

Yo-Yo Ma opens recital series

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall's Four Star Recital Series opens at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17 with cellist Yo-Yo Ma and pianist Jeffrey Kahane.

The program features the Detroit premiere of the Sonata for Cello and Piano (1989) by American composer Kenneth Frazelle, with works by Beethoven, Fala and Brahms.

This season's Four Star Recital Series, a showcase of the world's finest solo artists performing in the superb acoustical environment of Detroit's Orchestra Hall, also includes recitals by violinist Itzhak Perlman in October, baritone Sherrill Milnes in November and soprano Kathleen Battle in January.

Yo-Yo Ma made his first public recital at the age of five. By the time he was 19 he was being compared with such greats as Rostropovich and Casals. Highly acclaimed for his concerto performances with the world's finest orchestras, Ma is also deeply committed to performing and recording the vast chamber music literature.

His collaborations with other artists, including Isaac Stern, Gidon Kremer, Kim Kashkashian, Jeffrey Kahane, and Emanuel Ax, have resulted in the recordings of works by Brahms, Beethoven, Shostakovich, and Schubert. An exclusive CBS

Masterworks artist, he has won four Grammy awards and will soon be releasing five new recordings, including a collaboration with jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli.

Kahane's success in both the 1981 Van Cliburn competition and the 1983 Arthur Rubinstein Competition (first prize) has resulted in a busy schedule of performances in recital and, with leading orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, and Israel Philharmonic.

He received the first Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award in 1987, and was also awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1983. His chamber music collaborations include performances at the Mostly Mozart and Spoleto Festivals with such ensembles as the Tokyo String Quartet, the Meliora and Ridge Quartets.

Born in North Carolina in 1955, Frazelle has had commissions from the Spoleto Festival U.S.A. ("Blue Ridge Airs"), Rustic Paul Robeson ("Blue Ridge Airs II"), and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (Piano Quintet).

His works have been performed at the Montreal International Music Festival, the Kennedy Center, the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Carnegie Recital Hall, and with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Winston-Salem Symphony.

The concert opens with one of Beethoven's many masterly sets of variations, these on a theme from Mozart's "The Magic Flute." The second half of the program features

Manuel de Falla's Seven Popular Spanish Songs and the Sonata in F major, Op. 99, by Johannes Brahms.

For tickets, call 567-1400.

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