



MCNEESE
STATE UNIVERSITY



McNEESE WIND SYMPHONY

LOUISIANA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 19, 2023, 7:00 PM

**McNEESE PRE-LMEA CONCERT
NOVEMBER 15, 2023, 7:00 PM**

Featuring music by Dukas, Simon, Maslanka,
Edwards, and McKenzie



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Each year at this annual meeting, the Louisiana Music Educators' Association graciously hosts a university ensemble, and today, McNeese State University's Wind Symphony is honored to perform. LMEA, now 85 years in existence, has "teachers that tirelessly work to ensure the success of our students and their programs." (Louisiana Musician Retrospective: A History of the Louisiana Music Educators Association 1938-2023, by Patrick Deaville). It is quite clear to us that our music programs at McNeese State University are firmly anchored within the foundations you have set. At McNeese, we see your legacy every day through your students, as exemplified by their musicianship, sharpened by the dedication, discipline, and determination you instilled in them so that they, as individuals and as an ensemble, will be successful on the field and stage. Immeasurable, transferable life lessons that your students bring to McNeese and collectively elevate all of our programs.

After this concert and throughout this conference, I invite everyone - students, teachers, directors, parents, and friends - to meet with our students, as well as our directors, Drs. Tim Pardue and Davaron Edwards. It is from them that you will best see and hear of the opportunities afforded to all students at our university. I am glad you are here, and in closing, if I may again reference Mr. Deaville, look forward to building with you, upon the foundation set by the members of LMEA, music programs that profoundly impact our students and the communities we represent.



Dr. Michael Buckles
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts
McNeese State University



McNEESE WIND SYMPHONY

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

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Fanfare pour précéder La Péri (1912)

Paul Dukas (1865-1935)

Groovy Loops (2013)

J. Scott McKenzie (b.1971)

Zephyr! Spirit of the Wind (2023)*

Jeremi Edwards (b. 1993)

AMEN! (2017)

Carlos Simon (b. 1986)

Give Us This Day (2006)

David Maslanka (1943-2017)

*World Premiere



MCNEESE WIND SYMPHONY

Dr. Timothy Pardue, Conductor

Flute

Danielle Bourgeois
Ezra Chavez
Grace Davis
Jeremi Edwards
Isabella Renninger
Gillian Sonnier*

Oboe

Karris McCollum*

Bassoon

Dallas Lauderdale
Claire McMillian
Brooke Smith*

Clarinet

Morgan Clark
Ben Cold
Abigael Fontenot
Lauren Keeley
Thomas Logan
Riley Maggio
Allison Miller
Sonia Penado*
Bethany Worthington

Bass Clarinet

Ben Boudreaux

Alto Saxophone

Andrew Evans
Tiana Gonzalez*
Sophie Medwick
Kaylee Guidry

Tenor Saxophone

Braden Hebert

Baritone Saxophone

Josh Garcia

Horn

Grace Holt
Brooklyn Leonard
Libby Post
Bryant Simmons*

Trumpet

Skylar Ford
Cole Foreman
Sydney Hill
John Leger
Mario Sanchez*
Dylan Soileau

Trombone

Zachary Chastain
Matthew Fast
Keyon Jolivette*
Peyton Turner

Euphonium

Glenn Bertrand
Blake Kidner*
Wesley Littleton

Tuba

Matthew Authement
Kaimen Swanton*
Kyron Swanton

Timpani

Luke Pacetti*

Percussion

Matthew Almaguer
Dustin Boulet
Abby Labrie
Dillon Lazo
Thomas Post
Colton Reeves

Piano

Gabrielle Nervesa

*Denotes Principle





Fanfare pour précéder La Péri (1912)

Paul Dukas (1865-1935)

La Péri was written in 1912 as a symphonic poem for dance. It begins with the Fanfare, which has no thematic link with the remainder of the work. In essence, the Fanfare serves as a "call-to-order," a complete contrast to the music that is to follow. La Péri just barely escaped destruction; Dukas had to be convinced by friends not to destroy the score. The Fanfare is possibly the second-most performed of Dukas' works, behind only The Sorcerer's Apprentice in popularity.

In seventy years of life, Paul Abraham Dukas (1865-1935) left behind only seven major compositions and five minor works. This was not because Dukas was a slow worker or lazy; instead, Dukas was one of the most self-critical composers in history, destroying or hiding many of his works which he felt to be unworthy. A student of Théodore Dubois at the Paris Conservatoire, Dukas' first surviving work of note was his Symphony (1896). This was followed by his best-known work, L'apprenti sorcier (The Sorcerer's Apprentice), based on Goethe's poem "Der Zauberlehrling," so famously featured in Disney's Fantasia.

His last complete work was La Péri, at the age of 47, after which he retired from composing and began his career as a teacher of composition and was also a music critic. Among his students were Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo and French composer Olivier Messiaen. Dukas died in Paris in 1935, and was buried in the Père Lachaise cemetery.

-Program note adapted from Nikk Pilato

Groovy Loops (2013)

J. Scott McKenzie (b.1971)

I wrote the original Groovy Loops for saxophone quartet just a few years after college. After writing a piece, I usually move on to other projects and try to leave older ones alone, even if I later think of some things I could've done differently or better. I have also shied away from rearranging pieces for instrumentation that differs from the original, since I typically consider the orchestration or color of a new piece as inseparable from other musical elements like melody, harmony, or texture.

But for some reason, Groovy Loops is a piece I've revisited a couple of times. A few years ago, I arranged it for string orchestra so I could devote more time to explore the unfamiliar territory of string sounds and less on writing new material. Once that was done, I once again put the piece aside; I figured I was done tinkering with it. Deep down, however, I always thought it would work well in a full band setting.

In adapting a saxophone quartet for wind ensemble, I obviously expanded the color palette, but also added a few moving lines, percussive effects, and richer harmonies that were unavailable to the smaller ensemble. I also added a couple of modulations to accommodate some specific instrumental range issues. Finally, I lengthened opening and closing sections and incorporated silences that "bookend" the piece a little more substantively than the original. This arrangement is dedicated to my mentor, teacher, and friend David McKee.

- Program Note adapted from composer





Zephyr! Spirit of the Wind (2023)*

Jeremi Edwards (b. 1993)

In crafting the composition 'Zephyr! Spirit of the Wind,' I drew inspiration from an early childhood experience. As a young child, I had the privilege of traveling by plane to visit family residing on different sides of the country once or twice a year. As an eager and wide-eyed child, I sought a window seat every time. I can vividly remember those flights, gazing out of the window with a sense of wonder and excitement. What struck me most was the mesmerizing dance of the wind as it sculpted the clouds, conjuring an entirely new world below the plane.

These formative memories served as the foundation for 'Zephyr!,' an attempt to capture the profound fascination of the wind, in all its forms. This composition mirrors the diverse expressions of the wind, from the gentle summer breeze to the turbulent tempests of Category 5 hurricanes and tornadoes. Central to the composition is the intricate layering of musical motifs, intended to evoke the intricate twists and turns of the wind.

Notably departing from conventional harmony, where strict tonic and dominant relationships reign, 'Zephyr!' embraces a linear approach, weaving melodic lines together to create a unique soundscape. The harmonies you will encounter may deviate from conventional functional harmonic progressions.

I cordially invite our audience to immerse themselves in this musical journey where one melodic concept seamlessly transitions into another, reminiscent of the enchanting transformation of the world below my childhood airplane window.

I am truly honored to present the world premiere of 'Zephyr!' by the 2023 McNeese Wind Ensemble at the prestigious Louisiana Music Educators Association 2023 conference.

- Program Note by composer

AMEN! (2017)

Carlos Simon (b. 1986)

AMEN! (2017) was commissioned by the University of Michigan Symphony Band and is a homage to my family's four-generational affiliation with the Pentecostal church. My intent is to re-create the musical experience of an African American Pentecostal church service that I enjoyed being a part of while growing up in this denomination. Pentecostal denominations, such as Church of God in Christ (C.O.G.I.C.), Pentecostal Assemblies of God, Apostolic, Holiness Church, among many others, are known for their exuberant outward expressions of worship. The worship services in these churches will often have joyous dancing, spontaneous shouting, and soulful singing. The music in these worship services is a vital vehicle in fostering a genuine spiritual experience for the congregation.

The three movements in AMEN! are performed without break to depict how the different parts of a worship service flows into the next. In the first movement, I've imagined the sound of an exuberant choir and congregation singing harmoniously together in a call-and-response fashion. The soulful second movement quotes a gospel song, I'll Take Jesus For Mine, that I frequently heard in many services. The title, AMEN!, refers to the plagal cadence or "Amen" cadence (IV-I), which is the focal point of the climax in the final movement. Along with heavily syncopated rhythms and interjecting contrapuntal lines, this cadence modulates up by half step until we reach a frenzied state, emulating a spiritually heightened state of worship.

- Program Note by composer





Give Us This Day (2006)

David Maslanka (1943-2017)

Give us This Day was commissioned by Eric Weirather, Director of Bands at Rancho Buena Vista High School in Oceanside, Calif., which is in the greater San Diego area. Eric put together a consortium to support the commission. The score was finished in October of 2005, and the premiere performance was done at Eric's school in the spring of 2006. Since then, with publication of the piece, and a lot of word of mouth, Give Us This Day has literally taken off. It continues to be performed all over the U.S., and many places around the world.

The words "give us this day" are, of course, from the Lord's Prayer, but the inspiration for this music is Buddhist. I have recently read a book by the Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh (pronounced "Tick Not Hahn") entitled For a Future to be Possible. His premise is that a future for the planet is only possible if individuals become deeply mindful of themselves, deeply connected to who they really are. While this is not a new idea, and something that is an ongoing struggle for everyone, in my estimation it is *the* issue for world peace. For me, writing music, and working with people to perform music, are two of those points of deep mindfulness. Music allows us to be immediately present, awake, and aware. "Give Us This Day"...Give us this very moment of aware aliveness so that we can build a future in the face of a most dangerous and difficult time.

I chose the subtitle "Short Symphony for Wind Ensemble" because the music really isn't programmatic in nature. It has a full-blown symphonic character, even though there are only two movements. The music of the slower first movement is deeply searching, while that of the highly energized second movement is at times both joyful and sternly sober. The piece ends with a modal setting of the chorale melody Vater Unser in Himmelreich ("Our Father in Heaven"), #110 from the 371 Four-Part Chorales by J.S. Bach.

- Program Note by composer

McNEESE BANDS

Dating from 1940, the McNeese Band Program has established an enviable reputation, growing both in quality and quantity to encompass the entire spectrum of wind and percussion instrumental performance.

The band program provides a vehicle through which qualified and talented students can express themselves musically while sharpening their skills as amateurs or professionals. The program also provides a social community for students, making university life more pleasant, productive, and meaningful. Open to all majors, the bands contribute to campus life and provide a challenging and rewarding experience on many levels.

Be it marching band, jazz ensemble, concert ensembles, percussion ensembles, pep band, brass and woodwind chamber ensembles, or color guard, McNeese Bands offer something for every student. We invite you to discover what our bands have to offer and we hope you will take your next step with us!

The Pride of McNeese Marching Band

"The Pride of McNeese" Marching Band is recognized as one of the finest marching bands in the South. This time-honored band, composed of students from nearly every major within the university, combines Cowboy spirit and quality musicianship to create an electric atmosphere of gridiron excitement in Cowboy Stadium on game days! "The Pride of McNeese" is the focal point of Cowboy Pride and spirit for the McNeese community and the Lake Charles area.

In addition to its performances in Cowboy Stadium, "The Pride of McNeese" is featured in various high school marching band festivals and performs at select away games and championship tournaments. The McNeese Band represented the university and Southwest Louisiana on the international level, performing in the 2018 London New Year's Day Parade.

The band's repertoire is as diverse as its performances, maintaining a high level of musicianship while entertaining audiences. Along with a high-energy pregame show, as many as five different halftime shows are performed each fall. The shows challenge and engage the student musicians and are designed to provide the students with the best college band experience anywhere.



McNEESE BANDS

Wind Symphony

The McNeese Wind Symphony is the premiere performance organization of the McNeese Band Program. The ensemble fosters the highest performance standards while offering its members an opportunity to expand their technical, intellectual and musical horizons.

Symphonic Band

This concert ensemble meets during the spring semester and performs both traditional standards of wind literature and more contemporary works. Many marching band students from the fall perform with this ensemble, which performs two concerts.

Jazz Ensemble

The McNeese Jazz Ensemble, widely acclaimed for its precision and excitement, aspires to set the highest standards of excellence for the performance of jazz in all of its forms. The band is responsible for performing the latest in big band material, while maintaining the roots of the region's healthy jazz tradition.

Courtside Cowboys Pep Band

The McNeese Courtside Cowboys Basketball Pep Band is a highly energized group of musicians that lends its musical abilities and school spirit to create a "home court advantage" for the McNeese men's and women's basketball teams.

Chamber Ensembles

The chamber music experience at McNeese is wide and varied, from steel drum ensemble to clarinet choir to alp horn ensemble, we have an chamber ensemble for you.





Dr. Tim Pardue is the Director of Bands in the W.A. and Dorothy Hanna Department of Performing Arts at McNeese State University where he conducts the Wind Symphony Band, The Pride of McNeese Marching Band, and teaches conducting.

He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in wind conducting from the University of Oklahoma, a Master of Music degree in wind conducting from the University of Arkansas, and Bachelor of Music Education degree from Louisiana Tech University.

Pardue is an active arranger and clinician. He has arranged for The Pride of McNeese, The Pride of Oklahoma, and Razorback Marching Band. He has conducted honor bands and adjudicated throughout the gulf south region. Pardue has presented his research on flexible scoring as a means to provide quality repertoire to small band programs with limited instrumentation.

Prior to pursuing graduate studies, Pardue taught middle and high school bands in St. James Parish at Lutcher High School and Gramercy Elementary and in Plaquemines Parish at South Plaquemines High School. He holds professional memberships in the College Band Director National Association, Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society, and honorary memberships in Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi.

tpardue@mcneese.edu



The youngest of six children, all deeply involved with music-making, Dr. Davaron Edwards has been surrounded by music for as long as he can remember. Raised by a single working mother who, in her spare time, chaperoned many band trips, Davaron learned, through music and family, the importance of commitment, dedication, resilience, and love.

Dr. Edwards's passion for music developed at Wayside Chapel Baptist Church, where he was an active member of the choir (tenor, then bass-baritone!), and Wilson High School, both in Florence, South Carolina. Davaron was involved in every possible high school ensemble and attributes his decision to become a music educator to his choir director, Mrs. Linda GilliardJohnson, and his band director, Mr. Leon

Harvey, who inspire him to this day. Like his mother, brother, and two cousins, he attended Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education.

Dr. Edwards earned a Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting in the studio of William Malambri from Winthrop University in 2012. He earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting with Cynthia Johnston Turner and Jaclyn Hartenberger at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music, University of Georgia in 2022. At UGA, he served as a graduate teaching assistant, council member for the Graduate Student Association, and the Student Advisory Board for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Office of Student Affairs).

Dr. Edwards has ten years of varied secondary public-school teaching experience in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and South Carolina, and is currently the Assistant Director of Bands at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. His professional affiliations include the National Association for Music Education (NAfME); Louisiana Music Educators Association (LMEA); College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA); and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, Inc.



dedwards5@mcneese.edu



Dr. Jeremi W. Edwards, a native of Louisiana, and is an alumnus of McNeese State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in music education. Subsequently, Dr. Edwards pursued advanced studies and achieved a Master of Music in Theory and Composition at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, under the tutelage of Dr. Quincy Hilliard. His academic journey culminated in the completion of a Doctor of Philosophy in Music Composition, from the Louisiana State University, where he worked under the guidance of Dr. Mara Gibson. His Dissertation was titled: "A Synthesis of Contemporary Music Composition Pedagogy Practices for the Undergraduate and Graduate Level Sequences, and An Exploration of Time, Sound, and Space: An Aleatoric Event Score in Collaboration with the LSU Museum of Art" (2022). Dr. Edwards's compositional oeuvre

represents a synthesis of his appreciation for neo-classical textures and the intricate nuances of impressionistic harmonic structures. As an accomplished musician and scholar, he proudly holds membership in organizations such as The Society for Music Theory (SMT), the South-Central Society for Music Theory, Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and BMI as Classical Composer. Furthermore, Dr. Edwards demonstrates his dedication to community and education through his roles as a board member for the Lake Charles Community Band, Board Member for the New Music on the Bayou Summer Festival based in Monroe LA, Board Member for the Cultural Noir Performing Arts Theater Company based in San Deigo CA, and active participant in the Louisiana Music Educators Association (LMEA), the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA). Currently, Dr. Jeremi W. Edwards serves as the Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Composition at McNeese State University within the W.A. and Dorothy Hanna Department of Performing Arts at McNeese State University. In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Edwards also holds the position of Coordinator of Music Theory. He imparts his extensive knowledge and expertise to shape the next generation of aspiring musicians and composers. Dr. Edwards is not only a dedicated educator but also a prolific composer who is currently working on several large-scale collaborative projects with local artists. He actively seeks commission projects for student, community, and professional ensembles, demonstrating his passion for fostering musical innovation and artistic expression within his community and beyond.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The McNeese Band Program provides substantial scholarships to music majors and non-music majors through an audition process each year. Band Service Awards are awarded for ensemble participation, including marching band, wind symphony, symphonic band, pep band, jazz band, and color guard. The McNeese Band Service Awards are some of the highest in the state of Louisiana.

To be considered for a service award, a student should:

a) apply to the university, b) Scan the QR code below for audition scheduling info and c) complete an audition

AUDITIONS

Acceptance into the mcNeese band Program is obtained through an individual entrance audition. Several scholarship audition dates are posted on our band website at www.mcneesebands.com.

Students must apply to the university before completing an audition and may email questions to: mcneeseband@mcneese.edu. Auditions are available through July 1.

Students auditioning as music majors should audition prior to December 1 in order to receive maximum scholarship consideration. For students living a great distance from campus and are unable to audition in person, virtual auditions can be arranged. See the band website for specific information.

Visit our website for brass, woodwind, percussion and color guard audition procedures and materials.

Color guard auditions are held near the end of April. Separate auditions are held during the week before the start of fall classes for the wind symphony and jazz ensemble.

Apply to McNeese

Scan the QR code below to begin.



We would like to thank the outstanding faculty and staff of the W.A. and Dorothy Hanna Department of the Performing Arts for their tireless work in developing the excellent musicians on stage this evening and for exemplifying the university's motto, "Excellence with a personal touch."

Dr. Judy Hand, Flute
Dr. Ben Cold, Saxophone/Clarinet/Double Reeds
Dr. Spencer Brand, Trumpet
Prof. Kevin McIntyre, Horn
Prof. Bill Rose, Low Brass
Dr. Lonny Benoit, Percussion
Dr. Lina Morita, Piano
Dr. HeaJu Choi, Piano
Dr. Jay Kecherski, Guitar
Dr. Paul Wolf, Voice
Dr. Michael Buckles, Dean of Liberal Arts
Dr. Lonny Benoit, Department Head
Dr. Timothy Pardue, Director of Bands
Dr. Davaron Edwards, Associate Director of Bands
Dr. Shane Thomas, Director of Choral Activities
Prof. Joshua Stenvick, Director of Theatre Productions
Dr. Jeff Lemke, Music Education
Dr. Jeremi Edwards, Music Theory
Prof. Hope Snider, Music Education
Ms. Libby Looney, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Sue Miller, Administrative Assistant





Music Scholarship & Entrance Auditions



W.A. and Dorothy Hanna
Department of Performing Arts

Nov.
12th

Feb.
4th

Feb.
29th



2023-2024

*All Instruments
& Voices*

**ALL AUDITION DAYS
BEGIN AT 2 P.M.**

Pre-Register Below:

<https://www.mcneese.edu/performingarts/music-programs-admission-and-auditions/>



AREAS OF STUDY:

BACHELOR OF ART IN LIBERAL STUDIES

CONCENTRATION IN:

Theatre

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

CONCENTRATIONS IN:

Instrumental Performance

Music Education -

Instrumental

Vocal

Piano Performance

Vocal Performance

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

Marching Band

Wind Symphony

Jazz Ensemble

Symphonic Band

Chamber Singers

Concert Chorale

Percussion Ensemble

Chamber Ensembles

McNeese Theatre

Bayou Players

McNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY

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McNeese Performing Arts