

GCSU Department of Music

GCSU Wind Symphony Concert
Through the Darkness

Dr. Zandra Bell-McRoy, conductor

Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Russell Auditorium

and live streamed on facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment



Program

Mother Earth	David Maslanka (1943–2017)
Unquiet Hours	David Biedenbender (b. 1984)
Bluebonnet Drift	Aaron Perrine (b. 1979)
Only Light, Only Love	Leslie Gilreath (b. 1967)
Solstice	Chad Heiny (b. 1980)

Program Notes — *Through the Darkness*

Mother Earth — David Maslanka (1943–2017) Composed: 2003 (fanfare for wind ensemble) [David Maslanka+2Wikipedia+2](#) This short but striking fanfare was written as a musical “call from Mother” — a reminder to attend to the earth. In Maslanka’s own words, it is “an urgent message ... to treat her more kindly.” [David Maslanka+1](#) While the piece is often performed as a brief opening, its concentrated energy conveys both warning and awakening. In the context of our concert, it signals the incursion of chaos — the disruption, the unrest, the shaking of the ground beneath us — before we descend inward.

Unquiet Hours — David Biedenbender (b. 1984) Composed: 2017 [davidbiedenbender.com](#) Unquiet Hours evokes the persistent restlessness that haunts us in our deepest, darkest sentiments: grief, doubt, anxiety, loneliness. The work is built around an *idée fixe* — a central motif that is revisited, transformed, and agitated across the piece’s arc. [davidbiedenbender.com](#) It traces a journey from turbulence to fragile calm, suggesting that even in the midst of internal storm, there is a possibility of listening, stillness, and empathy.

Bluebonnet Drift — Aaron Perrine (b. 1979) Composed: 2021 [aaronperrine.com+1](#) Bluebonnet Drift draws inspiration from a simple, powerful image: the wild bluebonnet fields of Texas. Perrine’s musical imagination responds to that visual world with a subtle pulse (inspired by the cadence of running footsteps) and coloristic textures, blending acoustic winds and processed electronics. [aaronperrine.com+1](#) The music offers a moment of retreat into beauty, a drift of memory and reflection, where sound becomes a mirror for the inner landscape.

Only Light, Only Love — Leslie Gilreath (b. 1967) Composed: 2018

windrep.org+2lesliegilreath.com+2 Gilreath's introspective work takes its text inspiration from a sermon quote by Martin Luther King Jr.:

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hatred cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

This piece was dedicated to Alfred Watkins and was selected for performance at the 2018 Midwest Clinic by the Cobb Wind Symphony. lesliegilreath.com In our arc, this work marks the turning point: the realization that to extinguish the flames of chaos, we must call upon light and love. The music here is quiet, meditative, and hopeful.

Solstice — Chad Heiny (1980) Composed: 2025 [Chad Heiny+1](#) Heiny describes *Solstice* as a “beautiful, concise and exciting fanfare for winds and percussion,” inspired by the poem “I Heard a Bird Sing” by Oliver Herford. [SoundCloud](#) Its musical language is bold, assured, and luminous — a culminating affirmation of emergence into light. After our descent through darkness, *Solstice* stands as a triumphant reentry into clarity and collective strength.

Overarching Arc & Reflection

In assembling this program, the journey is intentional:

1. **Entry of chaos** — *Mother Earth* confronts us with a rupture, a warning that the ground is unsettled.
2. **Internal unrest** — *Unquiet Hours* takes us inward, into a space where internal turbulence swirls even in silence.
3. **Quiet retreat** — *Bluebonnet Drift* softens the edges of tension, opening space for reflection and recollection.
4. **Spiritual counterpoint** — *Only Light, Only Love* articulates the antidote: light, love, compassion.
5. **Emergence & affirmation** — *Solstice* invites us into renewal, standing in the light that has always awaited.

May this concert not only be a listening experience but a shared ritual: from shadow into radiance, from disquiet toward hope.

Wind Symphony Personnel

Dr. Zandra Bell-McRoy, conductor

Flute/Piccolo Kaidee Bolden ^Rachel Brooks Natalia Eason Bailey Geiger Natalie Polston Scarlett Simon Katelyn Spires Anna West ^Addy Wheeler Oboe ^Livie Duby Jayden Kypri Clarinet *Jacob Hall *Grace Liebl ^JaQuan Moore Julius Moore	Bass Clarinet Jacob Bryson Contra Clarinet Jacob Fayville Bassoon Kayley Owens Alto Saxophone Kelsey Carpenter Blake Dickey ^Savannah McDowell Joshua Wright Tenor Saxophone Christian Davis Ethan Mattace Autumn Taylor	Trumpet ^Nickolas Becker *Ashley Godbee *Darvin McRoy Eden Norman Caroline Okraski *Tammy Urbansky French Horn Wesley Harper Alyssa Radnoczi *Forrest Starling Trombone Megan Atcheson Jack Boyle ^Arron M. Holland Sr. Lola McNair Ana Womack Yalonda Wright	Euphonium Nyerere Flanagan Kevin Stinson-Gallegos Tuba Matthew Shackelford ^Isabella Waddell Percussion ^Madison Barnes Kaidee Bolden Eden Chase Matthew Shackelford Evan Smith Jezneel Torres Kai Williams Ben Witham ^Section Leader *Community Member
--	--	--	--

**Please complete our concert survey
with the QR Code.** 
Thank you.



Upcoming Events:

Follow us on [Facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment) or music.gcsu.edu

Guest Artist Recital Bronwen Forbay, soprano Christian Bester, baritone Vivian Hamilton, piano Monday, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. Max Noah Recital Hall	Jazz Jam Session at Amici's Hosted by GCSU Students and Faculty Tuesday, Oct. 28, 7-9 pm Amici Café downtown Milledgeville	Artober Wednesday, Oct. 29, 5-7 pm Ennis Hall	GCSU Jazz Band Concert Don Parker and Jay Wucher, directors Friday, Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. Russell Auditorium
--	---	---	---

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

To JOIN – VISIT: [HTTPS://GIVE.GCSU.EDU/G/DEPARTMENTS-OF-MUSIC/](https://give.gcsu.edu/g/departments-of-music/)

OR EMAIL: MUSIC@GCSU.EDU OR WRITE A CHECK TO GCSU FOUNDATION, INC. FOR “MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS” OR “MUSIC DEPARTMENT” AND MAIL TO: GCSU MUSIC DEPARTMENT, CBX 66, MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061



Impresario (\$5000+)

Allied Arts
Betty C. Baugh
Jackie Bell
Lawrence & Susan Boss

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Boyle
George & Polly Echols
Lee Echols
Kenny Franks

Gorzelany Family
Elizabeth Weldon McCollum
Family of LTG Max Noah

Mrs. Eliza G. Nesmith
Maidana K. Nunn
Doyle Ransom
Tom & Sandra Rosseter

Maestro (\$2500-4999)

Brett & Sarah Miller family

Virtuoso (\$1000-2499)

Charlotte H. Bearden
David & Micki Carr
President Cathy Cox and
Mr. Mark Dehler
Jeffrey M. Daniel

The Episcopal Church of the
Redeemer
Jennifer Gorzelany
Judith Greer
Nancy

William & Becky Humphrey
Margaret S. Judkins
Stan & Marilyn McMahan
Mary Elizabeth Phillips

Family of Fielding Whipple
J. Noland & Leah White
Jim Willoughby
Patricia P. Zimmermann

Artist (\$500-999)

Melanie L. DeVore
Frances B. Florencourt:
IMO Gertrude Treanor
Jennifer Flory

Keith & Simin Hall
Sherry & Robert Henry
David H. Johnson
Jenny & Larry Moore

Newnan FUMC
Don & Sheryl Parker
Douglas & Kyle Rick

Luis Samper
Stephen M. Stewart
Cliff & Gina Towner
Walker United Methodist Church

Patron (\$250-499)

Weronica Ankarörn
Walter M. Bowman Jr.
Suzanne P. Courtney
Dr. and Mrs. Jim Craig, Jr.
Ana Edwards (IMO)
Dimples Kelly Edwards)

James & Tricia Etheridge
Barbara Funke
Nancy E. Jay
Jane & Joe Mangum
Milledgeville Baldwin County

Doris Moody
Diane Myers
Kay Newman
Darla Pyke

Kenneth & Diane Saladin: (IMO
Clyde Tipton)
Sara A. Simcox
Kristine F. Smith
Harriett L. Whipple
George & Rhonda P. Wood

Sustainer (\$100-249)

Paul Accettura
Roger & Carol Austin
family
Gayle Christensen Avant
Peggy Bartolotta
Joanne C. Battle
Cynthia C. Beal
Rosemary Begemann
Sue Bennett
Karen Berman: in honor
of Dr. Bradley Sowell

Marcia Brelsford
Janice T. Callaway
Shirley G. Day
Larry & Sharon Edwards
Robert Erst
Jane & Joe Flaherty
Thom & Heather Galloway
Lamar & Ruth Garrard
Gerald & Elaine Grady
Michael & Sylvia Graham
James & Lupe S. Guyton

Bryan Emmon Hall
Jimmy Hemphill
Steve & Lynne Jordan
Christopher A. Karow
David & Laura Leach
Ellen Markwalter
Lori & Albert McGalliard
Richard & Arlene Mueller
Dianna Odum
Ricky & Chris O'Steen

Joy & Barry Pendry (IMO
Rostam Radamez Hall)
Kate & Roy Phillips
Dan Smith (IMO Rostam
Radamez Hall)
Irene M. Staik
Robert Tanner
Craig Turner
Katie G. Whipple
Virginia Wilkerson
Robin & Susan Wright

Friend (\$25-99)

Owen Anderson
Harlan Archer
Mark G. Bailey
Barb Bateman
Chip & Nancy Bell
Amanda Blackwell
Lisa & Dan Chase
Bernice J. Cooper
Doyle Davidson
Anresa M. Davis
Dana Dolan

Denise Elam
Claire & Stephen Faison
Gladys T. Gates
Jonathan & Julie Harwell
Torence Holmes
Barbara Houze
Catherine M. Howell
Evan R. Karanovich
Youngmi Kim
Gary Lawrence
Sandra Lessl

Susan B. Lewis
Roxanne & Paul Marcellino
Patricia and Richard McCoy
Shawn McDowell
Lynn McEachin
Dr. And Mrs. Alfred J. Mead
Richard & Wanda Millians
Renee & William Mosley
Musica Vocale
Aubrey E. Myers
Kayla R. Otim

Paul Rawls
Amanda Respass
John Shoemaker
Karen & Mike Schmidt
Betty B. and Rod Shearouse
James R. Smith
Karen & Ricky Spivey
Elizabeth Strawn
Jan B. Taylor
Amedeo & Monica Tritto
Anna E. Whiteside
Susan Wucher