



BBCO:

BIG BEND COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

presents

100 Years of Gershwin's
Rhapsody in Blue

BBCO's 104th Public Performance

Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 3:30PM
Lee Hall Auditorium, Florida A&M University

Dr. Shelby Chipman, *Music Director/Conductor*
Dr. Michael Douty, *Associate Conductor*
Lisa M. Foltz, *Guest Conductor*



Big Bend Community Orchestra

Celebrating 100 Years of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue
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Lee Hall Auditorium, Florida A&M University

Kirkpatrick Fanfare

Andrew Boysen, Jr.

b. 1968

Symphonic Sketches

I. Jubilee

George Whitefield Chadwick

(1854-1931)

Legends, Op. 59, B. 117

I. Allegretto non troppo, quasi andantino

II. Molto moderato

III. Allegro giusto

IV. Molto maestoso

Antonin Dvorak

(1841-1904)

Trumpet Concerto in D

I. Adagio

II. Allegro

III. Grave

IV. Allegro

Georg Philipp Telemann

(1681-1767)

Guest soloist: Julian White, II, piccolo trumpet

Overture to the First Suite from "L'Arlesienne"

Georges Bizet

(1838-1875)

Strike Up the Band

George Gershwin

(1898-1937)

Rhapsody in Blue

George Gershwin

(1898-1937)

Guest soloist: Joanna Sobkowska-Parsons, piano

Unity

Glorraine Moone

(1947-2016)

*Featuring Florida A&M University students from
Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Sigma Alpha Iota and Tau Beta Sigma*

Big Bend Community Orchestra Personnel

Dr. Shelby Chipman, *Music Director/Conductor*

Dr. Michael Douty, *Associate Conductor*

Lisa M. Foltz, *Guest Conductor*

Violin I

Jon Ahlquist** Concertmaster
Karalee Poschman
Michael Mascagni
K.J. Hills
Nikki Grondzik
Mackenzie Janes
Lisa Herbert
Dominic Schimizzi
Elaine Ignacio
Noah Thomas
Makeda McKinney

Violin II

Gail Collins**
Judy Blancett ^
Vicky Pharis
Kassidy Hopkins
Evelyn Becerra
Lee Robertson
Ethan Pittman
Jasmine Montgomery
Zamir Johnson
Isaac Thomas

Viola

Justice Crawford**
Angelique Tran
Ed Lyon
Katie Dale
Andrea Repp ^
Jo Martinez

Cello

Allison Corrigan**
James Brown
Chelsea Blomberg
Kirstin Heagney
Jan DeLaney
Candalee Jones
Alex Yarusso
Corynne Moss-Brewer
Marjorie Jerez
Matthew Fiallos

Double Bass

Georges Weatherly**

Flute/Piccolo

Mona McGregor**
Olga Lenczewska

Oboe

Claire Williamson
Susan Maynard** ^

Clarinet

Ginny Densmore* ^
Linda Schmidt* ^

Bassoon

Kira Harding**
Steve Gwin

Saxophone

Michael Douty - Alto
Sara Pankaskie – Tenor

Horn

George Luke**
Paul Kaufmann
Ellen LaBarre

Trumpet

Charlie Baker**
Julian White II
Kathleen Dieckmann

Trombone

Rob Ragsdale**
David Thayer

Bass Trombone

Jerrold Pinter

Tuba

John Geisler

Percussion

Shaylor James** ^
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Owen Ricks
Veronica Donnelly

Piano

Joanna Sobkowska-
Parsons

Recordings

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Program Notes



This is the 104th concert of the Big Bend Community Orchestra (BBCO). It marks the end of the 30th year since the BBCO's founding in February 1994 by Ginny Densmore and Waldie Anderson, a retired voice professor from Michigan State University. Waldie Anderson died in 2011 at age 81, but Ginny Densmore still plays clarinet in the BBCO. Over 900 musicians have participated in the orchestra over those years, with over 100 having played with the BBCO for over 5 years. This concert honors 20 current members who have participated in the BBCO for over 15 years, including conductor Dr. Shelby Chipman, FAMU music professor.

Kirkpatrick Fanfare

Andrew Boysen, Jr.

Conductor: Dr. Michael Douty, Director of Bands and Orchestra at Fairview Middle School

The Irish character of this music is established by the opening theme played on a tin whistle by BBCO flutist/piccolo player Mona McGregor and augmented by the use of a handheld Irish drum, the bodhrán (pronounced BOE-rawn), played by Veronica Donnelly. "O Danny Boy" is quoted in the second half of the piece. Composer Andrew Boysen, Jr., is a music professor at the University of New Hampshire, where he conducts the wind symphony and teaches conducting and composition.

Jubilee from "Symphonic Sketches"

George Whitefield Chadwick (1854-1931)

Conductor: Lisa M. Foltz, Director of Bands at Tallahassee State College, BBCO Assoc. Cond. 2014-2017

George Whitefield Chadwick (often called the "Dean of American Composers"), Amy Beach, Arthur Foote, Edward MacDowell, John Knowles Paine, and Horatio Parker were collectively known as the "Second New England School" or the "Boston Six." They were responsible for the first significant body of concert music by American composers. "Jubilee" is the opening movement of Chadwick's "Symphonic Sketches." On the title page of the score is this two-verse poem:

*No cool gray tones for me!
Give me the warmest red and green,
A cornet and a tambourine,
To paint my Jubilee!*

*For when pale flutes and oboes play
To sadness I become a prey;
Give me the violets and the May,
But no gray skies for me.*

(As an aside, musicologists point to "Carnival Overture" by Dvorak, our next composer, as an influence on Chadwick's "Jubilee.")

Movements I-IV from "Legends"

Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904)

Conductor: Michael Douty

Czech composer Antonin Dvorak initially supported himself playing violin and viola in various groups around Prague until performances of his compositions finally brought sufficient recognition in 1873 when he was 31. During February-March 1881 when he was 39, Dvorak wrote ten pieces called "Legends" for piano four hands. He arranged these for orchestra later the same year. Beginning with their orchestral premier in 1882, they are often performed as selected movements. Today, we perform the first four movements: (1) Allegretto, (2) Molto moderato, (3) Allegro giusto, and (4) Molto maestoso.

Trumpet Concerto in D

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)

Conductor: Michael Douty Soloist: Julian White, II, piccolo trumpet

Telemann composed his trumpet concerto in D for a “natural” (valveless) trumpet sometime between 1710 and 1720. A valveless trumpet can play only a limited selection of notes, not all of which are well in tune. A century later in 1820, the trumpet was redesigned with valves, greatly expanding its capabilities. Our soloist today, Julian White, II, will play a piccolo trumpet (which has valves), invented in 1890 and tuned an octave higher than a standard modern trumpet. Concertos typically have three movements arranged as fast, slow, fast, but this concerto has four movements with the structure of a church sonata (“sonata da chiesa”): slow, fast, slow, fast. Also unusual is that the trumpet does not play during the third movement. Telemann may have done this to give the soloist a rest, given the demands of this concerto.

Overture to the First Suite from “L’Arlesienne”

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Conductor: Dr. Shelby Chipman, Director of Bands & professor of music at FAMU

Georges Bizet composed the incidental music for the play “L’Arlesienne” (“The Girl from Arles”) by Alphonse Daudet in 1872. The play, which opened on 1 October 1872, was not well received, so Bizet extracted two very successful suites, the first of which was premiered on 10 November 1872. We are performing the first movement of the first suite. The next year (1873), Bizet began composing the music for his opera “Carmen,” which premiered in March 1875. A heavy smoker, he died three months later at age 36, apparently from a heart attack.

Strike Up the Band

George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Conductor: Shelby Chipman

George Gershwin composed the music for the musical “Strike Up the Band” in 1927, and his brother Ira wrote the lyrics. In its original form, the musical was not successful. After the onset of the Great Depression in 1929, the story was rewritten, making it sillier, for its Broadway premier in 1930. In 1940, Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney starred in a movie of the same name based on a completely different story, using “Strike Up the Band” as the theme for the movie’s opening and grand finale. The version we are performing is an arrangement from 1943. (As an aside, Gershwin is sometimes referred to as a “grand student” of Antonin Dvorak (see above), because Gershwin received instruction from Rubin Goldmark, a student of Dvorak’s.)

Rhapsody in Blue

George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Conductor: Shelby Chipman Soloist: Joanna Sobkowska, piano

This year, 2024, marks the 100th anniversary of the composition and debut of George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” for solo piano and Paul Whiteman’s jazz-band orchestra, blending jazz and classical music. Whiteman’s arranger Ferde Grofé (of “Grand Canyon Suite” fame) orchestrated the rhapsody three times: the 1924 original scoring (posted at YouTube with Gershwin as piano soloist accompanied by Paul Whiteman and his orchestra, including banjo!), the 1926 pit orchestra scoring, and the 1942 symphonic scoring, which we are playing today. (As an aside, Paul Whiteman and his orchestra is the professional musical ensemble featured in the movie “Strike Up the Band.”)

Unity

Glorraine Moone (1947-2016)

Conductor: Shelby Chipman

Glorraine Moone (1947-2016) published “Unity” in 1989. She based her lyrics on Psalm 133:1: “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Rev. Freddie Washington collaborated with her on the music, and Rev. Dr. Daniel Mario Cason II arranged and scored it. Today we are performing an arrangement of “Unity” for orchestra and choir by Prof. Lindsey Sarjeant, chair of the FAMU Music Department. The Big Bend Community Orchestra will be joined by a choir composed of the student organizations of the FAMU Department of Music: Tau Beta Sigma, national honorary band sorority; Kappa Kappa Psi, national honorary band fraternity; Sigma Alpha Iota, national music fraternity for women; Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, national music fraternity for men; and the National Association for Music Education. (As an aside, composer and educator George Chadwick cited above is responsible for suggesting that “Sinfonia” be part of the name of the men’s music fraternity “Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.”)

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BBCO

Soloists



Julian White, II, *Trumpet Soloist*

Julian White, II, is a trumpet performance major studying with Roy Poper at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He is the son of FAMU music professors Dr. Julian White, retired Distinguished Professor of Music, Director of Bands, and Chairman of the Music Department, and Dennine Mathis White, professor of flute.

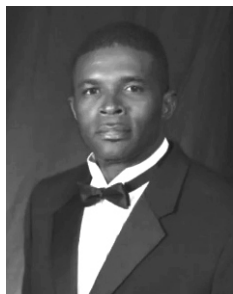


Dr. Joanna Sobkowska Parsons, *Piano Soloist*

Pianist **Dr. Joanna Sobkowska-Parsons** of the Florida A&M University music faculty graduated from the Fryderyk Chopin National Conservatory in Warsaw and earned master's and doctoral degrees in piano performance from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. Before coming to FAMU, she served on the faculties of the Universidad del Cauca and the Universidad del Valle in Colombia, South America. At FAMU, she teaches piano and performs extensively as a soloist and chamber musician. Joanna has appeared with many prominent artists in a broad repertoire ranging from baroque to premiers of new compositions. She has performed on the concert series of the Warsaw Philharmonic; at the Festival Internacional del Piano in Bucaramanga, Colombia; the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina; the FSU Festival of New Music in Tallahassee, Florida; and CASMI International Summer Program in Prague, Czech Republic.



BBCO Conductors



Dr. Shelby Chipman, *Musical Director*

Dr. Shelby R. Chipman is the Director of Bands and an associate professor at Florida A&M University (FAMU). His responsibilities in the Department of Music include teaching Instrumental Music Education, conducting, and coordinating student recitals and student teachers (as music interns). Additionally, he conducts the Marching 100 and Pep Bands, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and String Ensemble. He is a native of Miami, where he graduated from Miami Northwestern Senior High. He received his Bachelor of Science degrees in Computer Science and Music Education from Florida A&M University, where he was conducting student of Dr. William P. Foster and Dr. Julian E. White. Professor Chipman completed his master's degree in music education at the University of Illinois, and received his Ph.D. in music education from the Florida State University (FSU) College of Music.

Prior to his appointment at FAMU, he taught music in the Miami-Dade County Public School system for 10 years. His band program at Miami Central High School developed into one of the finest band programs in the country. As much as a teacher as he was a musician, Dr. Chipman was named Teacher of the Year during the 1993-94 school year. Under his leadership the Rocket Marching band performed in the 1993, 1995, and 1997 King Orange Jamboree Parades, 1993 Heritage Festival (New Orleans), 1990-96 FAMU's Homecoming Festivals (Tallahassee, Fla.), 1992-97 MLK Parades & Festival (St. Petersburg, Fla.), 1997 Macy's Day Parade (New York City), and numerous other marching events. The Miami Central High School Symphonic Band performed at the prestigious Bands of America National Concert Festival in Indianapolis, IN.

Dr. Chipman is a member of Kappa Kappa Psi Band Fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Music Educators National Conference (MENC), Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA), Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA), College Band Directors National Conference (CBDNA), FMEA Black Caucus, and Bethel AME Church (Tallahassee). He has coordinated numerous band festivals and had the pleasure of working with James Croft, Timothy Reynish, James Suddith, Jim Sparks, Gary Green, Anthony Maiello, and Eugene Corporon, who represent some of the finest conductors in the world. In addition to working with these outstanding conductors, Dr. Chipman has presented music education and conducting clinics on several public school and college campuses, as well as given lectures at the FMEA conference and Mid-West Band & Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. He is an active adjudicator and clinician throughout the Southeastern United States and currently serves as music director/conductor of the Tallahassee Big Bend Community Orchestra, as well as the Florida collegiate advisor for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). Dr. Chipman is married to Detrick LaShawn and together they have one son, Israel Armenian Chipman.



Dr. Michael Douty, *Associate Conductor*

A professional musician and educator since 2005, Dr. Michael Douty fosters an enthusiastic, positive rehearsal environment for ensembles under his direction. After earning a Bachelor's degree in Instrumental Music Education from Milligan College, Douty taught elementary music and grades 6-12 band in Greene County, Tennessee. He then earned a Master of Music at the University of Tennessee, studying conducting with Dr. Gary Sousa, and a Ph.D. at Florida State University, conducting wind ensembles with Prof. Richard Clary, orchestra with Dr. Alexander Jiménez, and choir with Dr. André Thomas. Douty has directed numerous church and community ensembles, has performed professionally on multiple woodwinds for theater and orchestra, and currently teaches band and orchestra at Fairview Middle School in Tallahassee. An advocate for new music, Douty has conducted chamber music by Ondrej Štochl for

the biennial FSU Festival of New Music and has commissioned and directed new works by Michael Markowski and Jorge Variego. In his 2019 dissertation, Douty highlighted significant contributions of female composers to the repertoire for chamber winds. He now resides in Tallahassee with his wife and two children.



Lisa M. Foltz, *Guest Conductor*

Since July 2019, Lisa M. Foltz has served as Director of Bands at Tallahassee State College ("TSC"), where she conducts Capital City Band of TSC and TSC Jazz Band. Prior to this, she enjoyed serving as Associate Conductor (August 2017-July 2019) and as Guest Conductor (January-July 2017) of Capital City Band of TSC alongside mentor and friend Michael Grant.

Following several appearances as Guest Conductor for the Big Bend Community Orchestra "BBCO" at TCC (2011-2013), Maestra Foltz served as Associate/Assistant Conductor of the BBCO (2014-2017) and was the Conductor and Organizer of the BBCO Summer Reading Orchestras. Maestra Foltz concurrently served on the BBCO's Board of Directors as Publicity Chair and Educational Outreach Chair, organizing and running the BBCO's annual Young Artist Competition (2014-2017).

Maestra Foltz holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music (organ and voice) from Jacksonville University, and a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Florida State University. Post-graduation, she has completed extensive studies in orchestral, wind band, and choral conducting through additional coursework, masterclasses, workshops, institutes, and rehearsal observations, locally, nationally, and internationally.



Dr. Stephen
Richardson

