

**Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,**

What a remarkable year it has been for Music at Wake. From our campus concert halls to international tours, our community has been buzzing with creativity, collaboration, and impact. Wake Forest's **Gamelan Giri Murti ensemble** joined forces with Appalachian State's Sekaa Gong Mandala Giri as part of the Western Piedmont Symphony's concert season for "**Crossroads: Gamelan — A Balinese Percussion Orchestra**." The WFU Symphony Orchestra invited audiences into new realms through the **We Play Together: Music + Gaming** event, blending live orchestral performance with the immersive world of video games—and featuring video game composer Inon Zur, astronaut Dan Tani and gaming executive Pete Hines ('91, P '25). The WFU Chamber Choir premiered "**Forsaken Peaks: An Andean Exile**," a moving new commission sponsored by the Wake the Arts Center telling the story of a local refugee. This extraordinary work then traveled with the choir on their recent **tour to Brazil**, where it found new meaning in a kind of musical homecoming to South America.

We're also thrilled to announce that Jazz musician Branford Marsalis has been named **Wake Forest University's 2025 Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence**. He will perform this Fall — read more about this legendary artist below.

As we launch into summer, we also pause to honor five extraordinary faculty in the Arts — **Stew Carter, Leigh Ann Hallberg, Kathy Levy, Dan Locklair**, and

David Lubin — who retire after years of dedicated service to the Wake Forest community. Their legacy will continue to resonate in the lives, work, and music of the students and colleagues they've inspired.

Warmly,



Dr. Elizabeth Clendinning

Chair, Department of Music,
Associate Professor of Music

Want to see what's coming up?
See our **Semester at a Glance »**

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What's Happening



Jazz master Branford Marsalis named WFU's 'Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence'

Jazz musician Branford Marsalis has been named Wake Forest University's 2025 Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence. Marsalis, a globally celebrated artist known for his unparalleled contributions to jazz, classical music, film, and Broadway, will bring his vast experience and creative spirit to the Wake Forest campus.

The Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence Award was established to bring world-renowned artists to campus for engagement with students, faculty, staff and the wider community. In 2023, the residency's inaugural year, Emmy award-winning director and producer **Debbie Allen** was the first honoree. The residency is awarded every two years.

[**Read more**](#)



WFU Chamber Choir in Brazil

In May 2025, the Wake Forest University Chamber Choir toured Brazil, starting in the historic town of Paraty. Highlights included a capoeira workshop, a visit to the Campinho da Independência community, and a full concert at Casa da Cultura where the audience — delighted by the choir's Portuguese rendition of *Muié Rendêra* — demanded an encore.

In Rio de Janeiro, the choir shared an exchange concert with the IBEU Choir, followed by a joyful dinner with new friends. They performed to a packed house at São Paulo Apóstolo Church, explored the Rio Botanical Gardens and Cidade do Samba, browsed the Copacabana night market, and took in the views from Sugarloaf Mountain.

It was an unforgettable mix of music, culture, and connection.

Enjoy our photo album



Music Carolina SummerFest 2025

Make Music Carolina SummerFest part of your summer! Enjoy intergenerational dance and music as Wake Forest is featured once again at this annual regional music festival. This year, Music Carolina's 18th season, features over 60 performers, including Jacqui Carrasco (Department of Music) and Christina Soriano (Department of Theatre and Dance)—more about their performances below.

Part Of Your World: Songs of Disney (featuring Jacqui Carrasco, violin)

Saturday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.

Salem College-Shirley Recital Hall

\$25 General Admission/\$10 Child and Student

A sampler of some of the great Disney songs over the decades, including: "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," "Colors of the Wind," "Someday My Prince Will Come," "When You Wish Upon a Star," and more. Featuring: Martha Bassett, vocals; Federico Pivetta, piano; Ken Wilmot, trumpet; Jacqui Carrasco, violin; Matt Kendrick, bass; John Wilson drums.

Intergenerational Dance with Hot Jazz **(featuring choreography by Christina Soriano)**

Sunday, August 17, 2:00 p.m.

Intergenerational Center for Arts and Wellness

\$12 General Admission/\$5 Ages 6-18

New work by choreographer Christina Soriano, with “Gypsy Jazz” performed by The Piedmont Hot Club. Featuring: Brad Cokendolpher, guitar; Martha Bassett, guitar; Pat Lawrence, bass; Gabriel Pelli, violin & guitar.

[Read more](#)

Wake the Arts Center accepting proposals for 2025-26 academic year

We invite you to be a part of the Wake the Arts Center! The Center supports projects that combine the arts (music, theatre, dance, art, art history, film, creative writing) with each other and/or with other disciplines, centers, and programs. We support project proposals from faculty, students, and staff that range in size from classroom visits to multi-performance events open to the WFU and greater Winston-Salem communities.

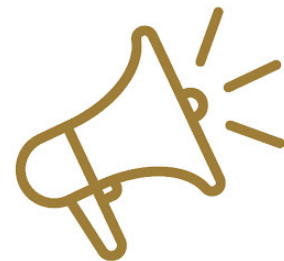


[Submit a proposal](#)

Communications survey

We'd love to hear from you about what you like to hear from Wake the Arts.

[Take our survey](#)

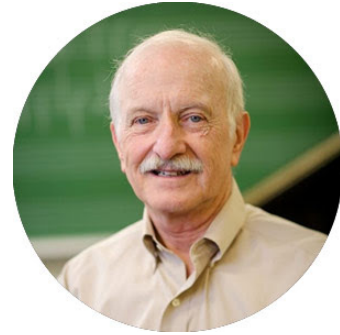


Who's Making Things Happen

Honoring Retiring Faculty in the Arts

Teacher-Scholar Legacies: Stew Carter

After a distinguished career marked by dedication, leadership, and a lasting impact on colleagues and the community alike, Dr. Stewart Carter is entering a well-deserved retirement. As we reflect on Stew's 43 years at Wake Forest, we honor not only a brilliant musician, professor, and dedicated mentor but also a colleague who never missed a chance to crack a joke and lift our spirits with a well-timed laugh. What will change for Stew in retirement? Not much, he hopes; he plans to maintain a busy schedule of research, editing, and travel. When it comes to basketball, he plans to come to "just a few" games — especially if there are free tickets!



[Read more](#)

Teacher-Scholar Legacies: Leigh Ann Hallberg

Leigh Ann Hallberg's approaches to teaching have transformed students' lives over her distinguished 26-year career at Wake Forest University, helping them see the world — and themselves — in new ways. Her approach to teaching art has transcended technical instruction to become a philosophy about engaging with the world — with curiosity, empathy, and a willingness to take risks. Through her mentorship, students learned not just to look but to see, not just to create but to express, and not just to study art but to live artfully. Leigh Ann Hallberg's legacy, as Professor Morna O'Neill states, is "a forest of talent and passion that will continue to flourish for generations to come."



Catch her exhibition **Phenoms**, currently on view at Reynolda House Museum of American Art through October 19.

[Read more](#)

Teacher-Scholar Legacies: Kathy Levy

Anyone who has regularly traversed the Scales Fine Arts Center breezeway in the

afternoon has likely heard a singular sound of the flute, wafting down from the heavens as if by magic. This mellifluous sound originates in the studio of Kathryn (Kathy) Levy, whose playing and mentorship have animated the Wake Forest University campus for nearly 50 years. We are grateful for Kathy's gift to all of us in the Wake Forest community: a lifetime of inspiration to keep making music.



Kathy will be the featured soloist in the upcoming **“Beethoven + Borodin” concert with the Winston-Salem Symphony** on March 7-8, 2026, where she will perform Griffes’ Poem for flute and Orchestra to celebrate her 50th season with the orchestra.

[Read more](#)

Teacher-Scholar Legacies: Dan Locklair

With a career spanning over four decades, Composer-in-Residence and Professor of Music Dan Locklair has distinguished himself nationally and internationally as an award-winning and prolific composer of instrumental and vocal music, a professional organist and recitalist, a brilliant and beloved educator, and a dedicated colleague. Consummate artist, prolific composer, devoted teacher, supportive colleague — and occasional comedian and pipe smoking enthusiast — Dan’s legacy will impact all who enjoy the opportunity to share in it. We will continue to applaud Dan’s stellar career while we express our deep gratitude for his friendship, mentorship, and dedication to Wake Forest.



Dan will be honored on June 30 by radio station **WDAV 89.9 FM** (Davidson, NC) with broadcasts of many of his significant works. Locklair pieces will air during the 8 a.m. hour, 11 a.m. (the Pause for Reflection program), 2 p.m. (the Midday Masterpiece show) and in the 8 p.m. hour. In addition, on Friday July 4, they’ll broadcast the composer’s Independence Day (from Symphony No. 2, “America”) in the 10 a.m. hour. And, on Friday, July 11, a composition for the 3 p.m. Pause for Reflection.

[Read more](#)

Teacher-Scholar Legacies: David Lubin

David Lubin has taken a distinctive approach to art history: a fearless scholar unconstrained by disciplinary conventions. Whether authoring a serious scholarly work on a film many deemed unworthy of such attention, or daring to reframe iconic masterpieces of art through an interpretation of a seemingly inconsequential detail, David has consistently charted his own course beyond established boundaries. As David Lubin retires from Wake Forest, he leaves a dual legacy: scholarship that fundamentally reframed how individuals understand American visual culture, and generations of students equipped with the ability to see beyond the obvious. His approach reminds us that scholarly innovation often comes from crossing boundaries — between high and low culture, between disciplines, and between the classroom and the wider world.



This spring, the Wake the Arts Center helped sponsor **Looking Closer at American Art**, a symposium gathering prominent art historians from around the country to celebrate David's work.

[Read more](#)



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