
McLennan Community College Choirs Present

Wild Forces

A Spring Concert

Featuring:
Highlanders
Bosque Singers
Chorale

Jenna McLean, Conductor
Jared Eben, Collaborative Accompanist
Dr. Ping-Ting Lan, Collaborative Accompanist

April 8th, 2025, 7:30PM
Wilbur A. Ball Performing Arts Center

Repertoire

Highlanders

<i>Non Nobis Domine</i>	Rosephanye Powell (Living), Arr. William C. Powell (Living)
<i>The Pasture</i>	Randall Thompson (1899-1984)
<i>The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald</i>	Gordon Lightfoot (1938-2023), Arr. Alan Dunbar (Living)
<i>Ladanian Haynes and Jaden Rankin, Soloists</i>	
<i>Apollo Warhol, Guitar</i>	
<i>Lydia Gravagne, Cello</i>	

Bosque Singers

<i>Song of Miriam</i>	Elaine Hagenberg (Living)
<i>I Will Be Earth</i>	Gwyneth Walker (Living)
<i>Plena</i>	Diana V. Sáez (Living)

Chorale

<i>Sicut Cervus</i>	Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)
<i>The Water is Wide</i>	Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)
<i>Fire</i>	Katerina Gimon (Living)

<i>How Dare You</i>	Andrew Steffen (Living)
<i>Requiem</i>	Eliza Gilkyson (Living), Arr. Craig Hella Johnson (Living)

<i>When The Earth Stands Still</i>	Don Macdonald (Living)

<i>Wild Forces</i>	Jake Runestad (Living)

*** Indicates where applause is appropriate during our final set of the night

Program Notes

About Tonight's Program:

Throughout history, composers and poets have drawn inspiration from the natural world—its beauty, its serenity, and its unrelenting force. This concert program explores different facets of nature's influence on the human experience. Through a diverse palette of musical textures, from Renaissance counterpoint to bold contemporary sonorities, these works offer both reverence and reckoning.

Our concert opens with *Non Nobis Domine* by Rosephanye Powell. This piece's rhythmically charged writing reflects the vitality of the natural world, where creation itself seems to sing in praise. We continue with Randall Thompson's *The Pasture*, a gentle and inviting setting of Robert Frost's beloved poem. With simple yet poignant melodies, the piece captures the warmth of human connection with the land—one of tending, observing, and appreciating the life around us. We conclude with *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*, Gordon Lightfoot's haunting ballad that recounts the tragic sinking of a Great Lakes freighter in 1975. This piece serves as a solemn reminder of nature's unpredictable and sometimes devastating power.

Our next set carries forward this theme with a focus on earth's resilience and renewal. *Song of Miriam* by Elaine Hagenberg draws from the biblical story of Miriam, sister of Moses, and her song of triumph. This piece echoes the voices of women throughout history who have found strength in the face of adversity, much like the ever-enduring rhythms of the natural world. *I Will Be Earth* by Gwyneth Walker shifts to an intimate portrayal of love and interconnectedness, using the imagery of earth and sky to symbolize the balance between strength and surrender, between grounding and flight. Finally, Diana Sáez's *Plena* brings us to a place of pure celebration. This vibrant and rhythmic Puerto Rican folk-inspired piece is a joyful declaration of life, much like the uncontainable energy found in nature's landscapes, seasons, and storms.

Our final set of the night begins with Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina's *Sicut Cervus*, a masterpiece of Renaissance polyphony. With gently interwoven lines, this motet embodies a serene yet aching sense of longing, as the voices rise and fall like flowing water. The purity of Palestrina's writing, with its careful balance and arching melodic phrases, sets a tone of contemplation and spiritual connection. This theme of longing carries into Stephen Paulus' arrangement of *The Water is Wide*, a beloved folk melody that Paulus transforms with lush, expressive harmonies that evoke the vast expanse of the sea, the fragility of human relationships, and the quiet power of love and resilience.

Program Notes

Nature is not only tranquil—it is fierce, untamed, and unpredictable. Katerina Gimon's *Fire* erupts with raw, elemental energy. Using extended vocal techniques—percussive syllables, vocal slides, and unconventional textures—Gimon captures the crackling unpredictability of flames as they consume and transform. The piece is both a warning and a force of creation, reflecting nature's dual capacity for destruction and renewal.

This sense of urgency deepens with Andrew Steffan's *How Dare You*, a choral setting of powerful speeches demanding climate action. The music is unapologetic—sharp rhythmic motives, dissonant harmonies, and moments of stark declamation mirror the impassioned urgency of the text. Through its intensity, the piece becomes a call to action, echoing the voices of a generation that refuses to remain silent. In contrast, Craig Hella Johnson's *Requiem* provides a space for mourning and reflection. Blending elements of chant-like simplicity with rich contemporary harmonies, this setting of the traditional *Requiem aeternam* text offers solace amidst grief.

Don Macdonald's *When the Earth Stands Still*, a piece that invites us to pause and listen. With its hushed dynamic shifts, gentle melodic lines, and rich harmonic warmth, the piece captures a sense of wonder—what if we stopped, just for a moment, to hear the quiet voice of the earth? The music itself breathes, ebbing and flowing with an organic, meditative pulse.

Finally, we arrive at Jake Runestad's *Wild Forces*, an exhilarating celebration of nature's unbridled energy capturing the power of the elements and our own untamed potential. Runestad's hallmark of rhythmic vitality and expressive text-setting drives the piece forward, leaving us with a final sense of momentum, urging us to embrace both the wild forces of the earth and the change within ourselves.

Together, these works form a tapestry of sound that is both ancient and immediate, reverent and rebellious. They challenge us to listen—to the whispers of the past, the cries of the present, and the forces of nature that shape our shared future.

McLennan Choirs Spring 2025

MCC Chorale

Soprano

Morgan Case
Aundraya Jacobs-London
Mason Kusler
Meg Morrison
Sabrina Ochoa

Alto

Madison Gray
D.J. Randolph
May Williams

Tenor

Nathan Johnson
Adam Perez
Hayden Stephens
Donavan Tipton

Bass

Colton Claridy
Ladanian Haynes
Abby Marshall
Jaden Rankin
Apollo Warhol

Bosque Singers

Haleigh Domangue
Hannah Duhon
Naomi Hammond
Aundraya Jacobs-London
Mason Kusler
Meg Morrison
D.J. Randolph
Karina Tergerson
Willow Weaver
May Williams

Highlanders

Colton Claridy
Ladanian Haynes
Nathan Johnson
Adam Perez
Jayden Rankin
Hayden Stephens
Donavan Tipton
Apollo Warhol
Michael Wilder

Special Thank You

We would like to extend special thanks to our guest clinicians that have helped us throughout the semester in our preparations for this evening.

Dr. Will McLean
Mrs. Alissa Ruth Suver
Dr. David Guess
Dr. Peter Olson

McLennan Community College Music Faculty & Staff

Mandy Morrison, Director of Visual and Performing Arts
Jon Conrad, Music Area Coordinator
Jonathan Kutz, Music Industry Careers Program Director
Meghan Wilfong, Senior Administrative Assistant
Bradley Christian, Dean of Arts and Sciences

ENSEMBLES

Noah Alvarado, *jazz band*
Jon Conrad, *band*
Jenna McLean, *choir*
Clark Nauert, *jazz band*
Peter Olson, *orchestra*
Edgar Sierra, *opera*
Arthur Torres, *mariachi*

MUSIC INDUSTRY CAREERS

Jon Fox
Shane Hall
Brian Konzelman
Jonathan Kutz
Maddison Livingston
Patrick McKee
Clark Nauert

WINDS

Brently Bartlett, oboe
Vanessa Davis, clarinet
Clay Garrett, euphonium/tuba
Kim Hagelstein, horn
Timothy Owner, trombone
Masha Popova, flute
Mark Schubert, trumpet
Matthew Singletary, saxophone

PERCUSSION

Jonathan Kutz

STRINGS

Ben Cantrell, violin/viola
Kate Cockle, harp
Peter Olson, bass

VOICE

Jenna McLean
Mandy Morrison
Edgar Sierra

PIANO

Jared Eben
Marsha Green
Ping-Ting Lan
James Pitts

MUSICOLOGY & THEORY

Ben Cantrell
Kate Cockle
Jared Eben
Marsha Green
Peter Olson
James Pitts
Matthew Singletary

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Randy Dockendorf,
Theatre Technician
Nick Webb, Box Office

Scan the QR code for a complete list of events.
Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. unless noted.



Scan the QR code to sign up for news and concert reminders from the McLennan Music Department.

