



Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,

Thanks to the generosity of a transformational gift made by Wake Forest alumni, Frank ('61) and Kathy ('62) Bragg (P'88, P'90, P'93, P'97, GP'20, GP'23, GP'24, GP'25, GP'25, GP'27) that created the Thane McDonald Wake Forest Choir Tour Fund, our student Chamber Choir had the extraordinary opportunity to tour Southern Spain and Portugal in May, 2023. **(Read about the Braggs' inspiration for this gift below)**

From the Plaza de España, Royal Alcazar, and a indelible Flamenco show in Seville, to the expansive views of the Alhambra in Granada, to the scenic coastal way and Moorish influence of the Algarve region, to the Portuguese late Gothic architecture and a dinner led by stunning Fado singers in eclectic Lisbon, the tour was nothing short of remarkable. Each of our four concerts were held in historic cathedrals and museums — places where some of the choir's repertoire would have been written and performed centuries before.

Just like our exceptional athletic teams, the Wake Forest choral program brings talented individuals together, inviting them to cast aside ego to work together for a vision bigger than themselves and to represent the University to national and international audiences. As you'll see our students attest, choir is a home for them, a place where their focus can shift from external stressors to the internal peace of musical artistry that supports mental wellness and enables them to grow

creatively, technically and emotively. Our annual choir tour (that we hope one day will be able to tour nationally and internationally in alternating years) extends life-impacting leadership learning, collaboration, and musical growth.

I hope you'll enjoy our **photo-and-video travelog** shared below. With the support of those who appreciate the value of the choral music program to the engaged liberal arts, more students will have the opportunity to enjoy the impact of the tour experience, and we are grateful.

Warmly,

Chris Gilliam

Director of Choral Activities, Assistant Professor of Music



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What's Happening – Wake the Arts Abroad



Experience the Chamber Choir Tour to Spain and Portugal

Take a journey with us to see the sights and sounds of the 2023 Wake Forest Chamber Choir Tour as we made our way through southern Spain and Portugal. All of this was made possible by a generous gift given by Frank ('61) and Kathy Bragg ('62). The Wake Forest University Chamber Choir brings together talented, ambitious student-artists, inviting members to make individual aspirations secondary and to work together for a greater collective vision. Along the way, the experiences of international travel bring opportunities for new learning, reflection and relationship. Every city, every performance and every interaction elevates creative and technical excellence, emotional and mental wellness, and a commitment to *Pro Humanitate* through a shared passion for artistic beauty.

[See the travelog](#)



Professor of Theatre Rob Eastman-Mullins with inaugural Dodding Award recipients Vir Gupta ('25) and Riley Shanaghan ('25) who represented WFU Theatre at the Prague Quadrennial.

Theatre students and faculty at the Prague Quadrennial

From Vir: “Prague was one of the most brilliant experiences I've ever had. The Prague Quadrennial itself had some of the most creative and amazing exhibits I've ever seen, but the workshops, the people and the city are what made it so

special. To be in an environment with so many like minded people who enjoy the same art form, I really had a lovely time watching shows and immersing myself in all that was happening around me. If anything, I'll certainly find a way to be back in Prague in 2027. Thank you Theatre and Dance department for making this happen!"

From Riley: "I had a lot of fun in Prague! The architecture was just stunning and I know my phone storage was screaming at how many pictures I took. I also had a lot of fun volunteering at the Prague Quadrennial because I was able to make a lot of new friends — shout out to Andrea Navařiková from Czech Republic and Marcella Georgini from Brazil. I am glad they had a great time practicing their spoken English with me and asking me grammar questions that I had to look up because I didn't know the answers. I am very thankful for the opportunity to attend this event and go to Prague!"

Video of Vir's presentation

An Artful Legacy

WFU Magazine encourages you to look for the legacy of Mark Reece around campus in the paintings, prints, sculpture and photography in the Reece Collection of Student-Acquired Contemporary Art. This fall, Wake Forest will celebrate the 60th anniversary of its one-of-a-kind art-buying trip.

Read more

Lam Museum Collaborates with Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance

The Lam Museum is proud to announce a unique collaboration with Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance this summer. Terpsicorps will present the world premiere of Cleopatra in Winston-Salem at the Hanesbrands Theatre on July 20, 21 & 22. Truly a one-of-a-kind dance theater spectacle, Heather Maloy's Cleopatra is the crowning jewel of Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance's 20th Anniversary Season. Featuring a cast of critically acclaimed dancers from ballet and contemporary companies across the US and abroad, the story of history's first sex symbol is filled with intrigue, violence, splendor, love and tragedy.

Learn more

Why I Support Wake the Arts



FRANK & KATHY BRAGG

“Kathy and I love Wake Forest. We are grateful for our wonderful family and friends, mostly all Deacons, and for our good fortune. It is a satisfying chapter in our lives to be able to support things we love. We are deliberate in our giving and we look for unique investment opportunities that will add value in a creative way.

Kathy and I met in 1958 as members of the Wake Forest chamber and touring choirs. The joy of singing choral music with a special group of talented students under the direction of doctor Thane McDonald was the highlight of our college experience. And yes we were married in 1962 and the Wake Forest choir was the origin of our life journey.

Our gift directed that annual distributions be made in perpetuity for the support of the touring choir, and that the Fund be officially named in honor of Dr. McDonald who served Wake Forest choirs for 34 years. We are hopeful that other former choir members and friends will join us in perpetuating this exceptional experience at Wake Forest.”

— Frank ('61) and Kathy ('62) Bragg (P'88, P'90, P'93, P'97, GP'20, GP'23, GP'24, GP'25, GP'25, GP'27)

Who's Making Things Happen

Jason Baum receives WFU Richter Scholarship

Jason Baum (MFA '24): The scholarship will allow Jason to travel to London this summer to capture footage and conduct research for his film, “Incoherent Empire: The British Origins of the American Revolution.”



Tay Calloway joins WFDD

Congratulations to MFA student Tay Calloway on his new position at WFDD, the Piedmont and High Country's public radio station!



Research on Art and Wellbeing

Rebekah Lassiter ('24) has been researching the effects of the arts on health, and her work has been accepted for publication. "Art and Wellbeing, Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic, through the lens of College Students: A Quantitative Perspective," co-authored by Dr. Jennifer Finkel, was published in [Trends in General Medicine](#).



Meet the new person behind the scenes

Matt Buie-Nervick (Brendle) — We've been in incredibly capable hands with Matt as interim technical manager of Brendle and Wait Chapel, and we're thrilled that he will continue permanently in this role, effective July 1.



Larry Weng at Carnegie Hall

Music lovers and alumni gathered in Carnegie Hall to celebrate Professor Larry Weng's stunning sold-out performance.



Dan Locklair's music on the air

WFDD's With Heart and Voice broadcast composer-in-residence Dan Locklair's 'The Peace May Be Exchanged from his suite for organ, Rubrics (a composition often stated to be the most often-performed organ work by a contemporary American composer).

[Read more](#)

Mark Your Calendar

Save the Date: A Conversation with Debbie Allen

Monday, Nov. 13, 2023

Debbie Allen is the inaugural recipient of the Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence Award. Join us this Fall as we celebrate and learn from her remarkable life and career.



[Read more](#)



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