GCSU Department of Music

GCSU Wind Symphony Concert

Looking to the Future

Zandra Bell-McRoy, conductor

Thursday, October 22, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
Russell Auditorium

Livestreamed: www.youtube.com/@gcsumusicdept

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

Program

AYO: Rhapsody for Band (2023) — Katahj Copley (b. 1998)

V.O.C.: Helmsman of the Sea (2023) — Shruthi Rajasekar (b. 1996)

Mother's Lullaby (2026) — Kevin Charoensri (b. 2003)

This piece will be performed in memory of Estella Simmons Bell, a consummate "Band Mom" with the voice of an angel

Stride (2023) — Kevin Day (b. 1996)

Sing of Tomorrow — Nicole Piunno (b. 1985)

Three-Ring Circus! — Adrian B. Sims (b. 2000)

Looking to the Future presents recent wind band works by living composers whose music expands the sound, spirit, and possibilities of the contemporary ensemble. Each work on this program was written within the last five years, giving performers and listeners a direct connection to the music of the present moment.

The program begins with energy and identity, moves through cultural memory, tenderness, and forward motion, and closes with joy and hope. Together, these works suggest that the future of wind band music is not distant or theoretical. It is already here: rhythmically vibrant, culturally aware, emotionally honest, and full of imagination.

Our Musical Journey

AYO opens the program with confidence, groove, and celebration. The work brings together rhythmic drive, bold colors, and a spirit of welcome. As an opener, it immediately establishes the concert's central idea: the future of wind band music is alive, personal, and connected to the world students inhabit today.

V.O.C.: Helmsman of the Sea honors V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, an Indian freedom fighter, lawyer, and labor leader. The music carries a sense of determination and movement, connecting the future to cultural memory and resistance. Rajasekar's work gives the program historical depth while remaining firmly contemporary in sound and purpose.

Mother's Lullaby offers a moment of tenderness and reflection. Its lyrical character gives the ensemble space to focus on tone, phrase, warmth, and emotional clarity. Within the larger program, this piece reminds us that looking to the future also requires care, memory, and humanity.

Stride is music of motion, confidence, and resolve. Drawing energy from the idea of walking forward decisively, the work brings rhythmic momentum and a strong sense of direction to the program. It connects especially well to students who understand the physical and musical energy of marching traditions while presenting that energy in a concert setting.

Sing of Tomorrow serves as a broad, hopeful statement**.** Its title directly reflects the concert's theme, while the music points toward hope, possibility,renewal, and the responsibility of imagining what comes next. Positioned before the final work, it gives the program an expansive emotional lift and prepares the audience for a closing moment rooted in energy, character, and joy.

Three-Ring Circus! closes the program with humor, brightness, and quick-moving character to the program. This compact work adds a burst of theatrical energy and gives the ensemble a chance to showcase precision, articulation, and style. It serves as a joyful reset before the final statement of the concert.

Wind Symphony Personnel

Flute
Kaidee Bolden*
Rachel Brooks*
Laura McDaniel
Natalie Polston
Katelyn Spires
Abigail Thompson

Oboe
Olivia Duby
Jayden Kypri*
Claire Smith

Clarinet
Jaquan Moore*
Evan Schumacher

Contrabass Clarinet
Jacob Fayville

Bassoon
Nate McIntyre
Kayley Owens*

Alto Saxophone
Holden Crescionie
Avery Greer
Wesley Harper*
Autumn Taylor
Joshua Wright

Tenor Saxophone
Christian Davis

Baritone Saxophone
Jenna Nelson*^

Horn
Carissa Kim
Kaitlyn Kruse
Alyssa Radnoczi*

Trumpet
Nick Becker*
Morgan Brock
Brayden jones
Clinton Lowe
Eden Norman
Caroline Okraski

Euphonium
Harper Powell*

Tuba
Kiya Bryan

Trombone
Jackson Boyle
Lola McNair
Walker Shields
Kevin Stinson-Gallegoes*^
Micah Thomas
Anastasia Womack*
Yolanda Wright+

Percussion
Madison Barnes
Kaidee Bolden*
Eden Lybarger*
Grayson Ferrera
Kai Williams
Benjamin Witham

*Section Leader
^Student Intern Apprentice
+Community Member

Biography

Dr. Zandra Bell-McRoy is a music educator, conductor, flutist, and educational consultant with more than two decades of experience teaching instrumental music at the secondary and collegiate levels. She currently serves as the Director of Band Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Georgia College and State University. Her work centers on purposeful, sustainable music education; strong fundamentals; student independence; and equitable access to meaningful musical experiences.

As a conductor and educator, Dr. Bell-McRoy is committed to building ensembles that perform with musical integrity, technical confidence, and expressive depth. Her teaching reflects a belief that students deserve both high expectations and the tools needed to meet them. Through her work with college musicians, preservice teachers, and school band programs, she continues to advocate for rigorous, relevant, culturally responsive music education rooted in excellence.

Click here for or use QR for: Link to full Program Notes

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

Upcoming Events: Follow us on Facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment or music.gcsu.ed
Live Streaming - on www.youtube.com/@gcsumusicdept

Guest Artist Recital *"Journey Through Time and Space"* Khary Wilson, tenor Lev Ryabinin, piano Monday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. Max Noah Recital Hall	**Jazz Jam Session at Amici Café** Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7-9 pm Amici Café Downtown Milledgeville	**GCSU Jazz Band Concert** *"A Tribute to the Dave Pell Octet"* Andrew Allen, director Thursday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. Russell Auditorium	**Chamber Ensemble Recital** Bryan Hall, coordinator Thursday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. Max Noah Recital Hall

Friends of Music

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Impresario ($5000+)

Allied Arts
Betty C. Baugh
Jackie Bell
Lawrence & Susan Boss
Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Boyle
Community Foundation of Central Georgia
Lee Echols
Kenny Franks
Gorzelany Family
Elizabeth Weldon McCollum
Family of LTG Max Noah
Eliza G. Nesmith
Maidana K. Nunn
Tom & Sandra Rosseter
Kenneth & Diane Saladin: IMO Clyde Tipton

Maestro ($2500-4999)

Virtuoso ($1000-2499)

Charlotte H. Bearden
David & Micki Carr
President Cathy Cox & Mr. Mark Dehler
Jeffrey M. Daniel
Jennifer Gorzelany
Judith Greer
William & Becky Humphrey
Sarah E. Miller
Family of Fielding Whipple
J. Noland & Leah White
Patricia P. Zimmermann

Artist ($500-999)

Walter M. Bowman Jr
Melanie L. DeVore
Frances B. Florencourt: IMO Gertrude Treanor
Jennifer & William Flory
Keith & Simin Hall
Janet M. Hoffman: IHO Jennifer Flory & John Sallstrom
Nancy
Jenny & Larry Moore
Don & Sheryl Parker
Douglas & Kyle Rick
Stephen M. Stewart
Walker United Methodist Church
Harriett L. Whipple

Patron ($250-499)

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Barry & Joy Pendry
Darla Pyke
Sara A. Simcox
Paul & Kristine F. Smith
Virginia Wilkerson

Sustainer ($100-249)

Owen Anderson
Gayle Christensen Avant
Joanne C. Battle
Cynthia C. Beal
Rosemary Begemann
Ann & Sloan D. Caldwell
Austin Carter
Janice T. Callaway: IMO Joan Malone Faulkner Tuck
Larry & Sharon Edwards
Jane & Joe Flaherty
Thom & Heather Galloway
Gerald & Elaine Grady
James & Lupe S. Guyton
Bryan Emmon Hall
Elizabeth Hines
Christopher A. Karow
Ellen Markwalter
Dick & Arlene Mueller
Ricky & Chris O'Steen
Kate & Roy Phillips
John & Louise Sallstrom: IHO Jennifer Flory
John W. Shoemaker
Dan Smith: IMO Rostam Radamez Hall
Irene M. Staik
Robert Tanner
Craig M. & Sharon Turner
Katie G. Whipple
Anna E. Whiteside
Robin & Susan Wright

Friend ($25-99)

Bernice J. Cooper
Claire & Stephen Faison
Barbara Houze
Susan B. Lewis
Patricia and Richard McCoy
Cheryl A. Mills
Richard & Wanda Millians
Green Berry Moore, III
Kayla R. Otim
Betty B. and Rod Shearouse
James R. Smith
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