

BBCO:
BIG BEND COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

FALL CONCERT

FATE & FIRE

BBCO'S 106TH PUBLIC PERFORMANCE



**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 8, 2025
3:00PM**

**LEE HALL AUDITORIUM
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY**

DR. SHELBY CHIPMAN
MUSIC DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR

DR. MICHAEL DOUTY
ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

Big Bend Community Orchestra

Fall Concert “Fate & Fire” *BBCO’s 106th Public Performance*

Dr. Shelby Chipman, *Music Director/Conductor*
Dr. Michael Douty, *Associate Conductor*
Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 3:00pm
Lee Hall Auditorium, Florida A&M University

Procession of the Nobles from “Mlada” Suite

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
(1844-1908)

Overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus*, Op. 43

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

The Firebird Suite (1919)

- III. Khorovod (Round Dance) of the Princesses
- IV. Infernal Dance of King Koschei
- V. Berceuse and Finale

Igor Stravinsky
(1882-1971)

Symphony No. 4

IV. Finale: Allegro con fuoco

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840-1893)



Next concert:

April 25, 2026
3:00 PM

Turner Auditorium, Tallahassee State College

*Please join us for our Young Artist Competition Concert and Annual Fundraiser.
The Spring Concert will be followed by a reception and silent auction.*

Program Notes



The unifying theme of today's BBCO concert is ballet. This concert features music by German composer Ludwig van Beethoven and Russian composers Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, Igor Stravinsky, and Pyotr Tchaikovsky. Tchaikovsky is best known for his ballets ("The Nutcracker," "Sleeping Beauty," and "Swan Lake"), but he is today's exception. We will hear the final movement from his fourth symphony. Beethoven is best known for his symphonies, but today we will hear the overture to his one and only ballet. The selection by Rimsky-Korsakov is from his opera-ballet "Mlada" and that by Stravinsky is from the 1919 suite to his ballet "The Firebird."

Mlada Suite, Fifth movement: Cortege

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

"Cortege" is the fifth and final movement of the orchestral suite arranged from Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's 1889 opera-ballet, Mlada. This movement is commonly known as the "Procession of the Nobles," and it serves as the grand orchestral introduction to Act II of the full work. The piece is famous for its powerful brass fanfares and percussion, depicting a festival scene. Despite the relative obscurity of the full opera-ballet due to its large cast and stage requirements, the "Procession of the Nobles" is regularly performed on orchestral programs and has been used as the theme music for three former television journalism series.

Overture to "The Creatures of Prometheus"

Ludwig van Beethoven

German ballets are rare, so it is understandable that Ludwig van Beethoven wrote only one ballet, "The Creatures of Prometheus." It premiered in Vienna on 28 March 1801 and in New York on 14 June 1808, one of Beethoven's first full-length works to be performed in the United States. In the ballet, "The Creatures of Prometheus" are two human figures that the Greek god Prometheus makes from clay, but he finds them ignorant and without soul. He takes them to Mount Parnassus to meet Apollo, the god of the arts, who commands Amphion, Arion and Orpheus to teach music and Melpomene and Thalia to teach tragedy and comedy. The humans also meet with Terpsichore who, with Pan, introduces them to the Pastoral Dance, followed by Dionysus, who introduces them to Heroic Dance. After their education is complete, they are fully human and ready to enter the world, symbolizing humanity's enlightenment through the arts and sciences. This reflects Beethoven's own support of Europe's Age of Enlightenment (the Age of Reason).

Firebird Suite (1919 version), Movements 3-5

Igor Stravinsky

Stravinsky wrote "The Firebird" ballet for the 1910 Paris season of Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. He extracted orchestral suites from the ballet in 1911, 1919, and 1945. The 1919 version is the most commonly performed. The ballet's two central characters are Prince Ivan, and his love, the Princess Katerina, the tsar's daughter (tsarevna). The truly interesting characters, though, are the two main side characters, the firebird and the evil King Koschei the Deathless. "Koschei," pronounced approximately as kuh-SHEE, is spelled in at least six different ways when transcribed into English from the Russian Cyrillic form "Кощей." Koschei is deathless because his soul has been separated from his old, ugly,

Program Notes (cont.)

emaciated body. His soul is in a needle inside an egg, inside a duck, inside a hare, inside a locked iron chest, buried under an oak tree on the mythical island of Buyan in the middle of the ocean. The idea of Koschei's soul being hidden remotely in objects separated from his deathless body was probably the inspiration for J. K. Rowling's horcruxes that held the soul of "Harry Potter" villain Voldemort. Below are the last three movements of the 1919 Firebird Suite and what they represent.

III. Khorovod (Round Dance) of the Princesses

This slow and elegant movement follows the appearance of 13 princesses captured by Koschei from various lands. The music, featuring a melancholy Russian folk song, depicts the princesses in a slow and dignified round dance. During this dance, Prince Ivan falls in love with the most beautiful princess, Tsarevna Katerina, the tsar's daughter.

IV. Infernal Dance of King Koschei

A sudden, powerful change in the music announces Koschei and his minions. This is the suite's most energetic and rhythmic section, with jagged syncopation and explosive brass. A spell by the Firebird forces Koschei and his followers to dance frantically until they collapse from exhaustion.

V. Berceuse and Finale

The final section combines two parts of the ballet.

Berceuse (Lullaby): Following the infernal dance, a haunting and delicate lullaby, led by a solo bassoon, lulls Koschei and his creatures to sleep. This allows Prince Ivan to find and destroy the nested containers holding Koschei's soul, which breaks the evil spell and kills Koschei.

Finale: The music shifts from the quiet lullaby to a triumphant, glorious climax. A majestic folk tune, first introduced by the horn, swells in the full orchestra, celebrating the triumph of good over evil, the return of daylight, and the wedding of Prince Ivan and Princess Katerina.

Symphony No. 4, Fourth movement: Finale

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky wrote his fourth symphony between 1877 and 1878. He dedicated it to his patroness, Nadezhda von Meck. The fourth and final movement is marked "Allegro con fuoco" (Fast with fire). It has four sections, the first and last sections in F Major and the middle two sections in minor. The first section in F Major (measures 1-59) is indeed fast and fiery. The second section (measures 60-198) is the longest. Beginning quietly and calmly, it is a setting of the famous Russian folk song, "In the Field Stood a Birch Tree," first in A minor, then in B \flat minor, and finally in D minor. The third section is the shortest, a 24-measure andante in which Tchaikovsky has the woodwinds and trumpet loudly reintroduce the "Fate" theme from the first movement and then quietly die out. ("Fate" is the symphony's nickname.) The fourth section in F Major (measures 223-293) begins quietly and grows over the next 25 measures to triple forte. From there, the movement marches to the end with vigor and triumph.

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 a teacher as 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 Ondřej 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.

Big Bend Community Orchestra Personnel

Dr. Shelby Chipman, *Music Director/Conductor*

Dr. Michael Douty, *Associate Conductor*

Violin I

Jon Ahlquist** Concertmaster
Lisa Herbert
Michael Mascagni
Dominic Schimizzi
Nikki Grondzik
Mackenzie Janes
Kassidy Hopkins
Sean Hartman

Violin II

Gail Collins**
Julie Sherman*
Edna Lowe
Judy Blancett ^
Fauna Mitchell
Ethan Pittman-Sabol
Kinley Corrigan
Bailey Meros

Viola

Mary Purvis**
Katie Dale
Ed Lyon
Andrea Repp ^
Athena Thai

Cello

Allison Corrigan**
Cameron Polomski
Cheryl Frazier
James Brown
Chelsea Blomberg
Kirstin Heagney
Victor Dickenson
Olivia Lazaro
Alannah Elliott

Double Bass

Georges Weatherly**

Flute

Mona McGregor*
Janie Wulff*

Piccolo

Kadeejah Walton

Oboe

Zina Ward*
Susan Maynard* ^

Clarinet

Ginny Densmore* ^
Geoff Bradford
(Linda Schmidt* ^)

Bass Clarinet

Jayden Rivera

Bassoon

Kira Harding**
Steve Gwin

Contra-Bassoon

William Buckner

Horn

George Luke**
Paul Kaufmann
Pam Whitworth
Marcus Bryant

Trumpet

Charlie Baker**
Hunter Garcia
Kathleen Dieckmann

Trombone

Rob Ragsdale**
Caden Ragsdale

Bass Trombone

Jerrold Pinter

Tuba

David Thayer

Percussion

Shaylor James** ^
Eliot Whitworth
Owen Ricks

Recordings

David Fusselman ^

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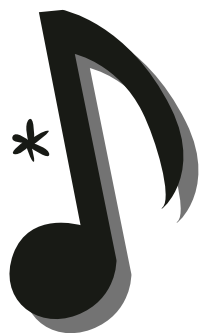
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BIG BEND COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

The competition is open to instrumentalists who play violin, viola, cello, string bass, guitar, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, harp, piano, or percussion.

The competition is open to musicians in grades 1-12 whose ages fit within one of the competition's three categories, based on the age of the applicant at the time of the competition: Age 7-10, 11-14, or 15-18.

Candidates must reside in Leon, Calhoun, Gadsden, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, or Wakulla counties in Florida or in Brooks, Colquitt, Decatur, Grady, Lowndes, Mitchell, Thomas, or Seminole counties in Georgia.

FIRST PLACE WINNERS WILL PERFORM WITH THE BIG BEND COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA AND WILL RECEIVE A \$100 CASH AWARD!

WINNERS IN THE AGE 15-18 AND 11-14 CATEGORIES WILL PERFORM WITH THE ORCHESTRA. THE AGE 7-10 WINNER WILL PERFORM WITH STRING QUARTET AND OPTIONAL PIANO.

SECOND PLACE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A \$50 CASH AWARD! CASH PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE SPRING BBCO CONCERT.



COMPETITION: JANUARY 31, 2026
BETWEEN 9:00 AM AND 1:00 PM AT FAMU
CONCERT: APRIL 25, 2026 AT TSC



More information and registration at:
www.bigbendcommunityorchestra.org