Redefining the wind quintet

Press kit
"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

"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
WINDSYNC

WindSync is a collective of five outstanding North American wind musicians who come together as performers, educators, and community-builders. WindSync concerts are intimate, joyful, and thoughtfully programmed with people and places in mind. The quintet eliminates the “fourth wall” by performing from memory, connecting quickly and memorably with audiences. Recent winners of the Concert Artists Guild and Fischoff competitions, they approach their mixed repertory of wind quintets and arrangements with the highest level of artistic dedication.

WindSync has appeared in recital at the Met Museum, Schubert Club, Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. In 2015, WindSync was invited by the Library of Congress to perform the world premiere of Paul Lansky’s “The Long and the Short of it,” commissioned by the Carolyn Royall Just Fund and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Their 2018-2019 season includes performances at the New School, Ravinia, and the Hobby Center, and premieres by composers Ivan Trevino, John Steinmetz, and Marc Mellits.

WindSync takes a special interest in reaching children, families, and underserved audiences. Part of the burgeoning creative placemaking movement, the ensemble has recently focused on performance in public spaces in Houston and in Opelousas, LA. They have been featured in educational concerts presented by the Seattle Symphony, Midland Symphony, and Orli Shaham’s “Baby Got Bach”, and their concerts for young people reach over 10,000 students per year.

Advocates of 21st century musicianship models, the members of WindSync have led master classes at New World Symphony, Texas Music Festival, and the University of Maryland Renegade Series, among others. WindSync has also served as ensemble-in-residence for Adelphi University, the Chamber Music Festival of Lexington (KY), and the Grand Teton Music Festival.

Garrett Hudson, flute
Emily Tsai, oboe
Julian Hernandez, clarinet
Anni Hochhalter, horn
Kara LaMoure, bassoon

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
Fischoff 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.

In honor of WindSync's 10th anniversary season, the ensemble's 2018-2019 repertoire explores ideas of heritage, childhood, heroes, and history. In each piece, we find a reflection of ourselves, pieces of our own stories and dreams for the future.

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 2018-2019

Wind Quintet No. 2
Miguel del Aguila

Passacaglia in D minor, BuxWV 161
Dieterich Buxtehude

Wind Quintet No. 1
Jean Françaix

Danzas Argentinas
Alberto Ginastera

Quintet in E-flat major, Op. 88 No. 2
Antoine Reicha

You Are My Sunshine
Jimmie Davis
SONG BOOK

WINDSYNC + PERCUSSIONIST IVAN TREVINO

In this collaboration with percussionist Ivan Trevino, WindSync sometimes sounds more like a rock band than a wind quintet. After trading individual sets, WindSync and Trevino join forces for a set 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.

Song Book is most effective with amplification under the care of a sound production team.

SELECTED REPertoire

Ivan Trevino: Song Book, Vols. 1-3
Marc Mellits: new work
Covers of songs by Sigur Rós, Radiohead, Son Lux, and more
APOLLO MULTIMEDIA RECITAL

WindSync presents a space-themed program that explores music at the crossroads of science and the human imagination.

A Jules Verne-inspired operetta by Offenbach represents cosmic fantasies from a time when visiting space was a distant dream.

Marc Mellits’ first wind quintet celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing. The music is driving, rhythmic, and infused with funk and minimalism—musical legacies of the 1960s.

In a nod to the ensemble’s hometown of Houston and the achievements of NASA, the program features a suite of pieces from the Voyager Golden Record curated by astrophysicist Carl Sagan. The selections take listeners on a whirlwind tour of music history from Bach to Chuck Berry.

The program is designed to be an immersive multimedia experience. Audio visual selections include the breakthrough 1902 silent film "A Trip to the Moon", images and sounds from Earth as curated by Carl Sagan, and footage from NASA moon missions courtesy of the Lunar and Planetary Institute.

Venues must have the ability to project video and play sound through the house system.

SELECTED REPERTOIRE

Jacques Offenbach: A Trip to the Moon
Marc Mellits: new work
Selections from the Voyager Golden Record
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 a new 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. A consortium of ensembles is currently assembling to commission a wind ensemble arrangement.

November 2016
Texas Premiere
River Oaks Chamber Orchestra

May 2016
World Premiere
Lafayette Symphony Orchestra
RECENT AND UPCOMING PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

2018-2019

Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival, Orcas Island, WA
Chamber Music Festival of Lexington, Lexington, KY
Bryan Friends of Chamber Music, Bryan, TX
Adelphi University, Garden City, NY
Epiphany Catholic Church, Miami, FL
Strathmore Mansion, Rockville, MD
Schneider Concerts, The New School, New York, NY
Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX
Ravinia, Chicago, IL
Clefworks, Montgomery, AL
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
New Orleans Friends of Music, New Orleans, LA
Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston, Houston, TX
Winnipeg Art Gallery - Women’s Musical Club, Winnipeg, MB
Lied Center, Lawrence, KS

Past seasons

Anchorage Concert Association, Anchorage, AK
Berkeley Chamber Performances, Berkeley, CA
Caramoor Music Center, Long Island, NY
Chamber Music Society of St. Cloud, St. Cloud, MN
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
Lafayette Symphony Orchestra, Lafayette, IN
Los Alamos Concert Association, Los Alamos, NM
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Miller Outdoor Theater, Houston, TX
Princeton University Summer Concerts, Princeton, NJ
River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, Houston, TX
Quad City Arts Residency, Davenport, IA
The Schubert Club, St. Paul, MN
Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, Shanghai, China
Skaneateles Festival, Skaneateles, NY
String Theory, Chattanooga, TN
Teatro La Huaca, Panama City, Panama
University of Maryland - Renegade Series, College Park, MD
Virginia Arts Festival, Norfolk, VA
Wake Forest University - Secret Artist Series, Winston-Salem, NC
Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, New York, NY
WindSync’s signature concert program for children and families celebrates storytelling through music. The cornerstone work is Sergei Prokofiev’s classic ‘Peter and the Wolf’. The musicians do triple duty as narrators, characters, and sound track in this fully staged adaptation, complete with costumes and choreography. Young people learn about how the instruments produce sound through an old-fashioned Texas hoedown, and they connect musical terms to dance through selections from Bernstein’s ‘West Side Story’. The audience performs, too, clapping rhythm patterns in a rousing finale.

EDUCATION

Collaborating annually with youth orchestras including the Coda Music Program of the Houston Youth Symphony, 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. In 2012, WindSync partnered with Da Camera of Houston to commission Mark Bulter’s “The Town Musicians of Bremen,” a theatrical piece for wind quintet, elementary school orchestra, and narrator. The piece has since been performed side-by-side with students from four elementary schools in Houston Independent School District.

PARTNERS
Music for Autism
Young Audiences of Houston
Chamber Music Festival of Lexington
Center for Performing Arts Medicine
COMMUNITY

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

While the creative placemaking movement is gaining momentum around the globe, it is most often associated with the visual arts rather than the performing arts. Small ensembles are perfect for reaching out to communities at large because they are portable and acoustic, and they provide audiences with the opportunity to experience live music in their own neighborhoods. The values of placemaking—improving livability, galvanizing community involvement, and addressing the needs of a particular place—perfectly match with chamber music residencies.

WindSync is one of two pilot ensembles of the Sound Places program, a joint effort of Chamber Music America and the Project for Public Spaces with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts, to assist Louisiana cultural districts in their placemaking goals. In 2017, WindSync was granted support toward quarterly visits to the city of Opelousas, LA, where the ensemble has undertaken a year-long educational project at South Street Elementary School and J.S. Clark Academy, has assisted with producing events to energize the city library, courthouse square, and Vieux Village historic site, and has engaged in Project for Public Spaces workshops to imagine a better Opelousas.

WindSync has partnered with presenters in cities including Anchorage, AK, St. Paul, MN, Lexington, KY, and Seattle, WA to activate public spaces through pop up style concerts. The venues include museums, markets, green spaces, and public squares.

ONSTAGE OFFSTAGE
CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

In 2017, WindSync launched a new and unconventional concert series for Houston. The Onstage Offstage Chamber Music Festival includes partnerships with the Houston Youth Symphony, Hobby Center, Center for Performing Arts Medicine, Archway Gallery, and Young Audiences of Houston to spotlight the breadth of WindSync’s work in the community. Onstage Offstage is dedicated to making extraordinary chamber music accessible to new audiences in both concert halls and in non-traditional spaces.

Guest artists have included string ensembles Kinetic, Apollo Chamber Players, and Invoke. Programming includes a week-long residency in three elementary schools in Houston’s Near Northside neighborhood, concerts at Houston Methodist West Hospital and the Medical Center’s Crane Garden, a concert at Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston, and several interactive pop up concerts in Houston’s outdoor spaces.
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.

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WWW.WINDSYNC.ORG

booking
Laura Dunaway
Park Avenue Artists
646-598-7990/212-729-4566
Laura.Dunway@parkavenueartists.com

nonprofit
Anni Hochhalter
Executive Director
832-639-4212
contact@windsync.org