the time to assemble. The design was created by Denise of Loomahat as a way to use up yarn. All pieces made by Stacy of Serendipity Spot, LLC. A portion of each ticket will be donated to Kzoo Makers.

FREE EVENTS



[Free Thursdays at the KIA](#)

Thursday, Feb 6, 2025 - Dec 18, 2025 at 11:00 am

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

Enjoy free general admission and extended hours until 8pm on Thursdays, thanks to generous support provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program and the Efroymsen Family Fund.



[Artful Evening: Building Community through Art and Music](#)

Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm

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

During this immersive Artful Evening event, Rev. Millard Southern will speak about the power of visual art and music to create and sustain communities, bringing diverse voices and perspectives together in harmony with one another. Following his short talk, the Bill Cessna Trio will perform live in our galleries, with Bill Cessna on keyboard, Joe Miller on drums, and Owen Cramer on bass. Sit and enjoy, or wander our exhibitions as you listen!

Rev. Southern is the pastor of Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church in Kalamazoo. A native of Chicago, he studied theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York City and earned his Masters in Divinity there in 2010. The Bill Cessna Trio performs jazz music across the Midwest. Their performances pay homage to the musicians who inspire them while also incorporating original music and improvisation.

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[Beading to Basketry: Hands-on Artmaking with Indigenous Artists](#)

Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 9:30 am

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

Visit the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts on May 17 for a special day-long celebration of Indigenous artmaking, with a series of free workshops led by Kelly Church (Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomi) and David Martin (Pokagon Band

of Potawatomi)! Church will lead explorations of black ash basketry, quilling on birch bark, and basswood cordage, while Martin will teach beadworking. Additional programming includes: demonstrations by local artists, exhibition tours, storytime for kids and adults, and a drop-in artmaking activity for guests of all ages. All materials, as well as breakfast and lunch, will be provided. Seating for each workshop is limited, so preregistration is highly recommended.

While at the KIA, see five artworks by Indigenous artists, currently on loan from Art Bridges. These artworks include: Rio Grande Casino Landscape, 2000, by David Bradley (Chippewa); Untitled (Bear with Thundercloud) by Bob Haozous (Chiricahua Apache); Out of Range by James Lavadour; and Indian Land #4 and Diptych by Fritz Scholder (Luiseño).

[Visit the KIA website to see all the events, activities, workshops, and timing.](#)

MUSIC



[Geezer Happy Hour at Shakespeare's Pub](#)

Monday, May 12, 2025 at 5:00 pm

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

DLC lays a foundation of Jazz; then opens the dance floor with classic Blues, Rock and Soul, circa 1950s – 1970s. Good food all evening. Good music starts at 5 o'clock. These events are for Geezers and non-Geezers alike. Music lovers of all ages are welcome.



[Steve Nelson Jazz Show](#)

Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 7:30 pm

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

Steve Nelson – vibraphone

with Matthew Fries – piano, Carlo De Rosa – bass, Keith Hall – drums

Steve Nelson is described as “the most completely realized and original performer on the vibraphone.” Over a five-decade career, Nelson has distinguished himself by making consequential contributions to the improvisatory development of his instrument, as well as the tradition of jazz. By the early '70s he was performing regularly and honed his skills alongside local Pittsburgh luminaries as drummers Roger Humphries and J.C. Moses, trumpeter Tommy Turrentine, saxophonists Eric Kloss and Nathan Davis. He completed his Master’s at Rutgers University’s Jazz Studies program helmed by Kenny Barron, music education pioneers bassist Larry Ridley and drummer Ted Dunbar. Steve’s debut recording was James Spaulding Plays the Legacy of Duke Ellington, and throughout the early '80s he worked with

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Kenny Barron, David “Fathead” Newman, Bobby Watson, and was featured in the George Shearing big band. Steve has been the instrumentalist of choice for the most iconic jazz artists as Kenny Barron, Jackie McLean, Lewis Nash, James Williams, Curtis Lundy, and Mulgrew Miller (Wingspan Sextet) and Dave Holland (Dave Holland Quintet and Big Band) with whom he has shared decades long collaborations through composing, performing and touring. Steve continues to tour and record with Donald Brown, Renee Rosnes, Geoffrey Keezer and Jeremy Pelt, among others.

Recognized for his inventive and fluidly harmonic approach and chromatic quality, Steve is acknowledged as one of the pre-eminent modernist vibraphone and marimba players. He has appeared on numerous recordings and performed at concert venues and festivals worldwide including Carnegie Hall, Jazz at the Lincoln Center, JVC Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, Montreal International Jazz Festival, Newport Jazz Festival, Netherlands International Jazz Festival, Village Vanguard, and festivals across Asia and Australia. He has over a dozen original recordings as a bandleader, and has lent a distinct compositional signature to several albums of legendary bandleaders.

In 2025, Nelson was nominated for a Grammy Award as part of the Kenny Barron Quintet, further cementing his status as a leading figure in contemporary jazz.

“One of the most extraordinary musicians in jazz.” – New York Times

Show Date: May 15

Show Time: 7:30pm

Tickets:

Advance \$20 Adult / \$10 Student

Day of \$25 Adult / \$15 Student

Doors Open: 6:30p



[50th Annual Stulberg Competition Master Classes](#)

Friday, May 16, 2025 at 3:00 pm

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

Young string performers from the community will have the opportunity to participate in master classes with the 2025 Stulberg Competition Judges. This year’s judges are Rachel Barton Pine (violin), Li-Wei Qin (cello), and Lucas Richman (composition/violin).

Master Classes provide an opportunity for students, musicians and audiences to observe and learn from world-class artists.

Master Class participants are chosen by audition. Violin, viola, cello, and piano soloists under the age of 20 (as of 01/01/2025) are eligible to apply (2025 Stulberg Competition semifinalists are not eligible). Video applications and information may be submitted March 1 – April 4, 2025.

More information regarding the master class application process can be found on the Stulberg website.

This event is free and open to the public.

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[Kalamazoo Ringers - Annual Spring Concert - "And the Winner Is..."](#)

Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 03:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo Ringers](#) at [First United Methodist Church](#), 212 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Kalamazoo Ringers just celebrated our 44th year of ringing on seven octaves of bells along with six octaves of handchimes. Please join us for our annual Spring Concert in the beautiful sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, located on downtown Bronson Park. This group of 16 ringers will present a concert filled with tunes both familiar and new. Our annual spring concert is a thank you to the greater Kalamazoo Community, whose generous support allows us to spread the joy of handbells to all who want to listen. There are TWO concerts this year; one at 3:00pm and another at 7:00pm, with the same program for each. Come to one or both! The concerts are open and free to the public, with an offering taken during intermission. The theme is "And the Winner Is..." and every piece is a winner in its own way. If you're a regular at Kalamazoo Ringers concerts, we look forward to seeing you again! If you're new to handbells, come and find out what you've been missing!



[50th Annual Stulberg Competition](#)

Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 9:00 am

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

Bringing in students from all around the globe, the Stulberg International String Competition is a great way for gifted artists under the age of twenty to participate in an internationally-recognized competition. This not only gives these young artists a chance to participate in a great competition at a young age, but it also gives them an experience that they will cherish and remember for the rest of their lives.

Whether they are performing in violin, viola, cello, or double bass, the Stulberg International String Competition welcomes them to show their skills and make memories.

Learn more about the 2025 Stulberg International String Competition at:

<https://www.stulberg.org/competition/competition-details>

What you'll experience:

- A day of performances from twelve young and highly-talented string performers playing some of the most challenging repertoire.
- Twelve semifinalists compete for the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals.
- One semifinalist will be selected to receive the opportunity to premiere a newly commissioned piece for solo and orchestra.



[Faculty/Guest Artist Recital: "Favorites Old and New"](#)

Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 3:00 pm

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

The recital, titled "Favorites Old and New," will begin at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 18, in the auditorium of the Davidson Visual and Performing Arts Center, on campus at 450

North Ave. in Battle Creek. The event free and open to the public.

The recital program will feature works spanning a variety of musical styles and movements.

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THEATRE



[The Wedding Singer](#)

Through May 18, 2025

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

The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre presents *The Wedding Singer*, May 2-18, in the Civic Auditorium. Based on the hit Adam Sandler movie, *The Wedding Singer* takes us back to a time when hair was big, greed was good, collars were up and a wedding singer might just be the coolest guy in the room. Robbie is a goofy New Jersey singer who failed as a rock star, then in love. He now fronts the most in-demand wedding band until his own wedding plans go awry and he is left standing at the altar. Join us as we root for Robbie to find love and to once again provide awesome '80s music to weddings across New Jersey.

Tickets: <https://kazoocivic.ludus.com/200453406>

Saturday, May 17 – 1980s Prom Night! Join us for the time of your life as we welcome you to a 1980s prom night extravaganza following the Saturday, May 17, 2025, performance. The DJ will be playing nothing but the best hits from the 1980s and our bar will be open for purchases.



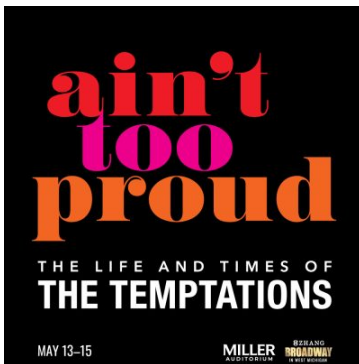
[The Book of Silence](#)

May 9 - 25, 2025

Presented by [WMU University Theatre](#) at [Western Michigan University - Gilmore Theatre Complex](#), 1921 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008

The Mostly Medieval Theatre Festival (MMTF) is a performance festival showcasing and invigorating the global heritage of drama, music, dance, and performance styles from late antiquity through the Renaissance. In 2025, the MMTF is proud to partner with WMU's Department of Theatre to produce a new dramatic adaptation of the Roman de Silence, the thirteenth-century romance about the knight who was a girl. MMTF founder and associate professor of theatre Lofty Durham is crafting the adaptation and leading the ensemble of student and faculty collaborators for the production, which will open the week of Congress and continue its run for local audiences in the following weeks.

Presented in collaboration with the WMU Medieval Institute



[Aint' Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations](#)

May 13 - 15, 2025 at 7:30 pm

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

Nominated for 12 Tony® Awards and the winner of the 2019 Tony Award for Best Choreography, it's a thrilling story of brotherhood, family, loyalty, and betrayal during a decade of civil unrest in America.

Set to the beat of the group's treasured hits, including "My Girl," "Just My Imagination," "Get Ready," and "Papa Was a Rolling Stone," *Ain't Too Proud* tells the unforgettable story of the legendary quintet that Billboard Magazine named the greatest R&B group of all time.

all time.

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[Blunder Bus Improv Comedy](#)

Friday, May 16, 2025 at 7:30 pm

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

High-energy games and fun characters are front and center with Blunder Bus as they find the hilarity in everyday life! This team performed double duty at last

year's Fest and they'll bring 200% this year. *Honk Honk*

Show Date: May 16

Show Time: 7:30-9p

Tickets: \$15

Doors Open: 6:30p

Intended for mature audiences.



[GIRLS NIGHT: The Musical](#)

Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 7:30 pm

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

This touching and hilarious 'tell-it-like-it-is' musical takes audiences on a journey into the lives of a group of female friends.

Audience members can't help but laugh, cry, and even find themselves singing and dancing in the aisles as some of the most popular hit songs of the 80s and 90s make this musical a fan favorite! Follow five friends as they visit their past, celebrate their present, and look to the future on a wild and hilarious night out... and you'll recognize a bit of yourselves in every one of them! It is described as "Desperate Housewives meets Mamma Mia" (Applause Magazine), "A boisterous, bust-out, bawdy musical revue"

(Wisconsin State Journal), "An infectious, exhilarating sense of intoxication (Hollywood Reporter), and "As funny and outrageous as Sex and the City!" (The Advocate). GIRLS NIGHT is bursting with energy and is packed with hits "Lady Marmalade," "It's Raining Men," "Man I Feel Like A Woman," "I Will Survive," "We Are Family," and many more.



[Piebenga Plumbing & Oh Hey! Improv Comedy](#)

Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 7:30 pm

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

Mark and Scott Piebenga, sons of Grand Rapids MI, have been performing improvisation and comedy for the bulk of the last two decades. Scott

currently performs at iO and the Annoyance Theatre's (Chicago). Mark's credits include the Playground, Annoyance, iO and Second City (Chicago). They have shamelessly re-appropriated the name of their grandfather, uncle, and father's actual plumbing outfit without concern for the shocking disparity in work ethic and usefulness.

Oh Hey!

Tanja Rowland (Family Secret) and Sara Fish (Small Victories) join forces as the delicious duo, Oh Hey!

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Show Date: May 17

Show Time: 7:30-9p

Tickets: \$15

Doors Open: 6:30p

Intended for mature audiences.

VISUAL ARTS



[An Infinite Constellation of Love](#)

Through June 15, 2025

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

The KIA's centennial celebration continues with *An Infinite Constellation of Love*, opening in the Joy Light Gallery on February 22, 2025. This one-of-a-kind exhibition invites visitors to journey into the dazzling and boundless world of JooYoung Choi's artistry. Visitors are invited to engage with Choi's interdisciplinary universe of videos, sculptures, paintings, and site-specific installations. Inspired by science fiction, fantasy, social justice, and Choi's personal history, viewers can experience the artist's fantastical realm filled with a cast of characters where art and storytelling converge to spark dialogue around identity, belonging, trauma, and resilience.

Through her vibrant imagery and playful sculptures, Choi embraces the beauty of our differences and celebrates the power of connection within diverse communities. At the heart of this exhibition is a profound exploration of family, reimagined beyond the confines of a traditional "family tree." In *An Infinite Constellation of Love*, Choi invites viewers to consider family as an ever-expanding constellation of relationships—defined not by biology alone but also by shared care, support, and love in all its forms.

Born in Seoul, South Korea in 1982, JooYoung Choi immigrated in 1983 through adoption to Concord, New Hampshire. While completing her BFA at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Choi returned to South Korea and reunited with her birth family, an experience that shaped her understanding of family and belonging. Since graduating with an MFA in 2012 from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Choi has exhibited in numerous venues, including Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR; Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY; The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, TX; and The Crow Museum of Asian Art, Dallas, TX, among many others. Choi's artistic practice uses painting, video art, sculpture, animation, puppetry, music, and installations to create an expansive imaginary world called "The Cosmic Womb." Her work has been featured by PBS Digital Studios, YTN (Korean Global News Network), the LA Times, and the Huffington Post. She has received many grants and awards, including support from the National Endowment for the Arts and Artadia, and has participated in numerous artist residencies to expand her artistic vision. JooYoung Choi is represented by Inman Gallery in Houston, TX.

To enhance your experience, the KIA encourages visitors and members to reserve tickets in advance. JooYoung Choi will also present an artist talk on March 20 and lead a family workshop on March 22. Space is limited, and registration is required for all programs.

Exhibition dates: February 22, 2025 – June 15, 2025

[View events in connection with this exhibition.](#)

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[Sourced from the 'Zoo](#)

Through June 01, 2025 at 11:00 am

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

Sourced from the 'Zoo is a community-wide exhibition celebrating the vibrancy and diversity of Kalamazoo and its residents. This dynamic, crowdsourced exhibition is a platform for everyone in Kalamazoo to participate, creating a shared space for commemoration, celebration, and meaningful connections.

The KIA and partner organizations throughout the city invited community members to submit pieces and objects that are treasured parts of their daily lives, family history, or personal keepsakes. Objects and artworks on view explore regional and personal

histories that spark curiosity and joy.