

DISCOVER TOWNSEND

2026-2027



MERCER
UNIVERSITY
TOWNSEND SCHOOL OF MUSIC



A WORD *from the* DEAN

Welcome to the 2026-2027 *Discover Townsend* concert season at Mercer University. I am proud and excited to share the programs planned for this upcoming year with you. The Townsend School of Music has a strong reputation for providing outstanding guest and faculty recitals, large and chamber ensemble concerts, and distinguished lectures and symposia. This year the school will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening of McCorkle Music Building with the Faculty Gala Concert in the exquisite Neva Langley Fickling Hall. Other performances will take place in the intimate Bell House Jennings Salon, the spectacular Piedmont Grand Opera House, the newly acquired Robins Financial Capital Theatre, and Mercer Music at Capricorn.

The **Jubilee Artists Series** will include the critically acclaimed British vocal ensemble The Swingles, internationally recognized wind quintet WindSync, British-born Canadian mezzo-soprano sensation Susan Platts, and the dazzling piano duo The Happy Dog Duo. The **Fabian Concert Series** will feature students from the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings in collaboration with distinguished artists in a variety of concerts held in Fickling Hall. The **Townsend Symposia on Music, Philosophy, and the Arts** will host Peter Shannon, Irish orchestral conductor and leading proponent for music and healing, for a weeklong residency and symposium. David Kim, concertmaster for the Philadelphia Orchestra, will also give a lecture titled "From Prodigy to Professional – A Life in Music."

The 2026-2027 concert season will feature four performances of the **Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra**, with a memorable presentation of Beethoven's 9th Symphony featuring Mercer Singers. The Townsend School of Music students and faculty continue to present a variety of concerts from the Wind Ensemble, Mercer Singers, and Opera productions to smaller chamber groups of the Jazz Ensemble, Flute Choir, Brass Band, and Harp Ensemble. The Joan Stockstill Godsey Concert Series continues with BeautyFull Collaboration, BeautyFull Reconnection, and Collaboration highlighting the keyboard area students.

The quality and reputation of Mercer's Townsend School of Music is reaching audiences from Georgia to Carnegie Hall and around the world. Join us for an exciting year of musical experiences which will inspire, enrich, and bring joy to your life.

Gary G. Gerber, Dean
TOWNSEND SCHOOL OF MUSIC

You'll see this icon in the brochure for any 25th Anniversary events.



Macon-Mercer **Symphony** Orchestra



2026-2027 SEASON

SYMPHONY, REDESIGNED WITH YOU IN MIND. *Some of the world's finest musicians play in Macon. On four evenings this season, the MMSO brings together rising stars from the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings with musicians from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra at the Piedmont Grand Opera House. Four nights that run the full range from pure joy to profound heartbreak, from a historic conductor's debut to Beethoven's greatest triumph. Come for one. We think you'll come for all four. Major funding for the MMSO is provided by the Peyton Anderson Foundation.*



Monday, Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m.



Case Scaglione, guest conductor

Stefan Jackiw, violin

Brannon Cho, cello

David Diamond Rounds

Prokofiev Symphony No. 1, "Classical"

Brahms Double Concerto for Violin and Cello

MMSO welcomes Case Scaglione to the podium

for the very first time. The former associate conductor of the New York Philharmonic arrives with two of the most compelling soloists of their generation. Violinist Stefan Jackiw, newly appointed faculty of the McDuffie Center and praised by the Boston Globe for playing of "uncommon musical substance," joins faculty cellist Brannon Cho, First Prize winner of the International Paulo Cello Competition, for Brahms' *Double Concerto*. The program opens with Diamond's *Rounds*, a jubilant American classic composed during World War II after a conductor simply asked him to "make me happy," and Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 1*, nicknamed the "Classical" — a piece so witty and light on its feet, it sounds like Mozart reborn with a mischievous grin.



SYMPHONY TICKETS

\$35 premium seats | \$25 regular seats

Free for students of all ages with any valid Student ID

Subscribe & Save:

\$120 premium season seats

\$85 regular season seats

\$60 Mercer Faculty/Staff and Young Patron's Circle

Subscribe at 478-301-5470 or mcduffie.mercer.edu

Monday, Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m.



Joseph Young, guest conductor

Barber *Adagio for Strings*

Strauss *Don Juan*

Mozart *Symphony No. 39*

Barber's *Adagio for Strings* has a rare ability to make the world outside the concert hall fall away. Few orchestral works carry as much emotional weight, and its presence at so many significant moments of the past century has only deepened its resonance. Hearing it live adds yet another dimension to a piece that rewards every encounter. Conductor Joseph Young opens the evening with *Don Juan*, a blazing, restless, and vividly theatrical work, surging with youthful energy and bold orchestral color, that announced Strauss as a major voice when he was just 24. The program closes with Mozart's innovative, celebratory *Symphony No. 39*.

Robert McDuffie Center for Strings



Monday, Mar. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Mei-Ann Chen, guest conductor

Beethoven Symphony No. 9

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is in a category of its own. Conductor Mei-Ann Chen leads the MMSO, Mercer Singers, and Townsend School of Music faculty and alumni in a work that begins in mystery and shadow and builds, over the course of an hour, to the "Ode to Joy," a melody so embedded in the collective memory that the moment the chorus enters, the entire room recognizes it at once. That shared recognition, felt together in a live concert hall, is something recordings simply cannot replicate.



Monday, Apr. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Yaniv Segal, conductor

Mercer University Concerto

Competition Winner

Debussy Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun
Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique"

The season closes with a program that moves from a dream to a reckoning. Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* marks the moment when the modern era in classical music truly began. At the heart of the program, a young soloist selected from the MMSO's February 2027 Concerto Competition steps into the spotlight for a full orchestral debut, one of the most genuinely exciting moments of every season. The evening closes with Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, known as the "Pathétique," the last work he ever completed. It is raw and searching, and it ends not in triumph but in a long, aching quiet that audiences have

LABOR DAY CONCERT

Fickling Hall

Monday, Sept. 7 at 3 p.m.

After three days of intensive workshops and rehearsals, listen to emerging high school students and McDuffie faculty.

CHAMBER MUSIC MARATHON

Fickling Hall

Mar. 4-5 at 7 p.m.

Young Artists perform Beethoven chamber works over two nights in Fickling Hall. Come to one, or both!



YOUNG ARTIST CONCERTS

Recitals are held in the Bell House Jennings Salon, 315 College Street, at 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. Seating is first come, first served. Doors open 30 minutes beforehand.

Monday, Sept. 14

Monday, Oct. 12

Monday, Nov. 2

Monday, Feb. 1

Monday, Apr. 12

Robert McDuffie Center for Strings



2026-2027 FABIAN CONCERT SERIES

—BRINGING WORLD CLASS ARTISTRY TO MACON & MERCER

Curated by new Artistic Director Lawrence Dutton, the Fabian Concert Series continues to present chamber music at its highest level in the intimate setting of Fickling Hall. Internationally renowned guest artists play side-by-side with McDuffie faculty and students, bringing life to contemporary works as well as that of the old masters.

Eugene Drucker, violin

Lawrence Dutton, viola

Paul Watkins, cello

McDuffie Young Artists

Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Bach *Art of Fugue*: Duo & Trio selections

Beethoven *String Trio* Op. 9, No. 1

Dvořák *Sextet* Op. 48

Robert McDuffie, violin

Jessica Lee, violin

Emily Brandenburg, viola

Lawrence Dutton, viola

McDuffie Young Artists

Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Bach *Brandenburg Concerto* No. 6

Bach *Double Violin Concerto*

Bach *Violin Concerto in A minor*

Trio Seoul

Jinjoo Cho, violin

Brannon Cho, cello

Kyu Kyeon Kim, piano

Lawrence Dutton, viola

McDuffie Young Artists

Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Schubert *Piano Trio* No. 1

Schumann *Piano Quintet* Op. 44

Quartetto di Cremona

Lawrence Dutton, viola

McDuffie Young Artists

Tuesday, Mar. 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Beethoven *String Quartet* No. 15, Op. 132

Mendelssohn *String Octet*, Op. 20

FABIAN CONCERT SERIES TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are \$20 per person

Free with Mercer ID or any Student ID

Purchase season tickets for \$90 and save!

Call 478-301-5470 to subscribe by phone, visit mcduffie.mercer.edu, or pay at the door.



FOR TICKETS CALL 478-301-5470 OR VISIT MCDUFFIE.MERCER.EDU

JUBILEE ARTISTS SERIES

"Through the invisible hands of music, the soul is touched and healed," Josephine "Jo" Phelps Fabian said. In her life, Fabian was a dedicated arts patron, donor, board member, and advocate who loved classical music and opera. She frequently attended concerts at Townsend School of Music. Through The Fabian Center for Musical Excellence, the Jubilee Artists Series features leading artists performing concerts that are low cost to the general public, making the best of music available to all. All shows at Fickling Hall. Single tickets \$7, Student ID Free. Season subscription available for \$25.



Happy Dog Duo, piano **Friday, Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m.**

Happy Dog Duo—pianists Eric Tran and Nathan Cheung—has performed four-hands classics, originals, and transcriptions for two decades, with a focus on bringing humor and joy to the classical music world. Their

performances have taken them across Europe, Asia, and 20 US states, and they have appeared on Aspen Public Radio, WQXR, and NPR. Recent invitations include guest performances at Stanford University, the Chautauqua Institution, Juilliard, and Carnegie Hall. Their duo name comes from their first joint composition: "Happy Dog."



WindSync **Monday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m.**

Over nearly two decades of performing throughout the United States and abroad, WindSync has proven itself "a major force in the American chamber music landscape" (Arts and Culture Texas), puncturing performing conventions

and stretching the boundaries of what the wind quintet can be through fearless programming and a fresh stage presence. Building a new repertoire driven by purpose and growing from close collaboration, WindSync has commissioned new works from leading and rising American composers with many becoming emerging standards of the wind quintet literature.



Susan Platts, **mezzo-soprano**

Friday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m.
British-born Canadian mezzo-soprano Susan Platts brings a uniquely rich and wide-ranging voice to concert and recital repertoire for alto and mezzo-soprano, particularly well-regarded for her performances of Gustav

Mahler's works. She is a Fellow of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative, which gave her the opportunity to work closely with Jessye Norman. Ms. Platts' opera highlights include "Die Walküre" with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte" at the Royal Opera House, John Adams' "Nixon in China" with the BBC Symphony, as well as Britten's "Albert Herring" (Pacific Opera, Vancouver Opera), Erda in Wagner's "Das Rheingold" (Pacific Opera), and Bernstein's "A Quiet Place" (Montreal Symphony Orchestra).



The Swingles **Tuesday, Mar. 30 at 7:30 p.m.**

The Swingles have been challenging the boundaries of vocal music for over 60 years, earning 5 Grammy Awards and establishing themselves as one of the world's most beloved and admired vocal groups. Their signature and instantly

recognizable sound has remained constant and timeless, and their intricate arrangements remain unparalleled. The Swingles are masters of their craft, constantly seeking new ways of reimagining jazz, folk, pop and classical music from their ever-growing repertoire, alongside creating a rich vein of new original material.

Townsend Presents

TOWNSEND SYMPOSIA ON MUSIC, PHILOSOPHY, AND THE ARTS

The Townsend Symposia on Music, Philosophy, and the Arts are meant to open the eyes of professionals and scholars to new ideas, presented especially for students, artists, and arts administrators in the community. All lectures free at Fickling Hall.



From Prodigy to Professional: A Life in Music
David Kim, violinist
Thursday, Sept. 17 at 3:30 p.m.

Violinist David Kim was named concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1999. Hailing from Carbondale, Illinois, he started playing the violin at the age of three, began studies with the famed pedagogue Dorothy DeLay at the age of eight, and later received his bachelor's and master's degrees from The Juilliard School. Mr.

Kim serves as Distinguished Artist at the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University. Each year, he presents masterclasses around the world at conservatories and schools such as the Australian National Academy of Music, the Curtis Institute, The Juilliard School, the Shanghai Conservatory, and the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. He also serves as an adjudicator at international violin competitions such as the Menuhin and Sarasate.



Peter Shannon, conductor
Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

The Irish conductor Peter Shannon aspires to prove to others that orchestral music can transform communities. Innovative and tireless in his outreach, Shannon embodies the new and growing role of music director. He works to reshape and re-imagine what orchestras are and how they serve their communities both musically and personally. Beginning his musical career as a professional

singer and organist, Peter's performances focus on the singing aspect of the orchestra. The son of a physician, Shannon hails from a long-line of medical professionals. Combining the performing arts with the healing arts, he has developed performance programs for cancer center patients including children receiving inpatient care and individuals in hospice care. Through a specially developed, evidence-based curriculum focusing on communicating with compassion, Shannon, in collaboration with physician Dr. Jacqueline Huntly, has developed a program to train musicians to work effectively in a healthcare setting. He has adapted Mozart's "The Magic Flute" specifically for sick children. A 2015 article in Symphony Magazine drew international attention to this important initiative performed by the Savannah Philharmonic. Shannon spent 12 years as artistic director and conductor of the Savannah Philharmonic, 10 years as artistic director and conductor of The Jackson Symphony.



TICKETS TO TOWNSEND PERFORMANCES

Visit tickets.mercer.edu
or call 478-301-5470

Getting tickets for a Mercer event has never been easier. All Mercer venues use a ticket platform called Tixr. Tixr has mobile wallet integration and sends tickets immediately as a PDF attachment to your confirmation email. Tickets can be printed or scanned straight from your mobile device!

Check out campus shows, athletic events, and Piedmont Grand Opera House or Robins Financial Capitol Theatre performances at tickets.mercer.edu. Season subscriptions offer the best savings and service, available for the Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra (MMSO), Fabian Concert Series, and the Jubilee Artists Series.

Visit the box office or call Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12-4 p.m. and Fridays from 12-6 p.m.

BUY TICKETS



Townsend Presents



MERCER UNIVERSITY OPERA

Samantha Mishima Friedman, stage director
Richard Kosowski, conductor and co-music director
R. Timothy McReynolds, co-music director

*All performances will take place in Neva Langley Fickling Hall
in the McCorkle Music Building on Mercer's Macon campus.
All Performances: \$20 General Admission, Student ID free*



Jane Eyre The Musical*

Oct. 22-24 at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 25 at 3 p.m.

Be swept away in this romantic adaptation of Jane Brontë's novel, "Jane Eyre."* Follow the story of our independent and resilient heroine as she leaves the cruel world of the orphanage to become the governess at Thornfield Hall. At Thornfield, she falls in love with her brooding employer, Edward Rochester. Jane uncovers Rochester's dark secrets and must decide what is best for her own interests. Will their passions bring them together or will Jane be left alone?



Aria Night

Saturday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Join some of Mercer's best student vocalists as they perform arias from the beloved operatic repertoire.



Computing Venus†

Apr. 8-10 at 7:30 p.m., Apr. 11 at 3 p.m.

With music by Timothy C. Takach and libretto by Caitlin Vincent, the award-winning *Computing Venus*† provides a fascinating glimpse into the life of astronomer Maria Mitchell (1818-1889), a groundbreaking historical figure who paved the way for women in STEM in America.

*Jane Eyre is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com
†Computing Venus is presented through special arrangement with composer Timothy C. Takach.

FOR TICKETS CALL 478-301-5470 OR VISIT TICKETS.MERCER.EDU

Townsend Presents

FACULTY ARTIST RECITALS

Unless otherwise noted, all performances are free and in Neva Langley Fickling Hall in the McCorkle Music Building on Mercer's Macon campus.

Bixby Kennedy, clarinet
Steven Beck, piano
Thursday, Sept. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Trey English, trombone
Monday, Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Nicholas Zehao Bai, piano
Friday, Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Faculty Jazz Quintet
In Your Own Sweet Way
Monty Cole, saxophone
Kevin Bales, piano
Jeremy Roberts, guitar
Andy Eulau, bass
Marcus Reddick, percussion
Friday, Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Kyle Mallari, trumpet
Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Tubonium
Nathan Gay, tuba and euphonium
Friday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m.
Nathan Gay, accompanied by Kyung-A Yoo, will be performing a variety of works for euphonium and tuba. Come out and enjoy the sonorous sounds of both the euphonium and tuba!

Mozart Meets Modernism
Thursday, Apr. 1 at 7:30 p.m.
Brittan Braddock, conductor
Kyung-A Yoo, piano
R. Timothy McReynolds, piano

TRIBUTE TO IAN ALTMAN

Saturday, Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

A musical celebration to salute the Townsend School of Music's Dr. Ian Altman, who devoted his life to piano instruction with his 52 years at Mercer University

Winter Words and Midnight Charms: Music from the British Isles

Samantha Friedman, mezzo-soprano

Richard Kosowski, tenor

Brittan Braddock, clarinet

R. Timothy McReynolds, piano

Friday, Apr. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

R. Timothy McReynolds, Samantha Friedman, Brittan Braddock, and Richard Kosowski present an evening of richly composed music from Great Britain. The program features the two song cycles by Benjamin Britten, "A Charm of Lullabies," Op. 41 and "Winter Words," Op. 52. The evening will also feature "Two Love Songs" by Welsh composer Katie Jenkins for tenor, clarinet, and piano.

TOWNSEND FACULTY GALA AND MCCORKLE MUSIC BUILDING 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Monday, Aug. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

The Townsend concert season opens with a special 25th anniversary showcase of performances by the distinguished faculty artists in a festival gala concert event. Please join us afterwards for a reception celebrating the start of the concert year.



University Ensembles

Unless otherwise noted, all performances are free and held in Neva Langley Fickling Hall in the McCorkle Music Building on Mercer's Macon campus.

MERCER SINGERS & WOMEN'S CHAMBER CHOIR

Dr. Stanley L. Roberts, conductor

Mercer Singers Family Day Concert
Saturday, Oct. 10 at 11 a.m.

Thanksgiving Song: Mercer Women's Chamber Choir and Mercer Singers
Sunday, Nov. 15 at 3 p.m.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 5 at 3 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Christ

Organist Jack Mitchener, Mercer Singers, and Mercer Brass Quintet. Experience the 31st anniversary of this beloved Mercer tradition!

The Voices of Spring: Mercer Women's Chamber Choir
Sunday, Apr. 18 at 3 p.m.

Farewell Concert: Mercer Singers
Saturday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Dr. Brittan Braddock, conductor

Fall Side-by-Side

Monday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m.
Houston County High School

The Mercer University Wind Ensemble joins forces with the Houston County High School Wind Symphony to present a celebratory fall concert to kick off the season. Featured pieces include "Yiddish Dances" by Adam Gorb and "The Danserye" by Tielman Susato.

Chamber Winds Concert

Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Newton Chapel

Featured repertoire will include "Little Threepenny Music" by Kurt Weill.

World Premiere: Christopher Alan Schmitz
"Symphony for Wind Ensemble"

Monday, Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m.
The Piedmont Grand Opera House

The Mercer University Wind Ensemble was proud to lead a consortium to commission Christopher Alan Schmitz to compose an original symphony for wind ensemble. The Symphony will explore the journey of overcoming internal conflicts, anxieties, and struggles especially among musicians. Bixby



Kennedy will perform Amanda Harberg's *Clarinet Concerto*. \$10 General Admission, Student ID free.

Bands at the Grand Honor Band Festival: Opening Night
Friday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

The Piedmont Grand Opera House

Friday night will be the first of two concerts in the Bands at the Grand Honor Band Festival hosted by Mercer University Bands. The Mercer University Wind Ensemble will perform an exciting program on the lighter side of classical. Nicholas Zehao Bai, assistant professor of piano, will perform Gershwin's famous *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Bands at the Grand Honor Band Festival: Middle and High School Honor Bands
Saturday, Feb. 20 at 3 p.m.

The Piedmont Grand Opera House

The Saturday afternoon concert concludes the 4th Bands at the Grand Honor Band Festival. Top middle and high school students auditioned and traveled from around the state to participate in this 3-day festival full of masterclasses, performances, and building community.

Season Finale: Let's Dance!

Monday, Apr. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

The Piedmont Grand Opera House

Join us as the Wind Ensemble performs Bernstein's famous Symphonic Dances from "West Side Story." A tour de force for the ensemble, this suite features famous songs and dances from the musical. This concert also features the winner of the 2nd Annual Townsend Concerto Competition for Winds, Percussion, Piano, and Voice. \$10 General Admission, Student ID free.



University Ensembles

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Dr. Monty Cole, director

Uptown Funk at the Capitol

Friday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Robins Financial Capitol Theatre

Uptown Funk, What is Hip?, Pick Up the Pieces! An evening full of the music of Bruno Mars, Tower of Power, The Average White Band, and the great masters of funky jazz.

Mercer Jazz Ensemble Goes to Hollywood

Thursday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Music from some of Hollywood's most iconic television shows and movies: The Incredibles, The Flintstones, The Pink Panther, and more of your favorites.

Strasbourg St. Denis

Thursday, Apr. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

The Music of Roy Hargrove, Matt Carmichael and other modern American jazz composers. Join us as we explore new works for the jazz ensemble, featuring guest trumpet artist, Ken Trimmins.

JAZZ COMBO

Dr. Monty Cole, director

Selections from the Great Quintets of Miles Davis

Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

So What, Freddie Freeloader, On Green Dolphin Street, Seven Steps to Heaven, all your favorite jazz classics!

Some Skunk Funk

Friday, Mar. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Robins Financial Capitol Theatre

The music of the Brecker Brothers, The Yellowjackets, Billy Cobham and other jazz greats!

STUDENT COMPOSITION RECITAL

Tuesday, Apr. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

The Mercer University composition studio will present several new and exciting works to the public. Enjoy a variety of sonic adventures for vocal, instrumental, and electronic media.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Dr. Brant Roberts, director

Percussion Ensemble

Thursday, Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Apr. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Come and hear traditional and non-traditional music performed by the Percussion Ensemble!

FLUTE CHOIR

Kelly Via, conductor

Festive Flutes

Thursday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

The nationally acclaimed Mercer Flute Choir performs exciting new compositions along with many holiday favorites.

Flute Fantasy

Thursday, Apr. 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the joy and beauty of spring with a lively repertoire performed by the Mercer Flute Choir.

HARP ENSEMBLE

Calista Anne Koch, conductor

Autumn Leaves

Sunday, Nov. 8 at 3 p.m.

Aria

Monday, Mar. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

BRASS BAND

Dr. Nathan Gay, conductor

Wednesday, Apr. 28 at 7:30 p.m. | Location TBA

Joan Stockstill Godsey Concert Series



BeautyFull Collaboration: Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of McCorkle Music Building

Kyung-A Yoo, piano
Nicholas Zehao Bai, piano
Chenny Gan, piano

Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m.



Celebrate 25 years with an evening of dazzling music for two pianos, featuring brilliant, uplifting, festive, and fun works by Poulenc, Saint-Saëns, Mozart, and Milhaud. From sparkling virtuosity to playful charm and joyful energy, this special anniversary concert promises an unforgettable celebration of friendship, artistry, and the excitement of music for two pianos.



BeautyFull Reconnection: Crossing Paths, Then and Now

Kyung-A Yoo, piano
Samantha Mishima Friedman, mezzo-soprano
Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m.



This program brings together mezzo-soprano Samantha Mishima Friedman and pianist Kyung-A Yoo in celebration of their friendship and the 25th anniversary of the McCorkle Music Building. Reconnecting after first meeting years ago, the two artists now join as faculty members of the Townsend School of Music in a program of masterpieces for mezzo-soprano and piano. Spanning themes from a woman's journey through life and love to reflections on longing, memory, and the American experience, the recital offers an evening of expressive and deeply human storytelling through music.

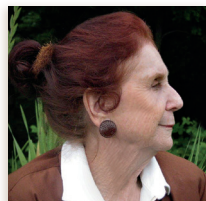


COLLECTIVELY: All About Collaborative Piano

Kyung-A Yoo, producer
Students and faculty from the Townsend School of Music
Tuesday, Mar. 16 at 7:30 p.m.



This program features talented students from the Townsend School of Music and showcases the diverse repertoire they explore throughout their studies. Guided and supported by dedicated faculty members and staff, these young artists bring passion, artistry, and energy to the stage. Join us for a wonderful evening of inspiring performances and vibrant music-making.



All concerts free and take place at Mercer University, which became an All-Steinway School through the generosity of Mercer's chancellor, Dr. R. Kirby Godsey. With the establishment of the Joan Stockstill Godsey Center for Keyboard Studies, the School of Music features Steinway & Son pianos for all teaching, rehearsals and performances. The gift, which recognized Joan Godsey's many contributions to Mercer, and in particular her love of and commitment to music, enabled the School of Music to join the nation's other premier music programs as an All-Steinway School. The gift provided for 37 new pianos and created an endowed fund to support the care and upkeep of the pianos. The Joan Stockstill Godsey Center for Keyboard Studies hosts an annual Concert Series that features leading international performing keyboard artists.

CHORAL SOCIETY OF MIDDLE GEORGIA & MERCER UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Gary G. Gerber, conductor

TICKETS FOR ALL PERFORMANCES ARE \$15 AT THE DOOR OR THROUGH CHORALSOCIETYMGA.COM

The Beauty of Earth and Country Sunday, Oct. 18 at 4 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Christ
511 High Pl.

The chorus will explore songs expressing the beauty of the earth's magnificent landscape and the heritage of our nation.

G. F. Handel's *Messiah* Dec. 5-6 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Church
830 Poplar St.

Handel's *Messiah* continues as a long-standing tradition in Central Georgia. Come to this concert and hear why it is so popular around the world, especially in the Christmas season.

Coronation: Music for Kings and Heroes

Sunday, Apr. 25 at 4 p.m.
First Baptist Church of Christ
511 High Pl.

Includes Coronation Anthems 1 and 2 written for King George II's coronation in 1727 alongside the great *Lord Nelson Mass* by Haydn celebrating Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar.

Townsend School of Music

TOWNSEND FACULTY



Gary G. Gerber
Dean



Stanley L. Roberts, *choral conducting*
Associate Dean and Arthur Lowndes
Rich Professor



Nicholas Zehao Bai, *piano*
Assistant Professor



Brittan Braddock, *instrumental conducting*
Director of Bands, Coordinator of Music
Education, Assistant Professor



Monty Cole, *saxophone/jazz studies*
Professor



Samantha Mishima Friedman, *voice/opera*
Director of Opera,
Assistant Professor



Nathan Gay, *low brass*
Director of Athletic Bands,
Associate Professor



Sean Gehricke, *music production*
Assistant Professor



Richard Kosowski, *voice/opera*
Director of Graduate Studies,
Professor



R. Timothy McReynolds, *collaborative piano*
Helen Wall Rich Associate Professor of
Collaborative Studies



Jack Mitchener, *organ/sacred music*
Director of Townsend-McAfee Institute
for Sacred Music, Professor



Nathan Myrick, *sacred music*
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Associate Professor



Marcus Reddick, *music appreciation*
Associate Professor



Kathryn Rios, *musicology*
Associate Professor



Christopher Schmitz, *music theory/
composition*
Professor



Kyung-A Yoo, *collaborative piano*
G. Leslie Fabian Chair of Music,
Associate Professor

McDUFFIE CENTER DISTINGUISHED ARTISTS



Robert McDuffie, *violin*
Founder, Mansfield and Genelle Jennings
Distinguished University Chair in Music



Emily Brandenburg, *viola*
Director, Executive Director of MMSO



Rebecca Albers, *viola*
Principal Violist, Minnesota Orchestra



Victoria Chiang, *viola*
Renowned pedagogue



Brannon Cho, *cello*
Concert cellist



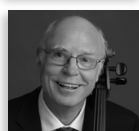
Lawrence Dutton, *viola*
Emerson String Quartet



Annie Fullard, *violin*
Charles and Mary Jean Yates Chair of
Chamber Music



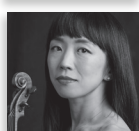
Stefan Jackiw, *violin*
Concert violinist



Hans Jørgen Jensen, *cello*
Renowned pedagogue



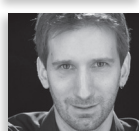
David Kim, *violin*
Concertmaster, Philadelphia Orchestra



Jessica Lee, *violin*
Concert violinist



Hal Robinson, *double bass*
Renowned pedagogue



Yaniv Segal, *orchestral conducting*
Director of Orchestral Training



Daniel Tosky, *double bass*
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Adjunct Faculty

Jazmyn Barajas-Trujillo, *Instructor of Bassoon*
Zach Boeding, *Instructor of Oboe*

Joy Dumas, *Instructor of Choral Methods*

Trey English, *Instructor of Trombone*

Andy Eulau, *Instructor of Bass Guitar*

Rob Evans, *Instructor of Music Technology*

Linda Gerber, *Instructor of Music Education*

Valencio Jackson, *Instructor of Theory*

Janet Jarriel, *Instructor of Music Business*

Bixby Kennedy, *Instructor of Clarinet,*
Fabian Distinguished Artist

Calista Koch, *Instructor of Harp*

Kyle Mallari, *Instructor of Trumpet*

Brant Roberts, *Instructor of Percussion*

Marie Jarriel Roberts, *Senior Lecturer of Voice*

Anna Schmitz, *Instructor of Horn*

Rachael Smith, *Instructor of String Techniques*

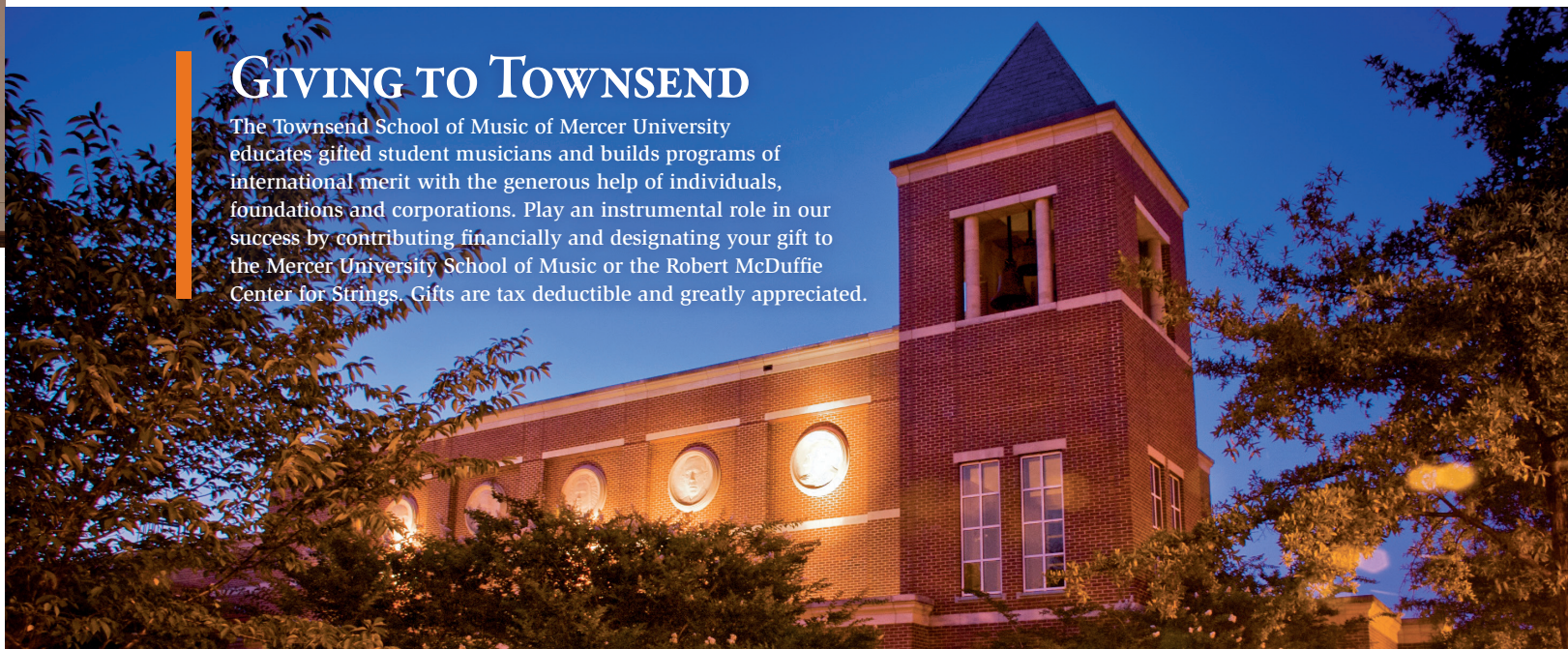
Vincent Tong, *Instructor of Piano*

Kelly Via, *Senior Lecturer of Flute*

Sherry Weeks, *Elementary Music Methods*

GIVING TO TOWNSEND

The Townsend School of Music of Mercer University educates gifted student musicians and builds programs of international merit with the generous help of individuals, foundations and corporations. Play an instrumental role in our success by contributing financially and designating your gift to the Mercer University School of Music or the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings. Gifts are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.



Townsend 2026-2027 Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all performances are free and held in Neva Langley Fickling Hall in the McCorkle Music Building on Mercer's Macon campus.

August 2026

Monday, Aug. 24, 7:30 p.m.
Townsend Faculty Gala and 25th Anniversary of McCorkle Music Building Celebration

September 2026

Thursday, Sept. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Faculty Recital: Bixby Kennedy, *clarinet*
Steven Beck, *piano*

Monday, Sept. 7, 3 p.m.
McDuffie Center Labor Day Concert

Monday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.
McDuffie Young Artists Concert
Bell House, Jennings Salon

Monday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Faculty Recital: Trey English, *trombone*

Thursday, Sept. 17, 3:30 p.m.
Townsend Symposia on Music,
Philosophy, and the Arts: David Kim

Friday, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Faculty Recital: Nicholas Zehao Bai, *piano*

Saturday, Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Guest Artist Recital: Renee Murphy, *harp*

Monday, Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra
Case Scaglione, *guest conductor*
Piedmont Grand Opera House
Tickets: \$25-35; student ID free

Friday, Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m.
Faculty Jazz Quintet
In Your Own Sweet Way

Saturday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Tribute to Dr. Ian Altman recital

Monday, Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Mercer Wind Ensemble presents
Fall Side by Side
Brittan Braddock & Dillon Watkins, *conductors*
Houston County High School
920 SR96, Warner Robins

Tuesday, Sept. 29
Tenor/Bass Day

October 2026

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Fabian Concert Series
Tickets \$20; Mercer ID/Student ID free

Saturday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m.
Mercer Singers Family Day Concert

Monday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m.
McDuffie Young Artists Concert
Bell House, Jennings Salon

Friday, Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Jubilee Artists Series: Happy Dog Duo
\$7 advance reservation, Student ID free

Sunday, Oct. 18, 4 p.m.
Choral Society of Middle Georgia and
Mercer University Choir present
The Beauty of Earth and Country
Gary G. Gerber, *conductor*
First Baptist Church of Christ
511 High Place, Macon
Tickets: \$15

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Chamber Winds Concert
Newton Chapel

Oct. 22-25
Mercer University Opera presents
Jane Eyre
Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, 3 p.m.
Samantha Mishima Friedman, *stage director*
Tickets \$20; student ID free

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m.
BeautyFull Collaboration
*Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the
McCorkle Music Building*
Kyung-A Yoo, *piano*
Nicholas Zehao Bai, *piano*
Chenny Gan, *piano*

November 2026

Monday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m.
McDuffie Young Artists Concert
Bell House, Jennings Salon

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Faculty Recital: Kyle Mallari, *trumpet*

Sunday, Nov. 8, 3 p.m.
Mercer Harp Ensemble
Autumn Leaves

Monday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Jubilee Artists Series: WindSync
\$7 advance reservation, Student ID free

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Fabian Concert Series
Tickets \$20; Mercer ID/Student ID free

Friday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Mercer Jazz Ensemble
Uptown Funk at the Capitol
Monty Cole, *director*
Robins Financial Capitol Theatre

Sunday, Nov. 15, 3 p.m.
Thanksgiving Song
Mercer Women's Chamber Choir
and Mercer Singers
Stanley L. Roberts, *conductor*

Monday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra
Joseph Young, *guest conductor*
Piedmont Grand Opera House
Tickets: \$25-35; student ID free

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Mercer Jazz Combo
The Great Quintets of Miles Davis
Monty Cole, *director*

Thursday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Mercer Percussion Ensemble

Monday, Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Mercer Wind Ensemble presents
World Premiere of Christopher Alan
Schmitz's *Symphony for Wind Ensemble*
Brittan Braddock, *conductor*
Bixby Kennedy, *clarinet*
Piedmont Grand Opera House
Tickets: \$10; student ID free

December 2026

Thursday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Mercer Flute Choir
Kelly Via, *conductor*

Dec. 4-5
Mercer Singers and Mercer Brass Quintet
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Friday, 7:30 p.m., Saturday 3 p.m.
First Baptist Church of Christ
511 High Place, Macon

Dec. 5-6, 7:30 p.m.
Choral Society of Middle Georgia and
Mercer University Choir present
Messiah by G. F. Handel
Gary G. Gerber, *conductor*
St. Joseph Catholic Church
830 Poplar Street, Macon
Tickets \$15



Townsend 2026-2027 Calendar

January 2027

Friday, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Jubilee Artists Series: Susan Platts
\$7 advance reservation, Student ID free

Tuesday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Guest Artist Recital: Alan Woo, *piano*

February 2027

Monday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m.

McDuffie Young Artists Concert
Bell House, Jennings Salon

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Townsend Symposia on Music, Philosophy,
and the Arts: Peter Shannon

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Fabian Concert Series
Tickets \$20; Mercer ID/Student ID free

Friday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Faculty Recital: Nathan Gay, *tuba/euphonium*

Saturday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Mercer University Opera presents
Aria Night
Tickets \$20; student ID free

Friday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Bands at the Grand Honor Band Festival
The Mercer University Wind Ensemble
Brittan Braddock, *conductor*
Nicholas Zehao Bai, *piano*
Piedmont Grand Opera House

Saturday, Feb. 20, 3 p.m.

Bands at the Grand Honor Band Festival
Middle and High School Honor Bands
Sue Creasap and Dylan Koester, *guest conductors*
Piedmont Grand Opera House

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.

BeautyFull Reconnection
Crossing Paths: Then and Now
Samantha Friedman, *mezzo-soprano*
Kyung-A Yoo, *piano*

Thursday, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Mercer Jazz Ensemble
Mercer Jazz Ensemble Goes to Hollywood
Monty Cole, *director*

March 2027

Monday, Mar. 1, 7:30 p.m.

Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra
Mei-Ann Chen, *guest conductor*
Piedmont Grand Opera House
Tickets: \$25-35; student ID free

Mar. 4-5 7 p.m.

Robert McDuffie Center for Strings
Young Artists Chamber Music Marathon

Tuesday, Mar. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Collectively: All About Collaborative Piano
Kyung-A Yoo, *producer*
Students and faculty from the Townsend
School of Music

Friday, Mar. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Mercer Jazz Combo
Some Skunk Funk
Monty Cole, *director*
Robins Financial Capitol Theatre

Monday, Mar. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Mercer Harp Ensemble
Aria

Tuesday, Mar. 23, 7:30 p.m.

Fabian Concert Series
Tickets \$20; Mercer ID/Student ID free

Tuesday, Mar. 30, 7:30 p.m.

Jubilee Artists Series:
The Swingles
\$7 advance reservation, Student ID free

April 2027

Thursday, Apr. 1, 7:30 p.m.

Faculty Recital
Mozart Meets Modernism
Brittan Braddock, *conductor*
R. Timothy McReynolds, *piano*
Kyung-A Yoo, *piano*

Monday, Apr. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Macon-Mercer Symphony Orchestra
Yaniv Segal, *conductor*
Piedmont Grand Opera House
Tickets: \$25-35; student ID free

Apr. 8-11

Mercer University Opera presents
Computing Venus
Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, 3 p.m.
Samantha Mishima Friedman, *stage director*
Tickets \$20; student ID free

Monday, Apr. 12, 7 p.m.

McDuffie Young Artists Concert
Bell House, Jennings Salon

Tuesday, Apr. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Student Composition Recital

Thursday, Apr. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Mercer Jazz Ensemble
*Strasbourg St Denis: The Music of Roy
Hargrove, Matt Carmichael and Other
Modern American Jazz Composers*
Monty Cole, *director*



Friday, Apr. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Faculty Recital
*Winter Words and Midnight Charms:
Music from the British Isles*
Samantha Friedman, *mezzo-soprano*
Richard Kosowski, *tenor*
Brittan Braddock, *clarinet*
R. Timothy McReynolds, *piano*

Sunday, Apr. 18, 3 p.m.

Mercer Women's Chamber Choir
The Voices of Spring
Stanley L. Roberts, *conductor*

Monday, Apr. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Mercer Wind Ensemble presents
Let's Dance
Brittan Braddock, *conductor*
Piedmont Grand Opera House
Tickets: \$10; student ID free

Thursday, Apr. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Mercer Percussion Ensemble

Saturday, Apr. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Mercer Singers
Farewell Concert
Stanley L. Roberts, *conductor*

Sunday, Apr. 25, 4 p.m.

Choral Society of Middle Georgia and
Mercer University Choir present
Coronation: Music for Kings and Heroes
Gary G. Gerber, *conductor*
First Baptist Church of Christ
511 High Place, Macon
Tickets: \$15

Wednesday, Apr. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Brass Band Concert
Location TBA
Nathan Gay, *conductor*

Thursday, Apr. 29, 3:30 p.m.

Townsend School of Music Honors Recital

Thursday, Apr. 29, 7:30 p.m.

Mercer Flute Choir
Kelly Via, *conductor*

May 2027

Sunday, May 2 at 4 p.m.

Coro Vocati - *Nature Always Sings*
Stanley L. Roberts, *conductor*
\$15 General Admission, Student ID free



TOWNSEND SCHOOL OF MUSIC

McCorkle Music Building
1501 Mercer University Drive
Macon, Georgia 31207
478-301-2748 • music.mercer.edu

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Did you know?

There are endless opportunities for Mercer music students. They perform in venues from the historic Piedmont Grand Opera House in Macon to Carnegie Hall in New York City. Mercerians join forces with international students to make music all over the world, from exploring cultural music in Morocco to celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings in France. These unique experiences are in addition to over 100 local performances open to the community.



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