



# THE WOMEN WHO MOVE US

HONORING THE INSPIRING WOMEN WHO HELPED TO DEFINE US

**SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026 / 7:00 PM**

*Reception to follow*

**AN EVENING OF DANCE AND MUSIC BENEFITING RESEARCH IN NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE AT THE SCOTT PRANGER ALS CENTER**  
NORTH CAMPUS DANCE PERFORMANCE STUDIO THEATRE  
1000 BAITS DR. ANN ARBOR, MI

**SPONSORED BY:**



## INSPIRED & MOVED

This evening’s program builds on Women Defining Themselves (May 2024), where we boldly said “yes” to new opportunities. Tonight carries that spirit forward by honoring the inspiring women who helped make our own “yes” possible.

The Women Who Move Us honors the women who carried us, guided us, shaped us, challenged us: mothers, mentors, daughters, colleagues, and friends. Their influence continues to inspire us in profound ways.

My mother-in-law moved in a week after our first son was born. Caring for her as she succumbed to dementia is something I am still processing, even twenty-two years later. In our home, life unfolded in a striking parallel: as my three children grew and gained new skills, she steadily lost hers.

Tonight, these extraordinary performers have given their time and talent as a tribute to our shared humanity. Their willingness to share unites us to honor caregivers, most often women, who bear the profound responsibility of caring for loved ones living with neurodegenerative diseases. On the eve of Mother’s Day, mothers and daughters share the stage. How cool is that!

Bringing together the performing arts and science reflects a shared commitment to honoring, caring for, and sustaining life. **All proceeds from this evening support the ongoing work advancing research in neurodegenerative diseases.** May this evening stay with you, open your heart, and carry you forward in how you move through the world.

With gratitude,

*Amy West*



# THE WOMEN WHO MOVE US

## PROGRAM

(with "Program Notes" by the performers)

**"When Memory Fades"** music from *The Lark*

Mikhail Glinka (1804-1857)

arr. Mily Balakirev (1837-1910)

**Amy West**, dance

**Eden West**, piano

"When Memory Fades is a tribute to my mother-in-law and her journey with dementia. Through movement, I seek to enter the emotional world of memory loss; the fragmentation, confusion, and quiet tenderness of a mind trying to hold onto itself. This piece is an embodied act of empathy, imagining the experience of memories dissolving and returning without warning, and the emotional weight of living between recognition and forgetting. At its heart, the piece holds love in the presence of loss, and the deep, enduring connection that remains even as memory fades."

**12 Album Leaves, Op. 51, No. 1,**

Reinhold Glière (1875-1956)

**Sara Cumming**, cello

**Megan Emberton**, piano

"This first album leaf is one of a set of 12 that Glière wrote in 1910."

**"Elder Stitches"** to the music of *Hum*

**Kara Roseborough**, dance, music, costume & choreography

**"Back to Before"** from *Ragtime* (1996)

Stephen Flaherty & Lynn Ahrens

**Lilly Hunwick**, vocals

**Eden West**, piano

**"Back to Before"** continued...

"This song is from the musical *Ragtime*, which explores the stories of three families, with themes surrounding class struggle, racial injustice, and pursuing the American Dream. This song is sung by a Mother who is an Upper-class wife, who acknowledges that both she and society cannot go 'Back to Before,' as she discovers that there is maybe more to life than being a wife.

**"LOUD" (excerpt)** from *The Noise Came From Here*

Saul Williams (1972)

**Kiana "KC" Cook**, costume & dance

Excerpt of "LOUD (Solo Adaption)" choreographed and reworked by Kiana "KC" Cook

"LOUD was originally an eight-minute group work presented at the American College Dance Association in February 2025. It has since been adapted as a solo and performed in South Africa and Brazil."

**"Over Soon"** from *Over Soon* (2016)

Bon Iver

**"Au Revoir"** from *SABLE, FABLE* (2025)

Bon Iver

**"Unforgettable"** from *A Tribute to Nat King Cole* (1983)

Johnny Mathis

**Caroline Green**, dancer/choreographer, **Yahli Pedersen**

(Appearing courtesy of Michigan Ice Dance Academy)

**"Musetta's Waltz"** from *La Bohème*

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

**Ariana Gustafson**, harp

"This is typically a soprano aria as part of Puccini's famous opera, but it has been adapted for harp."

**"Like Water Lilies"**

Philip Daniel

**Andi Salazar**, dance, choreography & costume design

**"Sunstruck"** to the music of *Attaboy* (2011)

Yo-Yo Ma, Stuart Duncan, Edgar Meyer, Chris Thile

**Lauren Blair Smith**, choreographer

**Isabel Joves, Rachel McNaughton, Caitlyn Wade**, dance  
Madison Muszynski / 707CLOTHINGHEAVEN, costume design  
Hair & Makeup Artist: Kelly Kissick

# BIOGRAPHIES

## **Berceuse, Op. 16**

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

**Lydia Qiu**, piano  
**Anda Jiang**, violin

*"This piece is a lullaby, beloved by generations of violinists since its composition in 1879."*

**"Somewhere Over the Rainbow"** from *The Wizard of Oz* (1939)  
Harold Arlen

**Caitlin Lynch, Mary Callaghan Lynch**, vocals  
**Eden West**, piano

*"My mother sang Over the Rainbow to me when I was a child. And now I sing it to my children. What an honor to sing together."* -Caitlin Lynch

*"When I was a freshman at Marygrove College, I was Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, and when Caitlin was born, it was my go-to lullaby."*  
-Mary Callaghan Lynch

## RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



## **Kiana "KC" Cook** | "LOUD"

Kiana "KC" Cook is a graduate of the MFA in Dance at the University of Michigan. She studies various street and social dance forms, particularly prioritizing the cultural components and community experiences.

## **Scott Crandall** | Lighting Designer

Scott (they/he) is an interdisciplinary designer, performance maker, dramaturg, and educator. Their research and performances entangle the social shifts of climate change, late capitalist American culture, and queer disruption by wrestling with the challenge of incorporating these myth-sized changes at the human scale. Much of Scott's original work has been created with longtime collaborator Maddy Rager as the Kresge Fellowship-winning duo Thank You So Much For Coming. Scott is also a co-manager and co-curator of Play House Laboratories, a nonprofit organization that manages Play House, a studio, rehearsal space, and small-scale performance venue bringing high-quality, experimental, and family-friendly programming to Banglatown, Detroit residents at little to no cost.

## **Sara Cumming** | "Album Leaf Opus 51 No. 1"

Sara is a cello teacher and performer based in Chelsea, Michigan. Her teachers include Laurien Laufman, Shirley Trepel and Anthony Elliott. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in Cello performance from the University of Illinois and her Master of Music degree from Rice University.

## **Megan Emberton** | "Album Leaf Opus 51 No. 1"

Megan is a mom of two, a piano teacher, and an accompanist. She lives just outside Ann Arbor near the Huron River and enjoys cooking and traveling.

## **Caroline Green** | "Over Soon"

Caroline Green is an American ice dancer who competes internationally on behalf of Team USA. With her skating partner, Michael Parsons, she

is a two-time Four Continents medalist, a three-time ISU Grand Prix bronze medalist, a seven-time medalist on the ISU Challenger Series, and a six-time U.S. national medalist. As a skating coach and choreographer, she works with skaters of all ages, channeling her passions for theater, dance, and music into her creative work on the ice.

### **Ariana Gustafson** | “La Bohème: Musetta's Waltz”

Ariana Gustafson just completed her sophomore year in the BFA Dance program at the University of Michigan. She is also pursuing a music major, focusing on harp and piano, and enjoys singing in her on-campus a cappella group. Ariana is passionate about the arts and finds joy in exploring different creative outlets.

### **Ethan J. Hoffman** | Production Manager

Ethan Hoffman is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan, where he earned a BFA in Theatre Design and Production. Ethan has worked as a lighting designer on a variety of productions at the University of Michigan, as well as an assistant lighting designer on multiple productions across the country, including with Orlando Ballet, American Repertory Ballet, and Millennial® Choirs and Orchestras.

### **Lilly Hunwick** | “Back to Before” from Ragtime

Lilly Hunwick is a rising Senior Multidisciplinary Voice student, minoring in both Dance and Musical Theatre Composition. Lilly has been a part of many different student theatre organizations on campus, including MUSKET, Basement Arts, Golden Theatre, and University Productions. She would like to thank her family, friends, and mentors who support her every endeavor; she is so thankful!

### **Anda Jiang** | “Berceuse Op. 16 ”

Anda Jiang is a violinist who was raised in and around the musical community in Ann Arbor, Michigan, a long-time student at the University of Michigan under the guidance of Professor Danielle Belen. Jiang was concertmaster of the University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra, and is also a dedicated teacher to a studio of young violinists in her area.

### **Isabel Joves** | “Sunstruck”

Izzy Joves is a student at the University of Michigan pursuing a B.F.A. in Dance through the School of Music, Theatre & Dance and a B.S. in

Movement Science through the School of Kinesiology. She is also a student-athlete on the Michigan Dance Team. Izzy has performed in the Capezio ACE Awards and Talia Favia’s ATLAS in New York, and continues to explore professional performance opportunities while also teaching and choreographing.

### **Caitlin Lynch** | “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”

Caitlin Lynch is an opera singer, a mentor, a teacher, and a mother. She is overwhelmed with gratitude to have the privilege of embodying those varied roles.

### **Mary Callaghan Lynch** | “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”

Founder & Artistic Director of THE MOTOR CITY LYRIC OPERA, which brings unamplified opera to the students & seniors of Metro Detroit, free of charge. Classical vocal coach to Miss Aretha Franklin for 20 years.

### **Rachel McNaughton** | “Sunstruck”

Rachel McNaughton is a rising senior at the University of Michigan pursuing her BFA in Dance. Originally from Bakersfield, California, she has performed with VIM VIGOR, trained in Marcat Dance, and collaborated in performance projects with Andrea Salazar. Rachel teaches and choreographs at Gravity Dance Company, where she shares her passion for movement and performance with the next generation of dancers.

### **Yahli Pedersen** | “Over Soon”

Yahli Pedersen is a Team USA ice dancer who won silver at the 2024 U.S. Championships (Junior) and qualified for both the 2024 World Junior Championships and the 2023 Junior Grand Prix Final.

### **Lydia Qiu** | “Berceuse Op.16”

For the past 26 years, Lydia Qiu has worked in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance as a staff pianist and the coordinator of collaborative piano services. Lydia holds degrees from the University of Michigan, College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Capital University, as well as Central Conservatory in Beijing, China.

### **Kara Roseborough** | “Elder Stitches”

Kara Roseborough (she/her) is a multidisciplinary artist specializing in dance, theatre, and creative writing. She is a freelance dancer and choreographer as well as a Lecturer of Dance at the University of Michigan. Previous credits include work with the Detroit Opera, South Chicago Dance Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre, and Charleston City Ballet.

### **Andi Salazar** | “Like Water Lilies ”

Andi is a Chilean professional choreographer, dance educator, performer, and sociologist with a diverse and accomplished career. She holds a BFA in sociology from the Catholic University of Chile, an MFA in Dance Composition from Mills College, and an MA in Dance Education from NYU/ABT. She is a teaching faculty member at the University of Michigan, and she also works as an independent choreographer nationally and internationally.

### **Lauren Blair Smith** | “Sunstruck”

Lauren Blair Smith is a professional Choreographer, Producer, Educator, and very proud Founder/Artistic Director of Lauren Blair Smith Dance Company in Singapore. Lauren holds a BFA in Contemporary Dance with a minor in Arts Entrepreneurship from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and is currently pursuing her MFA from the University of Michigan (U-M). She is a multi-Maggie Allesee Choreography Award Finalist (2024 Screendance Winner). Lauren is a Kenan Fellow at Lincoln Center Education, an American Ballet Theatre Certified Teacher, and the founder of Singapore Dance Intensive. Lauren performed on the Broadway National Tour of “Fiddler on the Roof” in 400+ performances in 100+ cities. Lauren’s choreography has been featured in the US, Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan, Portugal, and Australia and has received prestigious recognition from international festivals. Lauren has also enjoyed successful collaborations with organizations such as Panasonic, Google, Jewel Changi Airport, TEDx Procter & Gamble, Certis Group, X System International, and Singapore American School. [www.laurenblairsmith.com](http://www.laurenblairsmith.com), @laurenblairsmith @laurenblairsmithdancecompany

### **Caitlyn Wade** | “Sunstruck”

Caitlyn Wade, from Rochester Hills, Michigan, graduated from the University of Michigan in May 2025 with a BFA in Dance, a BA in Linguistics, and an Astronomy Minor. Wade became a company member with VIM VIGOR, under the direction of Shannon Gillen, in the fall of 2025. Wade also works closely with Marcat Dance and had the privilege of being their rehearsal director at the UM Department of Dance from fall 2025 through winter 2026. Wade will continue their position as a rehearsal director at UM throughout the 2026-2027 academic year.

### **Amy West** | “When Memory Fades”

Amy West is an Assistant Professor of Dance, Health & Wellness Coach, and Director of MPulse at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance, where she has taught since 2009. A former professional ballet dancer with a 24-year performing career, she danced with leading ballet companies across the U.S. and appeared as a featured soloist with major opera companies. She is a Mayo Clinic/National Board-certified Health & Wellness Coach and holds certifications in personal training, Pilates, Essentrics, and Progressing Ballet Technique. An accomplished educator, choreographer, and presenter, Amy has taught nationally and internationally, created innovative programming in dance and wellness, and in 2024 produced *Women Defining Themselves*, the first benefit performance (tonight is the second) supporting ALS research. She offers personalized coaching and workshops through her private practice, Amy West Wellness. Learn more about Amy at [amywestwellness.com](http://amywestwellness.com).

### **Eden West** | “When Memory Fades” | “Back to Before” | “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”

Eden West is a recent graduate from the University of Michigan and received two Bachelor of Music degrees, one in piano and one in music education. In the fall, she will begin her Master of Music degree in collaborative piano at The Juilliard School as a Kovner Fellow. She attributes all her success to her parents, who have supported and encouraged her every step of the way.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Samantha Mecca - Mentor
- Jillian Hopper - Interim Chair, Department of Dance
- Joey Walls, Production consultant, Eventbrite coordinator
- David Gier - Dean, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
- ALS Center of Excellence:
  - Eva L. Feldman, MD, PhD
  - D. Michael Ritter, MD
  - Shoshanna Fischhoff
  - Betsy Taylor
- Alison Rivett and Erin Flores from Arts Initiative
- Kate Fitzpatrick - Senior Assoc. Dean & Student Success Team
- Clare Croft
- Karen Fournier, PhD, RMT, and the committee of the Research Catalyst and Innovation (RCI) Program
- Sean Hoskins - SMTD Media Consultant, slide designer
- Katie Gunning - Dance Department Administrative Specialist
- Michigan Media - Livestream
- The Produce Station - Catering
- Amanda Lesser - Photography

## FUNDING

Funding and sponsorship for this performance were received from:

### SCOTT PRANGER



## PRODUCTION CREW

**Production Manager:** Ethan Hoffman

**Lighting Designer:** Scott Crandall

**Audio Engineer:** Aaron Kippola

**Assistant to Amy West:** Lauren Blair Smith

**House Manager:** Ladina Schaller

**Assistant Stage Manager:** Kate Klassa

**Stage crew:** Devlin Holman & Emily Schwartz

**Greeters:** Nathan Mannella & Mallory McKenna

Hello friends,

I am deeply grateful to the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance for producing this extraordinary event, and my heartfelt thanks to Scott Pranger, whose support made this evening possible.

It is extremely important that we shine a light on neurodegenerative diseases like amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Alzheimer's, and Neuropathy. Also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS is a progressive disease in which the brain loses its ability to control motor neurons, leading to the inability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe. There is no known cure, and life expectancy is only two to four years after diagnosis. Alzheimer's and other dementias are also neurodegenerative diseases, with no significant effective therapeutic interventions to date. Our research labs at the NeuroNetwork for Emerging Therapies focus on these diseases and effective Brain Health strategies. We are working on pinpointing risk factors, which could help us identify populations at the highest risk for developing disease and pave the way for efforts to reduce risk exposure. Our work in ALS also uses immunology to understand the mechanisms of ALS and to develop novel treatment strategies and personalized interventions tailored to the individual needs of patients. Ultimately, our goal is to pioneer novel therapeutics or preventative interventions, representing a critical step toward combating these devastating neurologic disorders. We are also concentrating on diet and exercise and its' effects on overall brain health and function.

So, please sit back and enjoy the outstanding lineup of incredible performances on tonight's agenda from these performers.

**Thank you so much** for supporting this valuable cause.

Warmly,

*Eva L Feldman*

Eva Feldman, M.D., Ph.D.

James W. Albers Distinguished University Professor

Russell N. DeJong Professor of Neurology

Director, NeuroNetwork for Emerging Therapies

and ALS Center of Excellence at Michigan Medicine

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