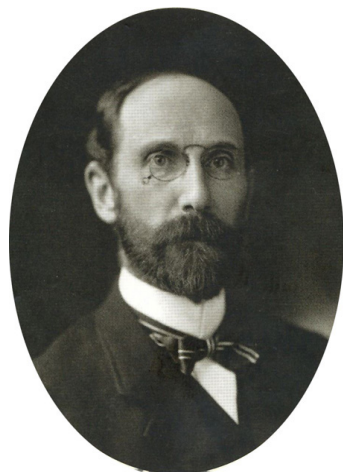


# *The Friends of the* **FREER HOUSE**

PRESENT:

## *Freer and Whistler Through Music, Art and Letters*

A benefit concert event announcing the Freer House  
“Whistler Gallery” Restoration Project



Featuring the  
**Scarab Club  
Music Ensemble**  
and vocalist  
**Damien Top**



James McNeill Whistler, *Harmony in Blue and Gold: The Little Blue Girl*, 1894-1903, Freer Gallery of Art



**Sunday, March 27, 2011**

2:00 pm

Charles Lang Freer House  
71 East Ferry, Detroit

The remarkable relationship of the famous American artist, James McNeill Whistler, and the Detroit industrialist and art collector, Charles Lang Freer, will be the focus of this special concert event. The deep friendship between this extraordinary artist and his loyal patron will be brought to life through images of key paintings from Freer's collection, music specially selected to accompany these art works, and a reading of letters between Freer and Whistler.

The Scarab Club Ensemble will perform with special guest, award winning French singer/actor Damien Top and actors from the Wayne State University Theater Dept. in the intimate setting of the Exhibition Gallery of the historic Charles Lang Freer House. This benefit event will launch a new campaign by the Friends of the Freer House to restore the altered 1906 “Whistler Gallery” room of the Freer House to its former glory.

Music to be performed by this outstanding ensemble of professional musicians will include works by Claude Debussy, Reynaldo Hahn, Alexander Borodin, Charles Stanford and Charles Ives. Don't miss this opportunity to spend an early Spring afternoon of art, music and theater inspired by the rich life and art of Mr. Whistler and Mr. Freer. The Scarab Club Ensemble includes French horn player Susan Mutter, violinist Velda Kelly, violinist Andrew Wu, violist James Greer, cellist Nadine Deleury.

Space is **Limited to 70 people - RSVP Required**

Admission: \$35.00 general public

\$50.00 Patrons (includes reserved seating)

\$25.00 for members of The Friends of the Freer House, \$10.00 for students

To RSVP or purchase tickets contact Rose Foster at 313-872-1790 or by email at [rmfoster@wayne.edu](mailto:rmfoster@wayne.edu)

Advance ticket purchase is recommended. Credit cards can be taken with phone orders

Tours and reception to follow the lecture





The Whistler (Picture) Gallery, Freer House, 1906

### The “Whistler Gallery” Restoration Project

The Friends of the Freer House has set an ambitious goal to restore the former “Whistler Gallery” to its original condition. Our first objective is to fund a feasibility study to determine the strategy and cost to return this much altered room to its historic design with a new use as a meeting and exhibition space.

The Whistler (Picture) Gallery was built in 1906 as part of a major addition to Freer’s home to accommodate his growing collection of American and Asian art, as well as the “Peacock Room”. The historic photo above reveals the gallery’s innovative use of skylights, single line placement of paintings, and simple yet sophisticated decor. Priceless paintings by Whistler are shown on the walls.

This ‘cutting edge’ private gallery influenced the later design of exhibition rooms at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (Alumni Hall) and the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Today the room has suffered from alterations but has great potential for restoration. Join us in supporting this exciting and historic project by attending the benefit concert with the Scarab Club Music Ensemble and special guests on March 27th!

### The Scarab Club Music Ensemble



L-R: James Greer, Velda Kelly, Andrew Wu, Nadine Deleury

### *Acknowledgements*

The 2011 Friends of Freer House Lecture Series is supported by the generosity of the **Americana Foundation**.

The Americana Foundation supports educational and advocacy programs that address the conservation of natural resources and the protection and presentation of expressions of America’s heritage.

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### *The Friends of the* **FREER HOUSE**

The Friends of the Freer House is devoted to raising awareness of the legacy of Charles Lang Freer and support for the preservation and restoration of the historic Freer House.

The group is a membership organization affiliated with The Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, Wayne State University and open to the public. For membership and volunteer information contact: (313) 872-1790 or email: [mpsi@wayne.edu](mailto:mpsi@wayne.edu)