

GCSU Department of Music

Senior Recital

Preston Raburn, saxophone

Dr. Hue Jang, piano

Carol Tanner, piano

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Max Noah Recital Hall, 3 p.m.

Also live-streamed on [Facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment)



Program

“Come As You Are”

Tableau de Provence

Paule Maurice

Paule Maurice (1910-1967) was a French composer and pianist who wrote for a variety of ensembles throughout the 20th century. *Tableaux de Provence*, a suite written for saxophone and accompanied by either piano or orchestra, is largely considered to be her greatest work. *Tableaux*, written and dedicated to saxophone virtuoso Marcel Mule, consists of five movements that span the entire range of the saxophone, yet are each unique in their own right as being separate parts of one whole work that represent an image of the Provence region of France.

Movement I., “*Farandole of the Young Girls*”, presents a joyous sense of grandeur that represents a popular dance native to the region;

Movement II., “*Song for my Love*”, provides a simple, yet lovely melody for one’s significant other;

Movement III., “*The Bohemian Woman*”, expresses an appreciation towards the Roma people;

Movement IV., “*At the Grave, the Soul Sighs*”, mourns for the souls buried beside an ancient Roman necropolis;

Movement V., “*The Dragonfly*”, is a swift finale to the work that explores the technicalities of both the saxophone and the piano.

This work in particular is very special to me, as the same sheet music that I play of this work was also played by my father, **Clint Raburn**, in a recital thirty-one years prior to my own. It truly has been a joy to read through his markings in the score, as well as make additions of my own that I will one day look back upon.

To my father, thank you for teaching me about the most important part of being a musician: character.

Come As You Are

Steven Banks

Steven Banks (b. 1993) is an American saxophonist and composer. Being driven by a desire to write music that “addresses aspects of the human experience”, Banks wrote **Come As You Are** as a work that is dedicated to his immediate family, set to the deeper, mellow voice of the tenor saxophone. Each movement takes elements from hymns and spirituals from the Christian church, a place which Banks cites as the “center” of his musical journey. In each movement, the lyrics of each respective song are given in the score- despite the saxophone’s inability to convey words, the meaning continues to shine through.

Movement I., “*Lift My Eyes*”, embodies the spiritual of **My Lord, What A Morning**, expressing a deeper sense of hope through a new dawn;

Movement II., “*Times of the Storm*”, spins the famous melody of **Wade in the Water** into a rampant, fast-paced representation of stirred turmoil through life (a la Aretha Franklin), which then falls into the more calm and resolute melody of **Total Praise**;

Movement III., “*Strength of My Life*”, takes inspiration from the famed gospel singer Mahalia Jackson, as well as Robert Schumann, and sets it to the beautiful melody of **His Eye is on the Sparrow**;

Movement IV., “*Lift My Hands*”, finds eternal peace from the storms of life in a beautiful finale that is arranged from the melody of **I Still Have Joy**.

In the same manner in which Banks wrote this work, my love for music is deeply rooted in both my family and in my faith. For my entire life, all three of those things have been intertwined: as my life for my faith began and set foot in the halls of **First Christian Church** and was cultivated in **Northridge Christian Church**, so began my love for music.

*To my brothers; to my first friends, I love you all so deeply.
To my mother, the source of joy in my life.*

My Mountain Top

Andy Scott

Andy Scott (b. 1966) is a British saxophonist and composer who specializes in a variety of musical styles yet is rooted in the styles of big band jazz, Latin, and funk. With over thirty years of experience, Scott wrote **My Mountain Top** as the namesake for an album composed of works for tenor saxophone. With electronics and synthesizers and lyrics set to the music by Lemn Sissey, this piece’s extended techniques explore the peaks and valleys of life through the analogy of a mountain. It serves as both a reflection and an encouragement: to always carry on by finding inner strength to overcome all of life’s challenges.

Romance

William Grant Still

William Grant Still (1895-1978) was an American composer, known for his large body of more than two hundred works. Having taught himself to play a plethora of instruments from a young age, Still’s music began to rise to prominence in the 1920s and 1930s, with his first major orchestral composition, the *Afro-American Symphony*, being the first complete work written by an African American to be performed by a major symphony orchestra. Commissioned by Sigurd Rascher in 1954, **Romance** is a work that symbolizes Still’s love for his wife, Verna Arvey, at a time of

uncertainty in America when interracial marriage was forbidden.

From the onset of my career as a solo performer, my grandmother, **Carol Tanner**, has always been by my side to accompany me. Whether encouraging a young seventh grader to step up and play “In the Garden” at Harmony Baptist Church or through countless times rehearsing through my audition piece for the Department of Music four years ago, I would not be here without the love and motivation of my grandparents.

*To all of my grandparents, thank you for your steadfast love
and constant encouragement.*

A Journey's End

arr. Preston Raburn

I found it fitting to end my recital with a piece that I wrote. Instead of writing an original composition, I opted to arrange selections of several songs that held significant meaning to myself, set to play with my longtime companions in the GeeCee saxophone quartet. Taking the melody of the hymn from one of my favorite classical works, Gustav Holst's **Jupiter**, a favorite traditional hymn of mine, **Come Thou Fount** by Robert Robinson, and Manaka Kataoka's melody **The Champion's Ballad** from my favorite videogame, *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*, I arranged this as a sort-of finale for my collegiate career. As such, it is the end of a journey for this chapter, but in the same manner, it is the beginning of my next adventure in life.

With this chapter concluded, I cannot help but thank all of those who made it possible. To my family, my professors, and my friends, thank you for making these past four years some of the greatest in my life. I only find it fitting to conclude this recital with the lyrics to a wonderful song by David Crowder:

“So lay down your burdens,
Lay down your shame;
All who are broken,
Lift up your face.

Oh, wanderer come home,
You're not too far;
Lay down your hurt,
Lay down your heart,
Come as you are.”

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of Preston's Bachelor of Arts in Music degree. Preston Raburn is a student of Dr. Andrew Allen.