



Third Annual Distinguished Lectureship in Music, Diversity and Inclusion

Aaron Dworkin

Professor of arts leadership and entrepreneurship,
University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Afa Sadykhly Dworkin

President and artistic director, Sphinx Organization

11 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020

Grusin Music Hall

Imig Music Building



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS • 1920-2020

Throwing the DICE that Fuel Inclusion: A Wager on Diversity, Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship in the Arts

In this inspiring presentation, Aaron and Afa Dworkin share their personal story which informed their life of social entrepreneurship and arts leadership including the Sphinx Organization, whose mission is to transform lives through the power of diversity in the arts. They will delve into the important role that diversity, arts and creativity play in society, as well as their associated value and impact in communities. They will also share strategies surrounding innovative leadership, core skillsets required for creative careers and the importance of staying relevant in the actively evolving landscape of the arts.



About the presenters

Named a 2005 MacArthur Fellow, President Obama's first appointment to the National Council on the Arts and Governor Snyder's appointment to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, **Aaron P. Dworkin** served as dean of the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance (SMTD), which is ranked among the top performing arts schools in the nation. He is currently a tenured full professor of arts leadership and entrepreneurship at SMTD as well as serving as a professor of entrepreneurial studies at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. In addition, Dworkin is a successful social entrepreneur having founded The GinBo Cup, which focuses on diversity in eSports as well as the Sphinx Organization, the leading arts organization with the mission of transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts. He is the producer and host of AaronAsk, a weekly online mentoring show on creativity and leadership. As a successful writer,

Dworkin has authored *The Entrepreneurial Artist: Lessons from Highly Successful Creatives* published by Rowman & Littlefield, a science-fiction novel, *Ethos: Rise of Malcolm* published by MorganJames, as well as his memoir titled *Uncommon Rhythm: A Black, White, Jewish, Jehovah's Witness, Irish Catholic Adoptee's Journey to Leadership* released through Aquarius Press, a poetry collection, *They Said I Wasn't Really Black*, and a children's book *The 1st Adventure of Chilli Pepperz*. A lifelong musician, Dworkin is a spoken-word performing artist represented by Jensen Artists with a current national tour of his *American Rhapsody* with a national consortium of orchestras. He has collaborated with a breadth of artists including Yo-Yo Ma, Damien Sneed, Anna Deveare Smith, Damian Woetzel, Lil Buck and others. His visual digital art project, *Fractured History*, has been exhibited at multiple galleries and museums to rave reviews. He recorded and produced two CDs, entitled *Ebony Rhythm* and *Bar-Talk*, in addition to writing, producing, and directing the independent film *Deliberation*.

A multi-media performing artist, author, social entrepreneur, artist-citizen and educator, Dworkin continually receives extensive national recognition for his leadership and service to communities. He has been featured in *People* magazine, on NBC's *Today Show* and *Nightly News*, CNN, NPR's *The Story* and *Performance Today*. He has been the subject of articles in *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Detroit News*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Washington Post*, *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *Emerge* and *Jet Magazines*, and many other media outlets, and was named one of *Newsweek's* "15 People Who Make America Great." He is the recipient of the Royal Philharmonic Society Honorary Membership,

Harvard University's Vosgerchian Teaching Award, National Governors Association 2005 Distinguished Service to State Government Award, Detroit Symphony Orchestra's 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award, *Detroit News's* 2003 Michiganian of the Year Award, *Crain's* 40 Under 40 and Who's Who Awards, BET's History Makers in the Making Award, AT&T Excellence in Education Award and National Black MBA's Entrepreneur of The Year. As an artist curator, he has served as a juror for some of the most prestigious international competitions including the Menuhin Competition, London Music Masters Competition, Stulberg International Violin Competition and the Sphinx Competition.

A sought-after global thought leader and a passionate advocate for excellence in arts education, entrepreneurship and leadership, as well as inclusion in the performing arts, Dworkin is a frequent keynote speaker and lecturer at numerous national and global arts, creativity and technology conferences including the Aspen Ideas Conference, Independent Sector, Americans for the Arts, Dance USA, Leadership Africa Summit, The League of American Orchestras, National Association for Schools of Music, Merit Member Conference, Society for Music Teacher Education, National Guild for Community Schools of the Arts, National Association of Music Merchants, Chautauqua Institution, National Suzuki Association, American String Teachers Association, Ithaca College and the National Association for Negro Musicians. He served as commencement speaker at the Curtis Institute of Music, University of Michigan, Longy Conservatory and twice for Bowling Green State University. In May of 2013, the renowned Curtis Institute of Music awarded

honorary doctorates to Dworkin and Sir Simon Rattle, longtime maestro of the Berlin Philharmonic. Dworkin also holds bachelor's and master's degrees in violin performance from the University of Michigan.

Dworkin personifies arts leadership, entrepreneurship and community commitment with an unwavering passion for the arts, diversity and their role in society. As dean of the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance, he led a world-class faculty of 180 and a staff of 100 while administering a budget over \$60 million, an endowment in excess of \$140 million and successfully completing a capital campaign over \$90 million. As founder of the Sphinx Organization, Dworkin created an international organization with a staff and faculty of over 50 and a budget of \$5 million that awards more than \$1 million in prizes and scholarships annually. The organization serves as the leading advocate for young people and diversity in the arts worldwide. Dworkin also founded and served as publisher and editor-in-chief of *The Bard*, a literary magazine reaching over 60,000 readers.

Dworkin serves regularly as a board or advisory member for numerous influential arts organizations including the National Council on the Arts, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, National Association of Performing Arts Presenters, the Avery Fisher Artist Program, Independent Sector's Advisory Group, League of American Orchestras, National Society for the Gifted and Talented, Creative Many Michigan, the Knight Foundation, The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, The Michigan Theater, Rachel Elizabeth Barton Foundation,

Editorial Board of Downtown New York Magazine and Chamber Music America. As the co-chair of the Arts and Cultural Education Task Force for the State of Michigan, Dworkin designed the required arts curriculum for Michigan schools.

Dworkin has strong interests in politics, innovation, creativity, human pair bonding and issues of economic and social justice. In addition to various genres of music and disciplines of the performing arts, he enjoys travel, movies and the culinary arts. He is married to Afa Sadykhly Dworkin and has two awesome sons, Noah Still and Amani Jaise.

Named one of Musical America's Top 30 Influencers in the nation and Detroit Crain's 40 Under 40, **Afa Sadykhly Dworkin** is a musical thought leader and cross-sector strategist driving national programming that promotes diversity in classical music. She currently serves as president and artistic director of the Sphinx Organization, the nation's leading organization transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts. In this role, she oversees all fundraising, strategic and artistic initiatives through which Sphinx expands access to classical music education and supports a national roster of distinguished musicians of color, while annually reaching 10,000 through its programming and more than 2 million through live and broadcast audiences. During her tenure, Ms. Dworkin has expanded the organization's international partner network to 50+ foundations and leading enterprises, resulting in the organization's most successful fundraising campaign in its 20-year history. Under her leadership, her team's national artistic network has also grown to 30+ symphony orchestras, enabling Sphinx to

continue scaling its programming to new audiences worldwide. The strength of Ms. Dworkin's leadership across sectors and national divides is informed by her musical training and more than 20 years of experience in the field, as well as her international corporate experience as a trilingual interpreter and executive assistant to the president of ARCO, The International Oil and Gas Company in Baku, Azerbaijan.

In addition to her role at Sphinx, Ms. Dworkin has helped to shape the national classical music landscape as a multi-year orchestra grant review panelist for the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, 3Arts Awards, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the MetLife Awards administered by The League of American Orchestras. Beyond the orchestral community, she has aided grant review for the Surdna Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Charlotte Arts and Sciences Council, Independent Sector's American Express NGen Awards and numerous state councils across the United States.

Ms. Dworkin has delivered ongoing thought leadership through an extensive roster of speaking engagements including those at the International Arts & Ideas Festival, Independent Sector, Grantmakers in the Arts, Young Audiences Norway, Esmeraldas Festival in Ecuador, Chamber Music America, National Association for Schools of Music, League of American Orchestras, ICSOM and Association of Canadian Orchestras. Former faculty at Clarkston Conservatory in Michigan, she serves as a lecturer at the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance and as adjunct faculty at Roosevelt University's Master's in Arts Administration

program, with past lectures at Bowling Green State University, Penn State and Central Michigan University. Ms. Dworkin also builds capacity for the midwestern arts community as a trustee for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Creative Many Michigan and CultureSource.

Born in Moscow and raised in Azerbaijan, Ms. Dworkin's music training began with the Soviet training at the prestigious Azerbaijan National Conservatory, where she honed her craft under the tutelage of the region's leading artists. She subsequently joined the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra as an entering freshman at the University of Michigan School of Music, also earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in violin performance with high honors. Her career as a performer has taken her to Russia, Switzerland, Austria and the United States. She is an avid chef and foodie with her culinary accomplishments simply known as "Afa Food." Ms. Dworkin makes her home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with her husband Aaron Dworkin in their home, Alegria ("Joy") in Ann Arbor. Her youngest son, Amani, attends the A2STEAM school, plays piano and soccer on the Liverpool junior league, and step-son Noah attends the Ross Business School at the University of Michigan.

About the College of Music

Since its founding in 1920, the University of Colorado Boulder College of Music has established itself as one of the top university music programs in the United States. With its highly active faculty of professional performers, composers and scholars, the College of Music has committed itself to helping students develop their talents, refine their passions and ultimately succeed in their professional endeavors.

To build upon the College of Music's rich history of distinction and to guide it through its 2020 centennial and beyond, the college's faculty unanimously approved a 10-year strategic plan in Feb. 2016. The integration of the college's core educational programs with wide-ranging professionally oriented experiences that benefit every student in the college stands as the centerpiece of the strategic plan. It's what we're calling *The College of Music Advantage*, or **music+** for short.

Appreciating that music knows no boundaries defined by race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic standing or other human differences, the College of Music is poised to improve the human condition by engaging with diverse people, experiences, points of view, content and knowledge through music. The College of Music launched this annual distinguished lectureship in music, diversity and inclusion in 2018. Every member of the College's community is united by the power of music.