

**Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,**

What an incredible Spring semester it has been! Between the **Giles-Harris Music competition in March**, upcoming performances by our **orchestra, choirs, Chinese** and **gamelan** ensembles, and our **Senior and Presidential Scholar recitals** it's shaping up to an exciting end of the semester. I'm also eager to attend performances of **The Tempest**, the **Spring Dance Concert**, and to check out the upcoming **Student Exhibition in Hanes Art Gallery**. There's always so much to experience with all of the talented students here at Wake Forest.

As we close out this semester, the Wake Forest University Symphony Orchestra is excited to spotlight our final project, **We Play Together: Music and Gaming**. This groundbreaking event explores the intersection of live video game music, technology, and the arts, featuring Emmy Award-winning composer Inon Zur, along with Pete Hines, former VP at Bethesda Softworks, and retired NASA astronaut Dan Tani. The event includes workshops, panels, an esports competition, and a live performance of Starfield's evocative soundtrack by the orchestra.

We Play Together highlights the growing importance of live video game music, a genre-bridging classical music and modern entertainment. As detailed in The Conversation, "How video games like Starfield are creating a **new generation of classical music fans**," audiences are drawn to the emotional compositions

integral to gaming. As reported recently by The Guardian, this cultural shift is reflected in the rise of video game music in places like the **London Soundtrack Festival 2025**, where video game scores are celebrated alongside traditional film and TV music, further cementing video game soundtracks as a respected art form.

Beyond performance, the event underscores the value of interdisciplinary partnerships. By exploring the artistic and cultural implications of gaming, We Play Together fosters cross-industry dialogue while helping shape the future of music, technology, and education. This places Wake at the forefront of a dynamic and evolving discourse, and I am grateful to Wake the Arts for supporting this transformative moment.

This event and our entire season are thanks to YOU! We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our students, faculty, staff and supporters for making this season possible. We hope you will join us for more exciting seasons ahead!

Musically Yours,



J. Aaron Hardwick

Director & Conductor,
Wake Forest University Symphony Orchestra

Want to see what's coming up?
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What's Happening



We Play Together: Music + Gaming

April 16-19, 2025

We Play Together: Music & Gaming is an extraordinary three-day event blending music, gaming, and academic exploration. Featuring Emmy Award-winning composer **Inon Zur**, whose scores for games like Starfield have captivated millions, this event also welcomes **Pete Hines** ('91, P '25), former Senior Vice President at Bethesda Softworks, and retired NASA astronaut **Dan Tani**. Together, they will engage students and the community in workshops, a panel discussion, and an Esports LAN tournament, culminating in a live performance by the Wake Forest **University Symphony Orchestra** of Starfield's awe-inspiring soundtrack.

Join us to explore the intersection of creativity, technology, and innovation with three professionals from the very top of their fields who embody the spirit of Pro Humanitate as we play together.

Schedule of Events:

Video Game Music Composition Masterclass with Inon Zur

Thursday, April 17, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Brendle Recital Hall

Register for Masterclass

Open Dress Rehearsal with Winston-Salem Forsyth County High School Students

Thursday, April 17, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Brendle Recital Hall

Interdisciplinary Innovation: Merging Music, Gaming, and Business in Exploration

Speaker Forum with Guest Speaker Dan Tani, astronaut and panelists Pete Hines, Inon Zur and Symphony Orchestra Director J. Aaron Hardwick

Friday, April 18, 11 a.m.

Broyhill Auditorium, Farrell Hall

[Register for Interdisciplinary Innovation forum](#)

Exploring Possibilities: A Career Conversation with Dan Tani

Friday, April 18, 3-4:15 p.m.

Olin Hall, Room 101

Open to students, faculty, & staff of the WFU Departments of Engineering, Mathematics, Physics

Concert (music from Starfield and Fallout) with Guest Artist, Inon Zur

Friday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Brendle Recital Hall

Reception in lobby to follow

Esports LAN Event

Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Benson Student Center

[Register for Esports LAN event](#)

[Read more](#)

Deacs Day of Giving - April 8

Deacs Day of Giving is tomorrow, Tuesday, April 8! We hope you'll consider making a gift to support **Wake the Arts**, arts departments (**Art, Dance, Music, Theatre**), or **University Galleries and Collections**. Your support allows us to expand the breadth and depth of the visual and performing arts on campus and to ensure every Wake Forest student has a vibrant arts experience no matter their area of study.



Need help with your gift? Contact Beth McAlhany at mcalhabd@wfu.edu.

The Tempest

By William Shakespeare, directed by Michael Kamtman

April 4-5 & 10-12 at 7:30 p.m.

April 6 & 13 at 2 p.m.

Tedford Stage, Scales Fine Arts Center



Long ago and somewhere far away: A mighty storm. A shipwreck. An island. Fantastical creatures. A sorcerer and the sorcerer's daughter. Magic. Love. Treachery and deception. Temptation. Disorientation. Hilarity. Power. Humanity. This is the trail of breadcrumbs that will lead us into the world of William Shakespeare's last play — *The Tempest*.

Tickets available

Face to Face: John Legend

April 8, 7:15 p.m.

Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum

Face to Face presents John Legend—critically acclaimed, multi platinum singer-songwriter and the first African American man to earn an EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Awards). Legend leverages his influential position in the entertainment industry to advocate for ending mass incarceration and advancing community equity.



Read more



An Evening with Brooke Shields

Perhaps you have heard by now — a very special evening is planned on campus

for April 17. We hope you will join us for this remarkable event on our campus starring world-known actor, entrepreneur, author and Wake Forest parent, Brooke Shields (P'25 P'28).

Brooke, along with Theatre instructor and professional actor Michael Huie ('84, MA'93, P'23), will act in the two-person show, Love Letters, with all proceeds benefiting Wake the Arts and our talented Department of Theatre and Dance. Also included in the evening is a reception following the performance, and then a Q&A session with Brooke and Michael back in the Tedford Mainstage.

Purchase your Ticket

Can't come but want to support a student's attendance? A fully tax-deductible gift will help ensure students can enjoy this special experience.

Sponsor a Student's Seat

Questions? Contact Beth McAlhany (mcalhabd@wfu.edu)

Looking Closer at American Art: A Symposium in Honor of David Lubin

Saturday, April 26th

1:00-5:30 p.m.

Charles H. Babcock, Jr. Auditorium

Reynolda House Museum of American Art



On the eve of his retirement, distinguished scholars of American art will gather to reflect on the legacy of the teaching and scholarship of David Lubin, the Charlotte C. Weber Professor of American Art in the Department of Art at Wake Forest University. Speakers will include Professor Martin Berger (School of the Art Institute of Chicago), Professor Alexander Nemerov (Stanford University) and Professor Jennifer Roberts (Harvard University). The event will conclude with a reception in honor of Professor Lubin. Email Katherine Gregory with any questions

gregork@wfu.edu.

Read more



Spring Student Choreographic Concert

April 24-26 at 7:30 pm

April 27 at 2:00 pm

Artistic Director Tina Yarborough-Liggins

The Spring Student Choreographic Concert will feature selected work by student choreographers under the direction of Dance faculty. The Spring Concert gives WFU students the opportunity to present their choreography across a range of dance styles. Tickets available starting April 15.

Details



Annual Student Art Exhibition & Hanes Gala

Opening Reception & Gala: April 23, 5-7 p.m.

Remarks at 5:30 p.m.

Hanes Gallery

Celebrate the creativity and talent of Wake Forest University students at the Annual Student Art Exhibition in Hanes Gallery. This juried exhibition features exceptional student artwork selected by studio art faculty, showcasing a wide range of media including painting, prints, drawing, sculpture, photography, and video.

Join us for an elegant evening of art and celebration at the **Opening Reception & Hanes Gala** on **April 23**. This year's gala theme is **A Starry Night!** Enjoy a red carpet experience, photo booth, themed outfit contest, and exciting artist awards, including the **Hanes Gallery Awards** and selections for **Wake Forest's J.P. Anderson Collection of Student Art**.

[Information about the exhibition](#)



Wakeville Arts & Sustainability Festival

The third annual student-organized Wakeville Arts Festival was a resounding success! Students from across campus gathered to share their creative work and collaborate on projects around a sustainability theme.

[Click here for photo story](#)

Who's Making Things Happen

Larry Weng and Marie-Amélie George receive 2025 Gladding Awards

Assistant Professor of Music Larry Weng and Professor of Law Marie-Amélie George were recently awarded the 2025 Gladding Authors, Editors, and Artists Faculty Awards.



[Read more](#)

Chinese Ensemble with Xiangning “Sonia” He ('25)

Performance on Tuesday, April 8, 7:30pm
Brendle Recital Hall

Xiangning “Sonia” He ('25) shares her experience with learning to play guzheng in Wake Forest’s **Chinese Ensemble**. Video by Riley Kayton (WFU Documentary Film Program MA '25). Don’t miss the performance on Tuesday, April 8! They will also perform as part of the **Celebrate East Asia Open House** at the Lam Museum of Anthropology on April 12. And if you love world music, you also won’t want to miss the **Gamelan Giri Murti concert** next Tuesday on April 15.



Watch the video

Coming soon:

Tuesday, April 8

Chemistry and Conservation with art conservator Heather Galloway
(4pm-5pm, Scales 103)

John Legend: Face to Face
(7:30pm, LJVM Coliseum)

Chinese Ensemble
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Wednesday, April 9

Rae Armantrout: talk by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet
(5pm, Annenberg Auditorium - Carswell Hall)

Student Chamber Music Concert
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Thursday, April 10

Book Talk and Conversation with Dr. Therí A. Pickens
(5pm, ZSR Auditorium)

Every Brilliant Thing
(6pm, South Residence Hall)

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare
(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Friday, April 11

Every Brilliant Thing
(6pm, Collins Basketball Court)

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare
(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Senior Honors Recital: Adam Waszkiewicz, clarinet
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Saturday, April 12

Celebrate East Asia Open House featuring the WFU Chinese Ensemble
(1-4pm, Lam Museum of Anthropology)

Every Brilliant Thing
(2pm, Ring Theatre)

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare
(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Sunday, April 13

Every Brilliant Thing
(8pm, Ring Theatre)

The Tempest, by William Shakespeare
(2pm, Tedford Stage)

Presidential Scholar Recital: Kyria Pidherny, violin
(3pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Tuesday, April 15

WFU Collegium Musicum and Gamelan Giri Murti Concert
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Thursday, April 17

We Play Together: WFU Video Game Music Lecture with Pete Hines & Composition Masterclass with Inon Zur
(12:30pm-3:15pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

We Play Together: Open Dress Rehearsal with WSFCS students
(4:30-6:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Ezra Clayton Daniels reading/workshop
(5:30pm, Annenberg Auditorium, Carswell Hall)

Friday, April 18

Interdisciplinary Innovation: Merging Music, Gaming, and Business in Exploration
– Forum
(11am, Brendle Recital Hall)

We Play Together: WFU Symphony Orchestra concert
(feat. music from Starfield, Fallout, Skyrim) with Guest Artist Inon Zur (7:30pm,
Brendle Recital Hall)

Saturday, April 19

We Play Together: Esports LAN Event
(Benson Student Center 10am-2pm)

Tuesday, April 22

WFU Wind Ensemble
(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Wednesday, April 23

SAVE THE FRIGGIN WORLD!!!: Student Flash Video Mobs
(8pm-10pm, Upper Quad)

Thursday, April 24

Spring Student Choreographic Concert
(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

SAVE THE FRIGGIN WORLD!!!: Student Flash Video Mobs
(5pm-7pm, Tribble Courtyard AND 7pm-9pm, Scales Lower Lobby)

Friday, April 25

Spring Student Choreographic concert
(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

SAVE THE FRIGGIN WORLD!!!: Student Flash Video Mobs
(4:30pm-6:30pm, The Pit Dumpster AND 6:30pm-8:30pm, Benson Mailroom)

Saturday, April 26

Spring Student Choreographic Concert

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Sunday, April 27

Spring Student Choreographic Concert

(2pm, Tedford Stage)

Tuesday, April 29

Fragments of Changsha: Medieval China in Miniature exhibition opens

(4/29-11/22, Lam Museum of Anthropology)

Exhibitions

- **Rememberants work from Professor Leigh Ann Hallberg's Intermediate drawing course**
stArt Gallery - March 27-April 18
- **A Surreal Mirror: Student Painting and Collage Exhibition**
Brockwell Recruiting Center, Farrell Hall. January 23 – April 28
- **Reynolda House Museum of American Art:**
 - **Leigh Ann Hallberg: Phenoms**
(through Oct. 19)
 - **Andrew Wyeth at Kuerner Farm: The Eye of the Earth**
(Through May 25)
- **ZSR Library: Special Collections Fields of Fortune: North Carolina's Legacy in Leaf and Labor**
(through December 2025)
- **Lam Museum of Anthropology:**
 - **Home: The Exhibit**
through April 12
 - **Poems Made to Wear: Traditional Colors in East Asia**
(through Aug. 16)



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