



The Big Bend Community Orchestra

*presents our*

Young Artist Competition Concert  
and Annual Fundraiser

*105th Public Performance*

Shelby Chipman, *Music Director*  
Michael Douty, *Associate Conductor*  
Yuliia Billa, *Guest Conductor*

Saturday, April 26, 2025  
3:00PM, Turner Auditorium  
Tallahassee State College



# About the BBCO

The BBCO is dedicated to the enhanced appreciation and understanding of orchestral music by providing an opportunity for musicians to play and learn together, encouraging school age children to become interested in music through educational programs, and performing orchestral music for the public. The BBCO is an all volunteer organization and consists of more than fifty musicians of all ages and many walks of life including business leaders, professionals, retirees, homemakers, music teachers, and students who enjoy playing orchestral literature. The late Waldie Anderson, conductor from 1994 until 2004, co-founded the orchestra with Ginny Densmore. Dr. James Croft led the organization from 2004-2007 and Dr. Shelby Chipman has been the director since the fall of 2007.

The BBCO has presented more than 100 concerts and performed over 400 compositions by a variety of composers. Programming includes standard and lesser-known masterpieces of the orchestral repertoire, as well as lighter classics and “pops”. The BBCO has enjoyed showcasing a variety of local talent including soloists of all ages from the orchestra itself and from the community. Each fall a “Young Artist Competition” is held and the winners have a chance to perform a solo with the orchestra. Also, at the end of every concert, children in the audience are given the opportunity to come on stage so they can see and hear the instruments “up close and personal.” Membership in the orchestra is open to all capable musicians on a space available basis. For more information about the orchestra and for anyone interested in auditioning, visit our website at [www.BigBendCommunityOrchestra.org](http://www.BigBendCommunityOrchestra.org) or email us at [info@bigbendcommunityorchestra.com](mailto:info@bigbendcommunityorchestra.com). Rehearsals are held on Thursday nights 7:15-9:30PM (Sept-April).

The BBCO is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Tax-deductible contributions help support the BBCO and are very much appreciated.



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# Big Bend Community Orchestra

105th Public Performance  
Shelby Chipman, *Music Director*  
Michael Douty, *Associate Conductor*  
Yuliia Billa, *Guest Conductor*  
Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.  
TSC Turner Auditorium

Overture to “La Forza del Destino”  
*Conductor: Michael Douty*

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Enigma Variations VIII (W. N.) and IX (Nimrod)  
*Conductor: Yulia Billa*

Edward Elgar (1854-1931)

Violin Concerto No. 2 in B Minor, Op. 35, First Movement  
*Soloist: Julian Coke-Ugay*

Oskar Rieding (1846-1916)

Violin Concerto in C Major, Op. 48, First movement  
*Soloist: Jessica Wang, Conductor: Michael Douty*

Dmitry Kabalevsky (1904-1987)

Concert Piece for Horn, Op. 94  
*Soloist: Tatum Tschetter, Conductor: Michael Douty*

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Overture to “Ruslan and Ludmilla”  
*Conductor: Michael Douty*

Mikhail Glinka (1804-1857)

*Reception and Silent Auction to follow*



Next Concert:

November 2025  
See you in the fall!

# Program Notes

## **Overture to “La Forza del Destino”**

**Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)**

*Conductor: Michael Doubt*

Today's concert begins and ends with overtures to operas that share two things in common: (i) both had their premieres in St. Petersburg, Russia (“La Forza del Destino” in 1862), and (ii) both deal with young couples that want to marry. At the beginning of “La Forza del Destino,” a young couple is preparing to elope. The girl's father strongly opposes the fiancé and confronts the couple. The fiancé accidentally kills the father, and the girl's brother swears revenge. The couple runs away separately. After years apart, the main characters are brought together by fate, and they recognize each other. The man who used to be the fiancé mortally wounds the brother in a duel. Before the brother dies, he stabs his sister to death. The moral of the story is that you cannot escape the force of destiny. Verdi wrote the version of the overture we will play today for the opera's premier in Milan at La Scala in 1869. The revision for La Scala also spared the life of the fiancé, who threw himself off a cliff at the end of the original version.

## **Enigma Variations VIII (W. N.) and IX (Nimrod)**

**Edward Elgar (1854-1931)**

*Guest conductor: Yuliia Billa*

After a tiring day of teaching on 21 October 1898, Edward Elgar was doodling on the piano. His wife complimented him on one of the tunes, and he proceeded to improvise variations that reflected aspects of some of his friends. This became the basis for what Elgar developed into his orchestral “Enigma Variations.” The “enigma” is that each variation was accompanied by a set of letters or a word that was not explained at the time of publication. Scholars have subsequently decoded the enigmas as references to various people. The label “W. N.” for Variation VIII refers to Winifred Norbury, one of the secretaries of the Worcester Philharmonic Society. Variation IX, the most popular of the variations, is labeled “Nimrod,” a mighty hunter in the Old Testament, which refers to Augustus J. Jaeger (“Jaeger” is German for “hunter”), who was a music editor at the London publisher Novello & Co. Jaeger once encouraged Elgar to continue composing when Elgar was ready to quit because of depression.

## **Violin Concerto No. 2 in B Minor, Op. 35, First Movement**

**Oskar Rieding (1846-1916)**

*Soloist: Julian Coker-Ugay*

Oskar Rieding was a German violinist and music teacher who composed music for young violinists. One of his most played compositions is the violin concerto No. 2 in B minor, opus 35. Our accompaniment for string orchestra is a transcription of the original accompaniment for piano.

## **Violin Concerto in C Major, Op. 48, First movement**

**Dmitry Kabalevsky (1904-1987)**

*Soloist: Jessica Wang, conductor: Michael Doubt*

Russian composer Dmitry Kabalevsky dedicated his 1948 violin concerto to Soviet youth, having been involved in music education since the 1930s. Further, World War II had claimed the lives of 15% of the Soviet population, mostly civilians, so the Soviet Union had a huge amount of rebuilding to do. This concerto is both technically challenging and fun. Igor Bezrodny, age 18, premiered the work in November 1948, and David Oistrakh was the first to record it in 1949. Kabalevsky's optimistic, accessible style reduced problems with Soviet cultural censors during Stalin's reign.

## **Concert Piece for Horn, Op. 94**

**Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)**

*Soloist: Tatum Tschetter, conductor: Michael Doubt*

On the title page of the manuscript, Saint-Saëns crossed out his original title, “Fantasie,” and replaced it with “Morceau de Concert” (Concert Piece). It is a short concerto with three linked movements. His friend, Henri Chaussier, had asked him to write this piece for an evolutionary version of the French horn that Chaussier had invented in the 1880s. Although valves were invented for brass instruments in 1814-1815, it took the rest of the 19th Century for the “French horn,” typically shortened to “horn,” to evolve into its modern form. This piece is now generally played on the modern horn, since only one Chaussier horn, now in a museum, exists from the 19th Century, along with one modern reproduction completed in 2012.

## **Overture to “Ruslan and Ludmilla”**

**Mikhail Glinka (1804-1857)**

*Conductor: Michael Doubt*

Children are invited on stage for this number.

The opera “Ruslan and Ludmilla” (1842) is based on Russian folk tales assembled into a poem by the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin. Pushkin agreed to write the libretto for “Ruslan and Ludmilla,” but he died in a duel before he could do it, so Glinka had to hire someone else. In the story, the knight Ruslan and his royal bride Ludmilla, daughter of Prince Vladimir, are at a feast before their wedding when Ludmilla mysteriously vanishes. An old man from Finland (the “Finn”) tells Ruslan that Ludmilla was kidnapped by an evil sorcerer. After various exciting adventures, Ludmilla is put into an unbreakable trance, and Ruslan is stabbed to death by one of Ludmilla's former suitors. An Italian tragic opera would end here, but this is a Russian opera with heroes. The old Finn steps in and uses magic water to restore Ruslan. He then produces a magic ring that Ruslan can use to restore Ludmilla, but only after he first saves the city of Kiev from attack. Then Ruslan awakens Ludmilla, Prince Vladimir blesses the couple, and Ruslan forgives the evil sorcerer and the man who stabbed him to death. The overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla expresses the opera's unstoppable energy.



# Big Bend Community Orchestra

## 2024-2025 Young Artist Competition

The Young Artist Competition, presented by the Big Bend Community Orchestra, fosters and recognizes youth musical talent in the Florida Big Bend. It provides opportunity for student orchestra musicians age 7 to 18 to compete for a cash prize and perform a solo accompanied by the Big Bend Community Orchestra.

### Participants

Stephanie Bonev  
Julian Coke-Ugay  
Petra Croom  
Alexander Douty  
Timothy Hughes  
Victor Shumnyk  
Tatum Tschetter  
Jessica Wang

### Winners

#### Age Category 15-18:

*1st Place:* **Tatum Tschetter, horn**  
*2nd Place:* **Timothy Hughes, piano**

#### Age Category 11-14:

*1st Place:* **Jessica Wang, violin**  
*2nd Place:* **Alexander Douty, trombone**

#### Age Category 7-10:

*1st Place:* **Julian Coke-Ugay, violin**

### Young Artist Competition First Place Winners



**Tatum Tschetter, horn**  
***Age Category 15-18, First Place***

Tatum Tschetter is a junior at Lincoln High School. Tatum is active in the LHS marching and symphonic bands and also plays guitar in the jazz band all under the direction of Ms. Hannah Haugen. She has been a member of the Florida All-State Orchestra for the past two years and is principal horn in the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra. She takes private lessons with Mr. Michael Scarpone. When she is not practicing or playing her horn, Tatum enjoys spending time with her mom and also looks forward to visits with her grandparents in South Dakota.



**Jessica Wang, violin**  
***Age Category 11-14, First Place***

Jessica Wang is a 9th grader at Rickards High School. She studies violin with Megan Sahely.



**Julian Coke-Ugay, violin**  
***Age Category 7-10, First Place***

Julian is a first grader at Desoto Trail Elementary. He studies violin with Natasha Marsalli.

# Our 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.

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.



## **Yuliia Billa, *Guest Conductor***

Introducing Yuliia Billa, a Ukrainian soprano and conductor with a remarkable journey in music. Currently pursuing her master's degree in Choral Conducting at Florida State University, Yuliia also directs the music ministries at Trinity United Methodist Church in Tallahassee.

She's a Tchaikovsky National Music Academy graduate, holding BM in choral and orchestral conducting. She also holds an MM in Vocal Performance from FSU. Yuliia's career spans solo recitals, opera roles, and vocal training across the USA, Bulgaria, and Italy. She enjoys advancing her conducting skills through numerous notable summer choral and orchestra conducting institutes and workshops.

She moved to the USA in 2015 together with her husband, organist Viktor Billa, where he currently serves as the Organist at Trinity UMC, Tallahassee, Florida.





THE BIG BEND COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE  
IN OUR YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION CONCERT FUNDRAISING EVENT



Please join us for our Fundraising Event!  
Immediately following today's concert, we will be  
hosting a Reception, Silent Auction and Raffle\*  
to help raise funds.

Enter our raffle for a chance to win a 36" Weber  
Flat Top Grill valued at **\$700** or  
Gem Collection Jewelry valued at **\$595!**

**ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AND 100%  
OF THE PROCEEDS GOES DIRECTLY TO THE BIG  
BEND COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA (BBCO)**

Your support and contributions will enable us to  
purchase and copy music, pay rental fees, and  
provide honorariums for our conductors.

***Help our cause, DONATE!***

**\*Raffle and Auction close at 5 PM**

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# Big Bend Community Personnel

Shelby Chipman, *Music Director*  
Michael Douty, *Associate Conductor*  
Yuliia Billa, *Guest Conductor*

## **Violin I**

Jon Ahlquist\*\* *Concertmaster*  
Karalee Poschman  
Michael Mascagni  
K.J. Hills  
Nikki Grondzik  
Mackenzie Janes  
Dominic Schimizzi

## **Violin II**

Gail Collins\*\*  
Judy Blancett ^  
Paula Warmath  
Fauna Mitchell  
Kassidy Hopkins  
Evelyn Becerra  
Ethan Pittman  
Kinley Corrigan

## **Viola**

Mary Purvis\*\*  
Katie Dale  
Ed Lyon  
Anne Leftheris  
Andrea Repp ^

## **Cello**

Allison Corrigan\*\*  
Cameron Polomski  
Cheryl Frazier  
James Brown  
Chelsea Blomberg  
Kirstin Heagney  
Jan DeLaney  
Candalee Jones

## **Double Bass**

Georges Weatherly\*\*  
Bob Hubbard

## **Flute/Piccolo**

Janie Wulff\*  
Mona McGregor\*

## **Oboe**

Susan Maynard\* ^  
Zina Ward\*

## **Clarinet**

Linda Schmidt\* ^  
Ginny Densmore\* ^

## **Bassoon**

Kira Harding\*\*  
Steve Gwin

## **Horn**

George Luke\*\*  
Paul Kaufmann  
Bryant Marcus  
Pam Whitworth

## **Trumpet**

Hunter Garcia\*\*  
Chasity Maynard  
Kathleen Dieckmann

## **Trombone**

Rob Ragsdale\*\*  
David Thayer

## **Bass Trombone**

Jerrold Pinter

## **Tuba**

John Geisler

## **Percussion**

Eliot Whitworth\*\*  
Lola Gardis

## **Recordings**

David Fusselman ^

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