



Redefining the wind quintet

Press kit

UPDATED FOR 2022 - 2023
FOR BOOKING INQUIRIES CONTACT LAURA DUNAWAY
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"Young and outstanding."

- Arts & Culture Texas



"The playing was brisk, highly animated, and
infectiously engaging."

- John W. Lambert, CNVC



"...stood out for the excitement generated and the
extraordinary synchronization between the five
members."

- Philippa Kiraly, Seattle City Arts



"Inspired selections, stunning arrangements, and
precision playing."

- Matt Nokoa, Chamber Music Society of Utica



WINDSYNC

WindSync has established itself as a vibrant chamber ensemble performing wind quintet masterworks, adapting beloved music to their instrumentation, and championing new works by today's composers. The quintet eliminates the "fourth wall" between musicians and audience by often performing from memory, creating an intimate connection. This personal performance style, combined with the ensemble's three-pronged mission of artistry, education, and community-building, lends WindSync its reputation as "a group of virtuosos who are also wonderful people, too" (Alison Young, Classical MPR).

WindSync launched an international touring career after winning the 2012 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition and the 2016 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. In 2018, they were medalists at the M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition. WindSync has appeared in recital at the Met Museum, Ravinia, Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Their commissions and premieres include "The Cosmos," a concerto for wind quintet and orchestra by Pulitzer finalist Michael Gilbertson, and recent works by Ivan Trevino, Marc Mellits, Erberk Eryilmaz, and Akshaya Avril Tucker.

WindSync's thematic programming responds to the people and places where they work. In their artistic hometown of Houston, they curate a 4-concert season and present the Onstage Offstage Chamber Music Festival each April, spotlighting everyday public spaces as gathering places for culture. The ensemble's educational work includes tour stops at public schools and ongoing collaborations with the social music programs Sistema Ravinia and Houston Youth Symphony Coda Music Program. WindSync has been featured in educational concerts presented by the Seattle Symphony, the Hobby Center, and Orli Shaham's "Bach Yard," and the ensemble's concerts for young people reach over 5,000 students per year.

The members of WindSync have led master classes at New World Symphony, Eastman School of Music, Florida State University, and Northwestern University, among others. The quintet has also served as ensemble-in-residence for Adelphi University, the Chamber Music Festival of Lexington (KY), the National Museum of Wildlife Art, and the Grand Teton Music Festival.

Garrett Hudson, flute
Emily Tsai, oboe
Elias Rodriguez, clarinet
Anni Hochhalter, horn
Kara LaMoure, bassoon

2020

Awardee
Houston Artist
Commissioning Project
Society for the Performing
Arts Houston

2018

Finalist
M-Prize
Chamber Arts Competition

2017

Recipient
Sound Places pilot grant
of Chamber Music America,
Project for Public Spaces,
and the NEA

2016

Gold Medalist
Fischhoff National Chamber
Music Competition

MAIN STAGE

WindSync main stage recitals are programmed with a recipe that balances music composed for quintet with original arrangements, new works with old works, and familiar music styles with adventurous listening.

WindSync's 2021-2022 season theme, "World of Wonders," embraces the return of live concerts and travel with pieces that incorporate folk song and dance and that celebrate lives both ordinary and extraordinary.

WindSync's 2022-2023 season theme, "Earth Songs," explores how composers have responded to the natural world around us, with inspirations as wide-ranging as gardens, weather patterns, bird calls, and the ground beneath our feet.

AUDIENCE RESPONSES

"What I appreciated about them was their spontaneity."

"What I loved is that they were having a conversation with one another as they were playing."

"Their bodies moved with the instruments. They weren't just standing stock still. There was a dance of the music and the instruments and the people. I loved that."

"I mean there were moments that were really funny, amusing. So there was this sense that they loved it. And we loved it in return."

"In a way they gave us a vision into something really new."

SAMPLE REPERTOIRE FROM 2021-2022

Quintet in E-flat, Op. 4/103
Ludwig van Beethoven/arr. Rechtman

Portraits of Josephine
Valerie Coleman

Six Bagatelles
György Ligeti

You Are My Sunshine
Jimmie Davis

NEW MUSIC BY ACCLAIMED AMERICAN COMPOSERS

Mason Bynes: Two Steppin'

Premiering December 2021

A native Texan living in Boston, **Mason Bynes** returns to her roots with a wind quintet fit for the Houston Rodeo. *Two Steppin'* is informed by research into Country & Western dance and shows off both Bynes' knack for building interlocking grooves and the influence of her vocal training. The piece is written to incorporate percussive stomping by members of WindSync clad in cowboy boots.

Two Steppin' will premiere on December 10, 2021 at Archway Gallery in Houston, TX.



Viet Cuong: new work

Premiering Spring 2022

During a tumultuous period of his life, **Viet Cuong** has taken comfort in being home. He will use his garden as initial inspiration for this multi-movement work, which aims to show off the best that the wind quintet has to offer.

A clarinetist and widely performed composer in the concert band medium, Cuong is composing a concerto version of a portion of the work for WindSync to perform with concert bands at an intermediate level and above. This version will premiere on May 5, 2022 with the band program from Houston's Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and will subsequently be available for performance worldwide.



Nathalie Joachim: new work

Premiering Spring 2023

Flutist, composer, and vocalist **Nathalie Joachim** has performed with the International Contemporary Ensemble, Eighth Blackbird, and flute duo Flutronix, which she co-founded and directs with Allison Loggins-Hull. Her Grammy-nominated album *Fanm d'Ayiti* explores her Haitian heritage through compositions for flute, vocals, strings, and electronics.

WindSync is still seeking commissioning and presenting partners for Joachim's new wind quintet.



PETER & THE WOLF

WindSync's signature concert program for **children and families** celebrates storytelling through music. The cornerstone is Sergei Prokofiev's classic *Peter and the Wolf*. The musicians do triple duty as narrators, characters, and soundtrack in this fully staged adaptation, complete with costumes and choreography.

Young people learn how the instruments produce sound through an old-fashioned Texas hoedown, and they connect musical terms to dance through selections from well-loved classical repertoire. The audience performs, too, clapping rhythm patterns in a rousing finale!



EDUCATION

Collaborating annually with **youth orchestras** including the Houston Youth Symphony Coda Music Program, Sistema Ravinia, and MusicWorks of Lexington, KY, WindSync teaches ensemble skills and creative expression to beginning and intermediate instrumentalists through the environment of a jam session.

WindSync also offers opportunities for **advanced young musicians**, including chamber music coachings, a clinic for high school bands, and side-by-side rehearsal workshops.

For **college, university, and amateur adult students**, WindSync offers custom residency design ranging from one session to a full week or more, grounded in real-world experience.



PARTNERS

Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (Houston)
Arts Connect Houston
Ravinia Reach.Teach. Play.
Music for Autism
Houston Youth Symphony Coda Music Program

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

WINDSYNC + PIANO

WindSync presents a colorful program featuring music for winds and piano.

The highlight of the evening is a brand-new reimagining of the Saint-Saëns classic *Carnival of the Animals*, with movements depicting zoo animals like the elephant, the lion, and the swan, plus some humorous specimens like the pianists and the people with long ears.

The program also includes Ludwig Thuille's lush, romantic *Sextet for in B-flat Major, Op. 6*, and a showpiece for quintet alone.

WindSync can perform this program with regular collaborator Andrew Staupe (Assistant Professor of Piano, University of Houston) or with a concert pianist of the presenter's choice.

SELECTED REPERTOIRE

Carnival of the Animals
Camille Saint-Saëns

Sextet
Ludwig Thuille

Arabesque on 'The Blue Danube'
Johann Strauss/arr. Schulz-Evler



SONG BOOK

WINDSYNC + PERCUSSIONIST IVAN TREVINO

In this collaboration with percussionist Ivan Trevino, WindSync shows a heartfelt side inspired by songwriters. After trading individual sets, WindSync and Trevino join forces for a suite of instrumental songs. At moments, members of WindSync put down their instruments to sing, play vibraphone, or share poetry.

Mexican-American composer and percussionist Ivan Trevino is known for his honest blend of contemporary, percussive, and indie-rock sensibilities, with over 70 compositions to his credit. He is a drummer with the band Break of Reality and has served as a musical ambassador for the U. S. State Department. His work often intersects with poetry and storytelling. Trevino's *Song Book, Vol. 3* was written especially for his collaboration with WindSync and received an enthusiastic premiere at Houston's Miller Outdoor Theatre on September 29, 2018.

SELECTED REPERTOIRE

Ivan Trevino: Song Book, Vol. 3

Ivan Trevino: Strive to be Happy

Ivan Trevino: Baila

Marc Mellits: Apollo

Covers of songs by Radiohead,
Son Lux, and more





THE COSMOS

by Michael Gilbertson

I. Nebula

II. Comet

III. Solar Flares

IV. Dark Matter

V. Fusion

2018 Pulitzer Prize finalist Michael Gilbertson explores time and space with this concerto for wind quintet and orchestra that evokes the chaos and beauty of the known universe. WindSync moves through the performance space in moments of radial and antiphonal staging, creating a surround-sound effect for the audience.

The opening movement, Nebula, depicts the clouds of dust, gas, and light that combine to form stars. The second movement captures the circuitous orbit of a comet, growing louder and more brilliant it draws near. The third and fourth movements are inspired by the bursts of radiation released by solar flares and the mysterious force of dark matter. The final movement, Fusion, depicts the release of atomic energy that powers stars throughout the universe.

The Cosmos: Concerto for Wind Quintet and Orchestra was commissioned in partnership by the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra, Concert Artists Guild, and WindSync in 2016.

November
2016

Texas Premiere
River Oaks Chamber Orchestra

May 2016

World Premiere
Lafayette Symphony
Orchestra

RECENT AND UPCOMING PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

2021-2022

Arts Without Boundaries, Billings, MT
Matinée Musicale, Cincinnati, OH
Clarksville Community Concert Association, Clarksville, TN
Waterford Concert Series, Waterford, VA
Hope College Great Performance Series, Holland, MI
Cypress Creek FACE, Spring, TX
BIG ARTS, Sanibel, FL
California State University - Chico, Chico, CA
Dallas Chamber Music Society, Dallas, TX
University of Charleston, Charleston, WV
Chamber Music Society of Utica, Utica, NY

Past seasons

Adelphi University, Garden City, NY
Berkeley Chamber Performances, Berkeley, CA
Caramoor Music Center, Long Island, NY
Chautauqua Music Festival, Chautauqua, NY
Concerts from the Library of Congress, Washington, DC
Emerald City Music, Seattle, WA
Grand Teton Music Festival, Jackson, WY
Harriman-Jewell Series, Kansas City, MO
Lied Center, Lawrence, KS
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
New Orleans Friends of Music, New Orleans, LA
Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, Orcas Island, WA
Princeton University Summer Concerts, Princeton, NJ
Ravinia, Chicago, IL
River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, Houston, TX
Schneider Concerts, The New School, New York, NY
The Schubert Club, St. Paul, MN
Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, Shanghai, China
Skaneateles Festival, Skaneateles, NY
Strathmore Mansion, Rockville, MD
String Theory, Chattanooga, TN
Teatro La Huaca, Panama City, Panama
University of Maryland - Renegade Series, College Park, MD
Wake Forest University - Secrest Artist Series, Winston-Salem, NC
Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, New York, NY
Winnipeg Art Gallery - Women's Musical Club, Winnipeg, MB



COMMUNITY

WindSync has over ten years of experience performing outside the concert hall, going back to the group's very beginnings at school cafeterias and coffee shops. The portable, acoustic nature of the wind quintet lends itself well to concerts in community spaces like parks and museums, at social events, and more.

WindSync also nurtures an international community of fans online, with over **13,000 followers across social media platforms** and monthly Zoom hangouts with subscribers via Patreon.

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

The values of the creative placemaking movement--improving livability, galvanizing community involvement, and addressing the needs of a particular place--perfectly align with chamber music residencies. In 2017, WindSync was a pilot ensemble of Sound Places, a project exploring the musical possibilities of creative placemaking led by Chamber Music America with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. Throughout the year, WindSync curated events for the cultural district of Opelousas, Louisiana to activate public spaces identified by residents. These included the library, the courthouse square, and the Vieux Village historic site. WindSync has carried out similar projects in Lexington (KY), Montgomery (AL), Tulsa (OK), Seattle (WA), Reno (NV), and Houston (TX).

"WindSync is a wind quintet like you've never heard or seen, and they're made up of a group of virtuosos who are also wonderful people, too."

- Alison Young, Classical MPR

PARTNERS

National Wildlife Museum of Art
Chamber Music Festival of Lexington
Center for Performing Arts Medicine
Emerald City Music
Reno Chamber Orchestra
Museum of Natural Science (Houston)
Lunar and Planetary Institute
Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance



CONNECT

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nonprofit

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At home base in Houston, WindSync is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of families, children, and audiences at large through access to fresh and interactive chamber music.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura Reynolds, president
Erin Tsai, secretary
Daniel Allison
Julian Hernandez
Anni Hochhalter, executive director, musician chair



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