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A Season of Singers and Creative Collaborations

This spring, the Blair School’s faculty and friends are focused on coming together in exciting new ways. We welcome back some old friends and groundbreaking newer artists, perform joint programs with other area schools, and celebrate the voice in concert and collaboration.

This February, we are very pleased to welcome back the Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet, as part of our ongoing relationship with that excellent ensemble. The group will spend three days at Blair for master classes, individual instruction, and ensemble coaching, with a performance on February 1.

Cooperative endeavors are taking place closer to home as well, bringing in musicians from Nashville’s high schools and other universities. On February 25, the Vanderbilt Wind Symphony is joined by the Ravenwood High School Wind Ensemble for a joint performance that will include the winner of the Wind Symphony Concerto Competition. And, on April 1, the top chorales from both Blair and Belmont will perform their second annual joint choral program.

Collaborative concerts are also taking place within our own walls. The Vanderbilt University Orchestra and Vanderbilt Symphonic Choir have combined the annual oratorio concert and the concerto competition winners showcase into a weekend of joint programs on April 14 and 15. We will also see alumni and faculty come together in April, as the Serafin String Quartet, which includes precollege alumna Kate Ransom, is joined by the Blair String Quartet for a performance of Mendelssohn’s string octet.

Singers are very much in the spotlight at Blair this spring. On February 7, we are honored to welcome world-renowned mezzo-soprano Alice Coote. She is accompanied by pianist Julius Drake, who will also conduct a collaborative master class with Blair student pianists and singers. Our annual weekend of collaborative master classes, spearheaded by esteemed pianist Alan Smith from the University of Southern California, is a few weeks later on February 18 and 19. Composer Robert Nelson and soprano Sonja Bruzuska join the Living Sounds student composers’ forum for a program of new vocal music on April 5.

And on March 15, we will welcome Grammy-winning vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth, an eight-voice ensemble that studies and incorporates singing techniques and traditions from the world over—everything from Tuvan and Inuit throat singing to yodeling to Persian and Hindustani classical song.

This season, we are reaching across traditional boundaries, expanding the scope and reach of our programs, and stretching our musical imaginations. Please join us as we further explore what classical music can be.

Mark Wait, Dean
GUEST ARTISTS

Movses Pogossian, violin  
Tony Arnold, soprano  
Kuniko Kato, percussion  

Tuesday, January 10  
8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall  

Pogossian, artistic director of the Dilijan Chamber Music Series, is joined by Kato and Arnold for a performance of Gabriela Lena Frank’s Seven Armenian Songs. Based on quatrains by sixteenth-century Armenian poet Nahapet Quchak, the piece was written for the group and premiered in 2013.

GUEST ARTISTS

Cortona Collective  

Thursday, January 19  
8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall  

Consisting of some of America’s leading contemporary musicians, including Blair percussion professor Ji Hye Jung, the Cortona Collective is the performance faculty of the esteemed Cortona Sessions for New Music. The Collective performs exciting, diverse, and innovative repertoire from some of today’s most influential composers, as well as rising stars in the contemporary music world. Learn more about the Collective and the Cortona Sessions at www.cortonasessions.org.

Horn Day with Denise Tryon  

Saturday, January 21  

10:00 a.m., Warm-up class  
1:00 p.m., Master class  
5:00 p.m., Recital  
Choral Rehearsal Hall  

Denise Tryon, professor at Peabody Conservatory and horn player with the Philadelphia Orchestra, hosts a day devoted to all things French horn, including a clinic, a master class, and a solo recital. All events are free and open to the public.
FACULTY RECITAL

Amy Jarman, soprano
Ben Harris, piano

Sunday, January 22
3:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

A TUDOR PORTRAIT: TEXTS AND MUSIC FROM THE COURTS OF HENRY VIII AND ELIZABETH I

The golden age of the Renaissance left a lasting heritage of beautiful poetry and plays, particularly those written during the reign of Elizabeth I. The upheaval caused by Henry VIII's break with the Catholic Church in Rome and the establishment of the Church of England had a lasting effect on the future of his country and of the western world. This recital explores English texts written between 1536 and 1626 and includes songs by Renaissance composers John Dowland and Thomas Campion, “Five Elizabethan Songs” by early-twentieth-century English composer Ivor Gurney, three “Ophelia” songs by Richard Strauss, and “Try Me Good King,” by acclaimed American composer Libby Larsen, comprising intricate settings of the last words of five of Henry VIII's six wives.

Vanderbilt University Concerto Competition Finals

Sunday, January 22
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

Our best and brightest go head to head. For the seventh year in a row, we open the final round of the Vanderbilt University Concerto Competition to the public. The judges will announce the winners at the end of the evening, and those talented musicians will perform as featured soloists with the Vanderbilt Wind Symphony on February 25 and with the Vanderbilt University Orchestra on April 14 and 15.

Blair Student Showcase

Friday, January 27
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

The Blair School's best student performers, from solo artists to string quartets, show off what they can do. Come hear the future of classical music!
GUEST RECITAL

Duo Portinari

With Michael Kurek, composer, and The Atlantic Ensemble

Sunday, January 29

3:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

World-class artists Peter Pas (viola) and Soledad Yaya (harp), known as Duo Portinari, bring a touch of Brazil to Nashville, joining with the Atlantic Ensemble in a program of works by American composer and Blair professor Michael Kurek, Debussy, Ravel, Turino, and more.

The program features Kurek’s new Moon Canticle, commissioned for the 2016 National Convention of the American Harp Society, his Savannah Shadows, premiered by the Atlantic Ensemble in Paris, and his now-classic Sonata for Viola and Harp, performed hundreds of times worldwide. The Atlantic Ensemble will perform Joaquin Turina’s monumental Piano Quartet in A Minor. The Duo will present Morton Feldman’s The Viola in My Life No. 3, Ravel’s beloved Pavane pour une infante defunte, and Claudio Santoro’s Acalanto da Rosa. The two ensembles will join forces for Debussy’s harp and strings masterpiece Danse sacrée at danse profane. A reception will follow in Turner Lobby.

Unless otherwise noted, all concerts are free of charge and open to all audiences. Dates subject to change. Please visit our website at blairs.vanderbilt.edu for updated information.
GUEST ARTISTS

Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet

Michael Hasel, flute
Andreas Wittmann, oboe
Walter Seyfarth, clarinet
Fergus McWilliam, horn
Marion Reinhard, bassoon

Wednesday, February 1
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

The Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet continues to astonish audiences worldwide with their range of expression, their tonal spectrum, and their conceptual unity. Many listeners and critics agree that the ensemble has succeeded in redefining the sound of the classic wind quintet. Their repertoire not only covers the entire spectrum of the wind quintet literature, but also includes works for enlarged ensemble, e.g., the sextets of Janáček and Reinecke or the septets of Hindemith and Koechlin.

This program will include Mozart’s Fantasy in F Minor for Clockwork Organ, K. 594, Ligeti’s Six Bagatelles, Nielsen’s Quintet for Winds, and the American premiere of Kalevi Aho’s Quintet No. 2, composed in 2015 for the quintet.

As part of our ongoing collaborative relationship, Blair is thrilled to again welcome these marvelous artists for a week of master classes, individual instruction, and collaborations with our large ensembles.

Presented with gratitude to Mark Dalton for his generous support of the Blair School

Vanderbilt Wind Symphony

Thomas Verrier, conductor
Jack Stamp, guest conductor

Thursday, February 2
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

AMERICANA

The Vanderbilt Wind Symphony celebrates American-made music. The evening includes performances of Edgedancer, written by 2014 Blair graduate Sean William Calhoun, Robert Washburn’s Symphony for Band, and John Corigliano’s Gazebo Dances.
Vanderbilt University Orchestra
Robin Fountain, conductor

**Friday, February 3**
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

The orchestra performs an evening of sentimental favorites: Richard Wagner’s *Seigfried Idyll*, composed for his wife after the birth of their son, and Anton Bruckner’s beloved Symphony No. 4 in E-flat Major, the “Romantic Symphony.”

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**FACULTY RECITAL**

**Daniel Reinker, viola**

With Melissa Rose, piano,
and James Zimmerman, clarinet

**Sunday, February 5**
3:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

In his “Kegelstatt” Trio, Mozart uses the unique and colorful combination of viola, clarinet, and piano. It is believed that the composer wrote this trio while playing skittles, an early form of bowling. Shostakovich’s Sonata for Viola and Piano, completed in 1975, was his final work. Like much of his other music, it contains the elements of sorrow and sarcasm of a repressed artist. It also seems to portray the composer looking back over his life. The final movement is based on the famous theme from the “Moonlight” Sonata by Beethoven, one of Shostakovich’s favorite composers.

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**GUEST ARTISTS**

**Alice Coote, mezzo-soprano**

**Julius Drake, piano**

**Tuesday, February 7**
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

**SCHUBERT’S WINTERREISE**

World-renowned mezzo-soprano Alice Coote is regarded as one of the great artists of our day. As famous on the great operatic stages as in concert and recital, she has been hailed as the “superlative British mezzo” (*San Francisco Chronicle*). Her performances have been described as “breathtaking in (their) sheer conviction and subtlety of perception” (*The Times* [U.K.]) and her voice as “beautiful, to be sure, but, more importantly, it thrills you to the marrow” (*The Daily Telegraph*).

Pianist Julius Drake lives in London and enjoys an international reputation as one of the finest instrumentalists in his field, collaborating with many of the world’s leading artists, both in recital and on disc.

For this program, Coote and Drake will perform Schubert’s *Winterreise*, a song cycle setting twenty-four poems by German lyric poet Wilhelm Müller. One of Schubert’s two great song cycles, it was written in the last months of his life.

Drake will conduct a collaborative **master class** with teams of student pianists and singers from 1:10–2:25 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, in Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall. Participation in the class is limited to Blair students by audition, but the public is welcome to attend and observe.

**Sponsored by the Mary Cortner Ragland Master Series Fund**

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FACULTY RECITAL

Jared Hauser, oboe,
Brian Utley, saxophone,
and friends

Wednesday, February 8

8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Utley and Hauser, along with a
few friends, present a collection of
exhilarating works for oboe and
saxophone. The program will include
Choros No. 2 by Heitor Villa-Lobos, the
premiere performance of David Lipten’s
Tongue and Groove for oboe and strings,
and the premiere of a work for solo
saxophone by William Price.

Choral Prism

Tucker Biddlecombe, director

Friday, February 10

7:30 and 9:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

VANDERBILT COLLEGIATE CHORAL ENSEMBLES

Now in its fifth year, the annual Choral Prism concert is
one of Blair’s most anticipated and highly attended student
concert events. This year’s performance will feature the
Vanderbilt Chorale, the new Men’s and Women’s Glee Clubs,
the Symphonic and Concert Choirs, the Blair Jazz Choir, and
some of Vanderbilt’s premier student-led a cappella groups,
including The Melodores. Performances occur throughout
the auditorium and in quick succession, making for a unique
and engaging concert experience. The opening and closing
works feature all students combined in song, enveloping
the audience in thrilling surround sound. There are two
performances, at 7:30 and 9:00 p.m., to accommodate the
anticipated large audiences that consistently attend this
unforgettable concert experience.

Presented with gratitude to the parent of a Blair graduate
for generously supporting the school
Unless otherwise noted, all concerts are free of charge and open to all audiences.
Dates subject to change. Please visit our website at blair.vanderbilt.edu for updated information.

GUEST ARTIST

Dieter Hennings, guitar

Sunday, February 12

8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Guitarist Hennings, who last appeared at Blair with flutist Molly Barth in 2014 as Duo Damiana, returns for a solo recital. His musical endeavors range from new music on guitar to early music for lute, baroque guitar, and theorbo, and he has recorded and toured with pop songstress Natalie Merchant. This recital is part of the Virtuoso Showcase Classical Guitar Series, sponsored by the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and the Middle Tennessee Guitar Alliance.

Hennings will also conduct a guitar master class from noon–3:00 p.m., also in Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall.

GUEST ARTIST

Katie Johnson, horn

Monday, February 13

8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Johnson, assistant professor of horn at the University of Tennessee, performs pieces by Pilss, Schumann, Persichetti, and Baadsvik. This performance is made possible through a grant from the SEC.

GUEST ARTIST

Frank Morelli, bassoon

With Heather Conner, piano, and Peter Kolkay, bassoon

Tuesday, February 14

8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Visiting bassoonist Morelli presents a recital of eclectic repertoire for the instrument, featuring both original works and transcriptions. The program contrasts the dark hues of Brahms's first cello sonata with the vibrant delights of Weber's Andante and Hungarian Rondo and the comedic hijinks in a selection of arias from Rossini's The Barber of Seville, arranged for two bassoons.

Morelli is a member of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the woodwind quintet Windscape. He has made nine solo appearances at Carnegie Hall and serves on the faculties of the Juilliard School, the Yale School of Music, the Manhattan School of Music, SUNY Stony Brook, and the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory in Toronto.
Living Sounds

Wednesday, February 15

8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

New works by Blair’s composition majors, performed by their peers. Always an engaging and highly eclectic evening of music. Come hear the future of classical composition!

Blair Big Band

Ryan Middagh, director

With Vanderbilt Symphonic Choir
Tucker Biddlecombe, director

Thursday, February 16

8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

THE MUSIC OF RADIOHEAD

Join the Blair Big Band as they pay tribute to one of the greatest rock bands of all time, performing jazz interpretations of Radiohead’s greatest hits. The Vanderbilt Symphonic Choir guests on this very special concert at Blair.

Presented with gratitude to the Sartain Lanier Family Foundation Inc. for its generous support of the Blair School
FACULTY RECITAL

Heather Conner and Caleb Harris, pianos
Friday, February 17
8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Harris starts this piano evening with a series of etudes by Chopin, while Conner performs Rachmaninoff’s *Corelli Variations*, Op. 42. Then the pair come together for a set of French works for two pianos, including Debussy’s *En blanc et noir*.

Presented with gratitude to Delphine and Ken Roberts for their generous support of the Blair School

MASTER CLASSES

Alan Smith, piano
Saturday, February 18–Sunday, February 19
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

February 18:
11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. and 2:00–4:00 p.m.

February 19:
Noon–2:00 p.m. and 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Pianist Alan Smith, chair of keyboard studies and director of keyboard collaborative arts at the University of Southern California, is one of the most highly regarded figures in the United States in the field of collaborative artistry. His performing experiences have included associations in major musical venues with such musical personalities as bass-baritone Thomas Stewart, soprano Barbara Bonney, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, violist Donald McInnes, violinist Eudice Shapiro, and the Los Angeles Chamber Virtuosi. He comes to Blair to lead our annual weekend of collaborative master classes, working with teams of student singers and pianists.

Sponsored by the L. Michelson B.Mus. ’11 Fund for Collaborative Master Classes and by the Mary Cortner Ragland Master Series Fund

Vanderbilt Community Chorus

David Binns Williams, director
Sunday, February 19
2:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

In preparation for its 2017 European tour, the VCC celebrates American music with selections by American composers. We’ll explore a variety of genres from folk to Negro spirituals to classical to American popular song.
Vanderbilt University Orchestra

Robin Fountain, conductor
With Ovidiu Marinescu, cello

Friday, February 24
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

The orchestra strings are joined by Romanian cellist Marinescu for a performance of Michael Kurek’s *The Sea Knows*, a one-movement concerto that they will also record for Kurek’s forthcoming Parma/Naxos album. The full orchestra will then perform Modest Mussorgsky’s monumental *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

Presented with gratitude to the Blair KeyBoard for its generous support of the school

Vanderbilt Wind Symphony

Thomas Verrier, conductor
Erin Perez, guest conductor
With Ravenwood High School Wind Ensemble
Mark Kinzer, conductor

Saturday, February 25
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

A SPECIAL NIGHT

This unforgettable collaborative evening of winds includes a special performance of Julie Giroux’s *Carnival*, performed by the Ravenwood High School Wind Ensemble. The Vanderbilt Wind Symphony will accompany the winner of the 2017 Vanderbilt Wind Symphony Concerto Competition and perform Victoriano Valencia’s *Arullo, Suite Colombiana*.

Presented with gratitude to the Blair KeyBoard for its generous support of the school

SIGNATURE SERIES

Blair Woodwind Quintet

Philip Dikeman, flute
Jared Hauser, oboe
Bil Jackson, clarinet
Leslie Norton, horn
Peter Kolkay, bassoon

Monday, February 27
8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

The Blair Woodwind Quintet returns to the stage with a program featuring classics of the wind quintet repertoire as well as newer works for the ensemble. This evening includes a collaboration with one of Blair’s most exciting performers, percussionist Ji Hye Jung.
FACULTY RECITAL

Jose Sibaja, trumpet
Tuesday, February 28
8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

New Blair trumpet professor Jose Sibaja, a multiple Grammy and Latin Grammy winner, makes his solo recital debut with a fun and musically diverse program. Sibaja is an internationally acclaimed trumpeter who has toured and recorded with Ricky Martin, recorded with Gloria Estefan, Alejandro Sanz, and Celia Cruz, and served as principal/co-principal trumpet of the Orquesta Sinfónica de Venezuela, Sinfonietta de Caracas, the Miami Symphony Orchestra, the West Palm Beach Symphony, and the Florida Grand Opera.

GUEST ARTIST

Andrea Lam, piano
With Christina McGann, violin
Thursday, March 2
8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Pronounced a “real talent” by the Wall Street Journal, pianist Andrea Lam is earning consistent acclaim as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician for her “great style and thrilling virtuosity.” She presents an evening of Beethoven and Brahms, including Brahms' Sonata No. 3 for Violin and Piano, on which she will be joined by Blair’s Christina McGann on violin.

Lam will also conduct master classes with Blair’s precollege students from 5:30–7:30 p.m. on March 1 and with Blair’s collegiate students from 2:30–4:00 p.m. on March 2, both days in Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall. Participation in the classes is restricted to Blair students by audition, but the public is welcome to attend and observe.

Suzuki Graduation and Festival Concerts
Saturday, March 11
1:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Unless otherwise noted, all concerts are free of charge and open to all audiences. Dates subject to change. Please visit our website at blair.vanderbilt.edu for updated information.
GUEST ARTISTS

Roomful of Teeth

Wednesday, March 15

8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

Roomful of Teeth is a Grammy-winning vocal project dedicated to mining the expressive potential of the human voice. Through study with masters from singing traditions the world over, the eight-voice ensemble continually expands its vocabulary of singing techniques and, through an ongoing commissioning process, forges a new repertoire without borders. Founded in 2009 by Brad Wells, the group gathers annually at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) in North Adams, Massachusetts, where they’ve studied Tuvan throat singing, yodeling, belting, Inuit throat singing, Korean P’ansori, Georgian singing, Sardinian cantu a tenore, Hindustani music, and Persian classical singing with some of the world’s top performers and teachers. A truly memorable musical evening is guaranteed!

The ensemble will also conduct a master class at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, also in Ingram Hall. Participation in the class is limited to Blair students by audition, but the public is welcome to attend and observe.

Presented with gratitude to the parents of a Blair School student for their generous support

FACULTY RECITAL

Lauren Jackson Coplan, piano

Sunday, March 12

3:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Coplan’s playing has been described as possessing “beauty and immediacy” (ArtNowNashville). From Bach to Bolcom, Lauren Jackson Coplan presents a diverse program of solo piano repertoire spanning more than 300 years. This entertaining and evocative program includes not only staples of the piano literature by Bach, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff, but also stunning works by Aaron Jay Kernis and a Pulitzer Prize-winning composition by William Bolcom.

FACULTY RECITAL

Richard Todd, guitar

Tuesday, March 14

8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Blair guitar professor Richard Todd presents a solo recital featuring works by Bach, Mompou, Asencio, and others.
Unless otherwise noted, all concerts are free of charge and open to all audiences. Dates subject to change. Please visit our website at blair.vanderbilt.edu for updated information.

SIGNATURE SERIES

Blair String Quartet

Stephen Miahky
and Cornelia Heard, violins
John Kochanowski, viola
Felix Wang, cello

Friday, March 24
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

The Blair String Quartet presents the world premiere of Michael Alec Rose's Sixth Quartet, Rousseaux, with each movement connected to a noteworthy Rousseau—the natural philosopher Jean-Jacques, the Romantic painter Théodore, and the modernist painter Henri. Also on the program are two Czech masterpieces, Dvořák's warm and inviting Op. 51 Quartet in E-flat Major, and Smetana's powerful and autobiographical From My Life quartet.

Presented with gratitude to Inka and Richard Odom for their generous support of the Blair School

FACULTY RECITAL

Leslie Norton, horn
With Megan Gale, piano

Monday, March 20
8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Norton performs two modern American concerti, The Gothic Concerto by Kerry Turner and Brad Warnaar's Concerto for Horn and Orchestra, as well as Blair colleague Michael Alec Rose's copia for unaccompanied horn.

FACULTY RECITAL

Gayle Shay, mezzo-soprano, and Ben Harris, piano

Saturday, March 25
8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

THE VOICE OF THE MOVIES

Shay and Harris present a multimedia evening combining vocal music with film.

Vanderbilt Percussion Group

Ji Hye Jung, director

Sunday, March 26
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

Vanderbilt Percussion Group is the Blair School of Music’s premier percussion chamber music ensemble. VPG’s repertoire includes contemporary classical works for unconducted chamber percussion ensemble. For this program, the ensemble takes on works by John Cage, Steve Reich, Thierry De Mey, Emmanuel Séjourné, and Jason Treuting.
SIGNATURE SERIES

Blair Brass Quintet
Jose Sibaja
and Patrick Kunkee, trumpets
Leslie Norton, horn
Jeremy Wilson, trombone
Gilbert Long, tuba

Monday, March 27
8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

The brass quintet performs works by Eric Ewazen, Kerry Turner, and Don Freund, as well as original arrangements by first trumpet Sibaja. An eclectic evening of brass works.

FACULTY RECITAL

Philip Dikeman, flute
With Melissa Rose, piano,
Jennifer McGuire, piano,
and Leslie Fagan, flute

Tuesday, March 28
8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

This eclectic spring program will include Variations by Robert Beaser, our BMI composer-in-residence for spring 2017. Dikeman will also perform Carl Vine’s Sonata for Flute and a duet with Nashville Symphony flutist Leslie Fagan.

Vanderbilt University Orchestra
Robin Fountain, conductor
With Alison Nyquist, violin

Wednesday, March 29
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

Baroque violin virtuoso Alison Nyquist joins the orchestra for a program of early music by Purcell, Lully, and C. P. E. Bach. The orchestra will also perform Beethoven’s Symphony No. 1, an allusive work that calls back to his predecessors such as Mozart and Haydn.
Vanderbilt Wind Symphony
Thomas Verrier, conductor
With Amy Jarman, soprano, and Mark Whatley, baritone

Friday, March 31
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

THE MUSIC OF BMI COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE
ROBERT BEASER

The wind symphony is joined by singers Jarman and Whatley for The End of Knowing, by Robert Beaser, who will be in residence all week working with Blair musicians and composers. Commissioned by a consortium of twenty-seven bands across the United States, The End of Knowing is a powerful setting of texts from poets Seamus Heaney, Alfred Noyes, Joseph Brodsky, Gjertrud Schnackenberg, Chidiock Tichborne, Theodore Worozbyt, and James Joyce. Beaser describes the work as “a dramatic meditation on the nexus of religion, politics, and the fragile human condition.” The wind symphony will also perform John Mackey’s Wine Dark Sea-Symphony for Band.

Sponsored by BMI

Vanderbilt Chorale
Tucker Biddlecombe, director

and

Belmont Chorale
Jeffrey Ames, conductor

Saturday, April 1
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

The select chorales from Vanderbilt and Belmont will share this concert performance, featuring works spanning 700 years of choral composition. The Belmont Chorale has a distinguished history and has been recognized for its musical excellence both nationally and internationally. This is the second year of collaborative concerts between these two Nashville choral powerhouses. This performance will also feature a presentation about NashChor, a new choral consortium whose sole purpose is to support choral performance in Nashville.

Unless otherwise noted, all concerts are free of charge and open to all audiences.
Dates subject to change. Please visit our website at blair.vanderbilt.edu for updated information.
Vanderbilt University Concert Choir
David Binns Williams, director

**Sunday, April 2**
2:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

Vanderbilt’s longest-running performing ensemble celebrates spring with a variety of works and genres.

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Blair Jazz Combos

**Sunday, April 2**
8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

The Blair Jazz Combos present their spring concert, a mix of jazz standards and selections from the Great American Songbook.

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Blair Student Chamber Ensembles Showcase

**Tuesday, April 4**
8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Students in the Blair School’s very best collegiate chamber ensembles, including string, woodwind, and brass instruments, perform familiar masterworks and rare and new chamber music gems.

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Living Sounds

With composer Robert Nelson and soprano Sonja Bruzauskas

**Wednesday, April 5**
8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Nelson and Bruzauskas join the Student Composers Forum for a concert of new vocal music. Bruzauskas will present Nelson’s *On the Question of Angels* (text by Louisiana Poet Laureate Ava L. Haymon), along with five student compositions setting that same text. The Blair Voice Department is also part of the collaboration, providing singers for the Blair composers and coaching the pieces as they progress.
MASTER CLASS

Peter Takács, piano  
Thursday, April 6

2:30 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Hailed by the New York Times as “a marvelous pianist,” Oberlin University piano professor Peter Takács has performed widely, receiving critical and audience acclaim for his penetrating and communicative musical interpretations. Takács was born in Bucharest, Romania, and started his musical studies before his fourth birthday. After his debut recital at age 7, he was a frequent recitalist in his native city until his parents’ request for immigration to the West, at which point all his studies and performances were banned. He continued studying clandestinely until his family was allowed to immigrate to France, where, at age 14, he was admitted to the Conservatoire de Paris. Upon Takács’ arrival in the United States, his outstanding musical talents continued to be recognized with full scholarships to Northwestern University and the University of Illinois and a three-year fellowship for doctoral studies at the Peabody Conservatory, where he completed his artistic training with renowned pianist Leon Fleisher.

Participation in this **master class** is limited to Blair students by audition, but the public is welcome to attend and observe.

GUEST ARTISTS

**Serafin String Quartet**

Kate Ransom and Lisa Vaupel, violins  
Sheila Browne, viola  
Lawrence Stromberg, cello

**With the Blair String Quartet**

Friday, April 7

8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Hailed for its “silken finesse and gritty vibrancy” by Gramophone magazine, Serafin String Quartet debuted at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 2004 and has consistently received superlatives in the press and ovations by audiences around the nation. The group is quartet-in-residence at the University of Delaware and takes its name from master violinmaker Sanctus Serafin, who, in 1728, crafted the violin currently played by SSQ violinist Kate Ransom, a graduate of the Blair School’s precollege program. The quartet’s program at Blair will include Mendelssohn’s light and joyful Quartet in D Major, Op. 44, No. 1, as well as a joint performance with the Blair String Quartet of Mendelssohn’s Octet in E-flat Major, Op. 20, for double string quartet, written when the composer was just 16 years old, as a birthday gift for his violin instructor.

Presented with gratitude to an anonymous friend for generously supporting the Blair School
Unless otherwise noted, all concerts are free of charge and open to all audiences.
Dates subject to change. Please visit our website at blair.vanderbilt.edu for updated information.

**Sankofa**

Gyane Kwame Ahima, director

**Saturday, April 8**

8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

Vanderbilt’s acclaimed African drum and dance ensemble provides adventure in rhythm, movement, and music. Take a few hours to escape to another land!

**Vanderbilt Steel Bands**

Mat Britain, director

**Sunday, April 9**

7:30 p.m., Ingram Hall

Spring break at the beach? We’ve got the music to take you there! Reggae, soca, calypso, and more!

**Guest Artists**

**Sandbox Percussion**

**Monday, April 10**

8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Lauded by the *Washington Post* as “revitalizing the world of contemporary music” with “jawdropping virtuosity,” the members of Sandbox Percussion have established themselves as leading proponents in this generation of contemporary percussion chamber music. Jonathan Allen, Victor Caccese, Ian Rosenbaum, and Terry Sweeney, brought together by their love of chamber music and the simple joy of playing together, captivate audiences with performances that are both visually and aurally stunning.

**Blair Big Band**

Ryan Middagh, director

**and**

**Blair Jazz Choir**

Christina Watson, director

**Tuesday, April 11**

8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

**Why Not?**

The Blair Big Band and Blair Jazz Choir present a concert exploring the diversity and possibilities of jazz, including jazz classics, funk, pop, and new works.
FACULTY RECITAL

Stephen Miahky, violin
Winston Choi, piano

Thursday, April 13
8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Stephen Miahky teams up with Winston Choi, head of piano at Roosevelt University and laureate of the Honens International Piano Competition, to present Bartók's two sonatas for violin and piano. Composed in 1921 and 1922, the pieces represent Bartók's most expressionistic and rhapsodic style and are among the most important works in the sonata repertoire.

Vanderbilt University Orchestra
Robin Fountain, conductor

and

Vanderbilt Symphonic Choir
Tucker Biddlecombe, conductor

Friday, April 14, and Saturday, April 15
8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

This year, the annual concerto and oratorio performances will be combined into two separate evenings of incredible music. On Friday, the chorale and symphonic choir, along with the university orchestra, will feature two winners of the annual concerto competition, as well as a performance of Mozart's famous *Coronation Mass*. A different program will follow on Saturday, with two more featured student concertists and a performance by the combined choruses of Morten Lauridsen's hauntingly beautiful *Lux Aeterna*.

Presented with gratitude to Peter Fyfe* for his generous support of the Blair School

* deceased

Vanderbilt Commodore Orchestra
Jeremy Wilson, conductor

Gabrielle Lewis and Emily Krasinski, associate conductors

Featuring Cornelia Heard, Violin

Saturday, April 15
2:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

The Vanderbilt Commodore Orchestra brings together undergraduates and graduate students from all of the schools of Vanderbilt, as well as members of the Nashville community who are united in their love of making great music. This concert will include Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Sérénade mélancolique*, with featured soloist Cornelia Heard, violin, and Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 6. This performance is a benefit for the W. O. Smith Music School. Donations will be accepted at the door, but are not required for admission.

Presented with gratitude to the Landis Gullett Charitable Lead Trust for its generous support of the Blair School

Blair Jazz Choir
Christina Watson, director

Monday, April 17
8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

The Blair Jazz Choir closes out the academic year with a concert filled with jazz standards and songs from the Great American Songbook.
Violinvasion!
A Collaborative Concert

Wednesday, April 19

8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Blair violin professor Cornelia Heard and composition professor Michael Slayton have teamed up to partner students from Heard's violin studio with students from the Blair Composers Forum for a collaborative concert featuring eleven new works for solo violin or violin plus one other instrument. Hear new violin works and, more importantly, witness the fruits of the collaborative process between composers and performers!

FACULTY RECITAL

Tyler Nelson, tenor
With Ben Harris, piano, and Valerie Hart Nelson, contralto

Thursday, April 20

8:00 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

In his Blair debut recital, new associate professor of voice Tyler Nelson will feature Robert Schumann’s Dichterliebe, an epic and thought-provoking tale of love won and lost. Nelson and pianist Ben Harris will also be joined by contralto Valerie Hart Nelson in presenting Benjamin Britten’s stirring but rarely heard Canticle II, based on the biblical story of Abraham and Isaac.

GUEST ARTISTS

Les Frères Méduses

Saturday, April 22

8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Hailed by Guitar International as "one of the most imaginative and exciting classical guitar duos performing today," Les Frères Méduses (Randall Avers and Benoit Albert) will present a recital as part of the Virtuoso Showcase Classical Guitar Series, sponsored by the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and the Middle Tennessee Guitar Alliance. This performance concludes the MTGA’s 2017 Outreach Festival. Les Frères Méduses will also conduct a guitar master class from 1:30–5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, in the Choral Rehearsal Hall. Participation in the class is by audition only, but the public is welcome to attend and observe.

Unless otherwise noted, all concerts are free of charge and open to all audiences.
Dates subject to change. Please visit our website at blair.vanderbilt.edu for updated information.
A Celtic Celebration
Crystal Plohman Wiegman, director

Sunday, April 23
2:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

A special afternoon celebrating the Celtic roots of some of our favorite music. Blair students and faculty come together with local dance troupes, pipers, fiddlers, and more for an unforgettable spring festival!

Blair Suzuki Violin Performing Group
Carol Smith, director
and
Blair Children’s Cello Choir
Kirsten Cassel Greer, director

Sunday, April 23
2:30 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Precollege Chamber Ensembles
Friday, April 28
7:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

Unless otherwise noted, all concerts are free of charge and open to all audiences. Dates subject to change. Please visit our website at blair.vanderbilt.edu for updated information.
Myra Jackson Blair Graduation Recital
Saturday, April 29
4:30 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

The Myra Jackson Blair Honor Scholars represent the very best of our precollege solo performers. For this special afternoon, we celebrate the eleven graduating seniors from the MJB program before they move on to the next chapters in their performing and educational lives. These talented students will perform a varied program of works for piano, strings, woodwinds, brass, and voice.

Presented with gratitude to Barbara Engelhardt and Justin Wilson for their generous support of the Blair School.

Vanderbilt Community Chorus
David Binns Williams, director
Saturday, May 6
8:00 p.m., Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

The VCC presents music of hope, featuring Dan Forrest’s *Requiem for the Living*, Morten Lauridsen's *O Nata Lux*, and other works by American composers, as we embark on our first European tour this month.

Curb Youth Symphony
Carol Nies, director
Monday, May 8
7:30 p.m., Ingram Hall

Violinist Kaili Wang, winner of the 2016–17 CYS Concerto Competition, is the featured soloist at the season-ending performance for Blair’s premier youth orchestra.

Presented with gratitude to the Valere Blair Potter Trust for its generous support of the Blair School.
TICKETED EVENT

**ALIAS Chamber Ensemble**

**Tuesday, May 9**

7:30 p.m.
Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall

The Grammy-nominated ALIAS caps off its 2016–17 season with a concert that spans centuries of music, from the baroque to the modern era. They’ll present diverse works by two young composers, Sarah Kirkland Snider and Mason Bates, who display a wide range within what it means to be a twenty-first-century composer. The group also teams up with local rock violinist Tracy Silverman for a performance of *Divided Sky*, by Phish guitarist Trey Anastasio.

**Tickets:** $20 adults, $5 students with ID, free for Blair students with ID. All proceeds from this concert will be donated to a local charity.

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**Nashville Youth Repertory Orchestra**

Craig Madole, director

Youth Strings Orchestras, Reading Orchestra, and Beginning Reading Orchestra

**Tuesday, May 9**

7:30 p.m., Ingram Hall

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**Blair Children’s Choruses**

Mary Biddlecombe, director

**Sunday, May 14**

2:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

Featuring the Blair Children’s Concert Choir, Young Men’s Chorus, Chorale, Blair Choristers, Nashville Boychoir, and Training Choir

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**Philharmonia Orchestra**

Carol Nies, director

**Thursday, May 18**

7:30 p.m., Ingram Hall
**Concert Series Information**

**Seating**
All seating, unless otherwise indicated, is general admission. Seats in both Ingram and Turner Halls are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Hall doors generally open 30 minutes before concert time or at the discretion of the stage manager. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the ushers. The facilities are wheelchair accessible, and hearing devices are available upon request. For special needs accommodations, contact the concert manager or technical director at (615) 322-7651.

**Ushers and House Management**
Blair is assisted with any seating needs by a professional house management team, and ushering services are provided by the women of Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity.

All concert information is SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
Look for updated information on all Blair events at the Blair website: blair.vanderbilt.edu
For more information about events, call the Blair main office at (615) 322-7651.

**Parking Information**
Complimentary valet parking is available for many Blair School events, provided by the men of Phi Mu Alpha music fraternity.

For self-parking, Blair School of Music concertgoers are encouraged to park in the West Garage, directly across Children’s Way from the main entrance to the school. West Garage is open to Blair School patrons all day on weekends and after 5:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Please note the following information concerning where to park in West Garage:

- Two entrances are available. Enter from 24th Avenue South or Children's Way. (The 25th Avenue entrance is not available for concert parking.)
- All concert parking is at ground level or below. Parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis, as spaces are available.

**Important note:** You may NOT park in the lots on either side of the Blair School of Music (lots 103 and 104) at ANY time. These are university-owned lots, and only vehicles with the appropriate Vanderbilt-issued parking permit may park in them. The lots are patrolled 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and violators will be ticketed and/or towed.