



Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,

Hello from the Wake Forest University band directors! We are honored to write to you.

The month of October has been one of much rebuilding for the state of North Carolina. Though we in Winston-Salem were fortunate that Hurricane Helene passed over us fairly quickly, those just to the west of us were struck with devastation by the storm.

The weekend following the storm, on October 5th, 2024, Wake Forest played a football game at NC State. What started the week prior as a simple conversation with the NC State band directors about having our bands eat lunch together, turned into a discussion of how we could show support to those on the western side of our state impacted by Hurricane Helene. We decided to show our support in the best way we knew how: through music.

At halftime of this game, we joined our bands together to perform Amazing Grace as a tribute to those affected by the storm. It was a truly beautiful, and powerful moment hearing our students play their hearts out to show their support. We did not have a rehearsal with NC State's band beforehand, which would normally make us musicians very nervous, but it made the performance feel even more organic and special.

Much to our surprise, the performance went viral and was featured by local news stations, The Today Show, ABC World News Tonight, and many more. Though this was not our goal, it makes a salient statement about the power of music and the arts. It is our greatest hope that how widely this performance was shared helped provide support in any way to those impacted by Hurricane Helene.

The day was full of unity among the students in these two "rival" bands. The interactions between students that day and the care they showed will stick with us forever. Let us never forget how powerful the arts can be and utilize them for the greater good!

The weeks ahead are packed with inspiring performances, exhibitions and discussions and we're so excited to share them with you below.

Yours,

Tim Heath
*Director of Bands, Assistant Teaching
Professor of Music*



Natalie Smith

*Assistant Director of Bands,
Assistant Teaching Professor of Music*



**Want to see what's coming up?
See our [Semester at a Glance](#) »**

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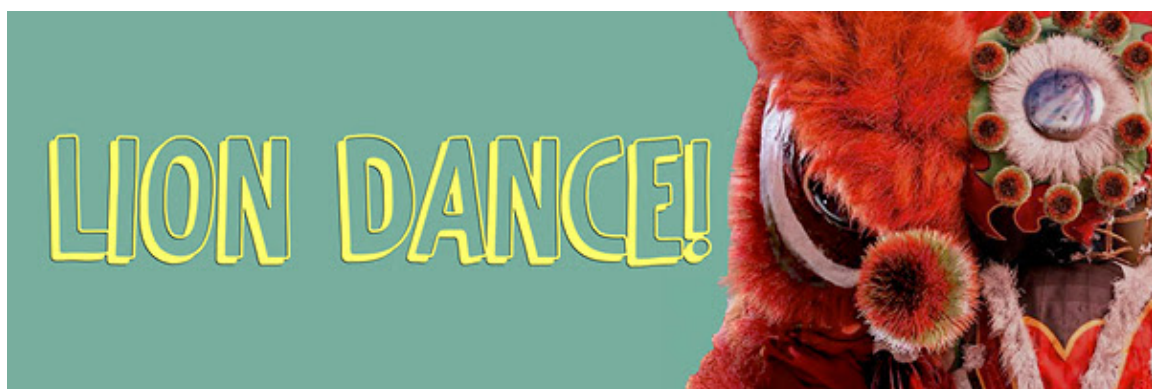
What's Happening



TODAY Show: Rival marching bands come together in moving hurricane tribute

Last weekend, Wake Forest and NC State's Marching Bands joined together to play "Amazing Grace." A moving tribute to all impacted by Hurricane Helene, especially those in Western North Carolina. The moment quickly went viral, widely spreading the message of unity and hope.

[Read more](#)



Lion Dance

Friday, October 25

Manchester Plaza

6:30pm Lion Dance Show & Workshop by Thundering Wave Martial Arts

7:30pm Outdoor Film Screening: I am What Am 雄獅少年 (2021)

Performance, workshop, film, food and culture! Sponsored by the Wake the Arts Center, Department of East Asian Languages And Cultures, The Humanities Institute, Lam Museum Of Anthropology and the National Endowment for The Humanities. Contact Professor Ziyi Geng for more information.

Details



Secret: Casals Quartet

Thursday, November 7, 7:30pm

Brendle Recital Hall

The Cuarteto Casals from Spain, with its distinctive tonal balance and interpretive brilliance, is one of the finest string quartets in the world. Founded 27 years ago, they have received first prizes at the International String Quartet Competition in London and the International Johannes Brahms Competition in Hamburg. Their concert will feature works by Haydn, Beethoven, and Shostakovich.

[Read more](#)

Two October concerts from the WFU Symphony Orchestra

“Sounds of Adventure” WFU Symphony Orchestra Concert

Friday, October 25

Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm



Welcome to the first Wake Forest University Symphony Orchestra concert of the year! Music inspired by heroic adventure and folklore, this opening concert will showcase the artistry and passion of the Wake Forest University Symphony Orchestra. Be sure to join us for this thrilling start to our symphony season, featuring the music of Grieg and Borodin.

WFU Symphony Orchestra Halloween Concert

Thursday, October 31

Brendle Recital Hall, 5pm

Join the WFU Symphony Orchestra for their annual Halloween concert! A WFU tradition!

Love and Information

by Caryl Churchill, directed by Stephen Wrentmore

November 1-10

Tedford Stage (Scales Fine Arts Center)

Love and Information invites us to consider how we ‘know’ and how that knowledge informs the ways we navigate our human experience. Through a montage of vignettes and a collage of over 100 characters, Caryl Churchill creates an ingenious and inventive commentary on the information age. Where the soundbite erodes complexity and algorithms flood us with the trivial — sex and celebrity, conflict, and cats — Churchill prompts us to wonder how we will have the wisdom to discern what is essential from all this noise.



[Read more](#)

Willa Wasserman Artist Talk

November 13 at 5:30pm

Hanes Art Gallery

Reception to follow



An engaging discussion with artist Willa Wasserman, one of the featured artists in our current exhibition, *Escape Velocities*, showcasing works purchased from students on the 2024 Student Art Buying Trip. The conversation will be moderated by Jane Alexander, a student who participated in the buying trip. Willa will share insights into her creative process and experiences, offering a unique opportunity to learn more about her work and artistic practice. All gallery events are free and open to the public.

[Read more](#)

Who's Making Things Happen

Acquavella Curator of Collections Jennifer Finkel accepts position at M. D. Anderson Medical Center

For the last five years, Jennifer Finkel has elevated the Wake Forest University Art Collections in powerful ways. We will miss her indomitable spirit and the engaging ways she made the collection a prominent part of our campus culture. We wish her well in her next adventure and thank her for the ways she inspired faculty, staff, students and all of us in the Wake the Arts community.



[Read the press release here](#)

Dance professor Nina Lucas takes a walk with President Went

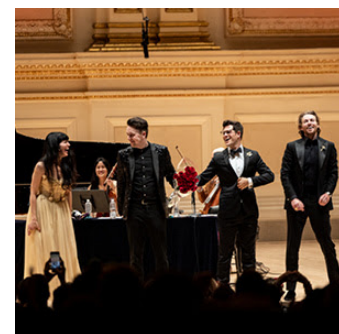
President Went walks and talks with Nina Lucas, Professor of Dance, about how combining dance and academics is a win-win for students at Wake Forest. They discuss teaching students how to connect something in their lives with dance, the benefits of dance as a communication tool, and the need to stay authentic and explore.



[Watch the video](#)

Wake the Arts Alumni Spotlight: Caldwell Tanner ('09)

For Caldwell Tanner ('09), the enduring memories from his four years as a member of Wake Forest's *Lilting Banshees* comedy troupe don't involve a favorite quirky character or show-stopping scene. It's the late nights he spent with fellow troupe members, putting in the work to build sketches. He now plays Carnegie Hall — as part of a podcast about *Dungeons & Dragons*.



[Read more](#)



icarus Quartet shares world premiere music

The icarus Quartet, an ensemble of two pianists and two percussionists anchored by Wake Forest Music faculty member Larry Weng, performed three world premieres in Brendle Hall last month. The new works were commissioned by the Secrest Artists Series by composers Martin Bresnick, Viet Cuong, and Pulitzer Prize winner Jennifer Higdon.

[View the photo gallery](#)

Student research: Sadie MacDonald ('26) and Mary Wayne create a costume database

The arts really showed up at this year's URECA. Take a look at this project in the Theatre costume shop, by Sadie MacDonald ('26) and Professor Mary Wayne. For the rest of this year, we'll be highlighting more undergraduate research that connects with the arts.



[Read more](#)

Wake Women Podcast: Living a Life of Self-Expression with Serena Dugan ('94)

Through approaching life with authenticity and creativity, Serena Dugan's passion is to bring beauty to the world around her. She co-founded Serena and Lily, a design-driven luxury furniture and home accessories company. Now, she leads Serena Dugan Design, an art and textile design studio that reflects her unique talent and philosophy. In this episode, we talk about Serena's successful business, her purpose, and how she has built a life of beauty and meaning.



[Listen on Spotify](#)

Student artwork and curation on display

Wake Forest art students create their own work and curate the artwork of others. The five exhibitions below display both of these activities and show off the talent and creativity of these remarkable students.

Escape Velocities: New Acquisitions to the Reece Collection of Student-Acquired Contemporary Art
Hanes Art Gallery
through December 8

The work of the artists selected by the 2024 student members of the Reece Collection Acquisition Committee share something that would likely have discounted them even in the recent past: their imputed



“marginality.” This student-selected collection of work is on display all semester and you don’t want to miss it.

“Torn Together” (works by Amelia Dunat ('25), Katie Wolf ('13), Adelaide Menzies ('12), & Claudia Gross DUZA)

*stArt gallery (Reynolda Village)
through Nov. 8*



When things are torn apart, there is typically a sense of loss. In collage, tearing references the beauty in imperfections; gaps, rough edges and mismatched elements are visible and celebrated. In contrast to the torn elements of my collages, the cut pieces allow for precision and intentionality, creating clean lines that evoke a sense of order amidst the chaos. Together, cutting and tearing create a dynamic tension between loss and renewal, chaos and control, encouraging an exploration of how we navigate our own experiences of fragmentation and wholeness.

mapping memory: Blair Newsome ('26)

*stArt gallery (Wake Downtown)
Oct. 28 - Dec. 13*



Through both figurative and abstract representations, Blair Newsome ('26) investigates how place shapes identity and how navigating both physical and emotional distances requires endurance. Each painting — whether a portrait or depiction of a location—serves as an act of remembrance, a visual meditation on how places hold the weight of history and shared experiences.

Newly Acquired: Recent Donations to the Wake Forest Art Collection

*Curated by Amelia Dunat ('25),
Art History and Communications majors
Scales 102, through Dec. 31*



The artworks displayed in this exhibition reflect the diverse perspectives, media, and creative processes of the artists represented. We extend our deepest gratitude to the donors who, through their contributions, have helped strengthen the vibrancy of our creative community, fostering opportunities for critical engagement among artists, students, faculty, and curators alike. Check it out in person and learn more about the exhibition on the [BloombergConnects app](#).

Evan Harris Photography Exhibition

*Farrell Hall Suite A05
Brockway Recruiting Center Gallery
through December 11*



The Office of Personal and Career Development Employer Relations team and the Wake Forest art department are collaborating to showcase street photography by Evan Harris ('26). Evan is majoring in politics and international affairs and minoring in studio art, communication and journalism.

Coming Soon

Thursday, Oct. 24:

Critical and Creative Media Masterclass Series: Adam Stone ('95)
(Carswell Hall, Annenberg Auditorium, 5:30pm-7pm)

Friday, Oct. 25:

"Sounds of Adventure" WFU Symphony Orchestra Concert
(Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm)

Lion Dance

workshop, performance, film screening, food
(Manchester Plaza, 6:30pm-9pm)

Sunday, Oct. 27:

Reynolda On the House: Organ Spooktacular
(Reynolda House Museum of American Art, 1:30-4:30pm)

Calaveritas Workshop

(Lam Museum of Anthropology, 2-4pm)

Monday, Oct. 28:

mapping memory: Blair Newsome ('26)
exhibition opens
(10/28-12/13, stArt Downtown)

Haunted Tunnels 2024

(Babcock Residence Hall, 6pm-9pm)

Tuesday, Oct. 29:

Film Screening: "Finding Home"
Thesis Showcase Screening
(ZSR 404, 6pm)

Student Showcase Recital

(Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm)

Wednesday, Oct. 30:

100 Years of Edward Gorey, 1925-2025
pop-up exhibit and celebration
(ZSR, 3:30pm-5pm)

Thursday, Oct. 31:

WFU Symphony Orchestra Halloween Concert
(Brendle Recital Hall, 5pm)

Friday, Nov. 1:

Love and Information
theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Saturday, Nov. 2:

Love and Information
theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Sunday, Nov. 3:

Love and Information
theatre (Tedford Stage, 2pm)

Light, Love, & Joy: A Choral Kaleidoscope
with W-S Symphony and WSSU Singing Rams
(Brendle Recital Hall, 3pm)

Thursday, Nov. 7:

Cuarteto Casals, Secret Artists Series

(Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm: pre-concert talk by WFU Emeritus Professor of Music David Levy at 6:40pm)

Love and Information

theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

On Knowing,

panel discussion with a neuroscientist, theologian, a philosopher, and a director (Tedford Stage, 6pm)

Friday, Nov. 8:

Love and Information

theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Saturday, Nov. 9:

Love and Information

theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Sunday, Nov. 10:

Love and Information

theatre (Tedford Stage, 2pm)

2024 Fall Club Dance Showcase

(Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm-9:30pm)

Monday, Nov. 11:

Virtual Wavelengths: J. Mike Kohfeld

(virtual, 12:30-1:45pm)

Alumni Industry Panel: Careers in Media & Entertainment

(virtual, 5-6pm)

Wednesday, Nov. 13:

Willa Wasserman Artist Talk and reception

(Hanes Gallery, 5:30pm)

Gamelan Giri Murti & Chinese Ensemble

(Brendle, 7:30pm)

Friday, Nov. 15:

Choirs Concert

(Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm)

Saturday, Nov. 16:

WFU Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition

(Brendle Recital Hall, 9am-5pm)

Monday, Nov. 18:

Mary Mattingly: Art, Activism, and the Anthropocene

(5-6pm, Scales 102)

Tuesday, Nov. 19:

Student Chamber Music

(Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm-8:30pm)

Wednesday, Nov. 20:

Founder's Vision Curator Tour with Phil Archer
(Reynolda House Museum of American Art, 3-4pm)

Thursday, Nov. 21:

Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Dance Concert
(Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Jazz Ensemble concert
(Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm)

Friday, Nov. 22:

Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Dance Concert
(Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Saturday, Nov. 23:

Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Dance Concert
(Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Sunday, Nov. 24:

Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Dance Concert
(Tedford Stage, 2pm)

Thursday, Dec. 5:

Face to Face: Jesmyn Ward
(Wait Chapel, 6pm)

Friday, Dec. 6:

mapping memory: Blair Newsome ('26)
closing reception (stArt Downtown, 5-7pm)

Sounds of the Season: A Holiday Gala at Wake
(Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm-9pm)

Sunday, Dec. 8:

Annual Lovefeast 2024
(Wait Chapel, 7pm-8:15pm)

Exhibitions

Escape Velocities: New Acquisitions to the Reece Collection of Student-Acquired Contemporary Art
(Charlotte and Philip Hanes Art Gallery, through Dec. 8)

"Torn Together" (works by Amelia Dunat ('25), Katie Wolf ('13), Adelaide Menzies ('12), & Claudia Gross DUZA)
(stArt gallery, through Nov. 8)

mapping memory: Blair Newsome ('26)
(stArt Downtown, Oct. 28-Dec. 13)

Evan Harris Photography Exhibition
(Through Dec. 11, Farrell Hall Suite A05, Brockway Recruiting Center Gallery)

Reynolda House Museum of American Art:

- **Leigh Ann Hallberg: Phenoms**
(Through Oct. 2025)
- **Founder's Vision: The Private Collection of Barbara Babcock Millhouse**

(Through Dec. 15)

- **Still I Rise: The Black Experience at Reynolda**
(Through Dec. 31)
- **Good Impressions: Portraits Across Three Centuries from Reynolda & Wake Forest**

Lam Museum of Anthropology:

- **Life after Death: Celebrating Day of the Dead**
(through Dec. 6)
- **Poems Made to Wear: Traditional Colors in East Asia**
(through Aug. 2025)

Poets and Publishers of the Black Arts Movement
(ZSR Special Collections - 625, through Dec. 31)



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