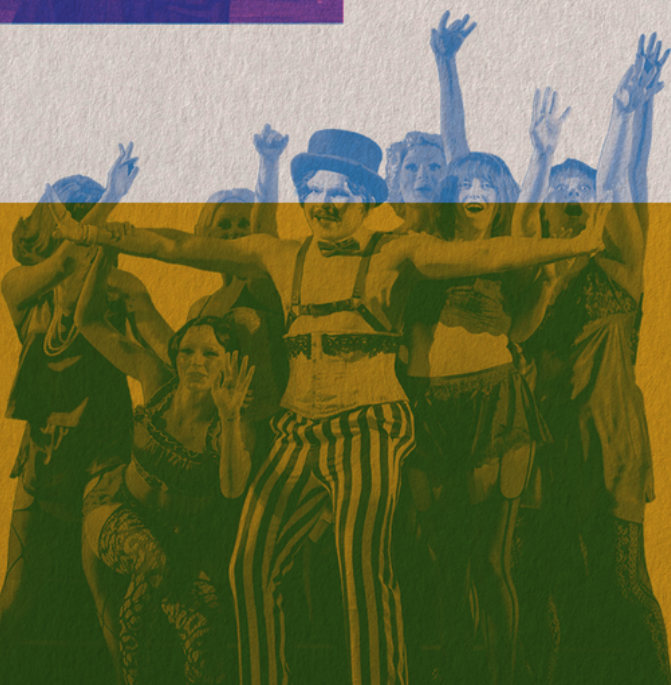




ON STAGE



CHARLOTTE
COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

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An engaged audience is the most essential level of support we can receive. Thank you for being a part of this performance experience!

Revenue from ticket sales directly supports student scholarships in dance, music and theatre. You can expand opportunities for students with a financial gift to fund scholarships, visiting artists and scholars, master classes, study abroad and more. To make a secure gift online, please visit **giving.charlotte.edu**. Thank you for your support!

About the College of Arts + Architecture

Grounded in a commitment to excellent teaching, the College of Arts + Architecture sparks curiosity, fosters innovative research and anchors collaborative projects that empower and sustain communities.

The College of Arts + Architecture will infuse the university's urban mission with arts and design, creative research and collaborative projects that inspire cultural vibrancy throughout Charlotte, the region and beyond.

Connect with us! We hope you will join us again soon. Stay up to date with our College news and programming on our website at **coaa.charlotte.edu**. Follow us at **[@CLT_COAA](https://www.instagram.com/CLT_COAA)** on Instagram and **[@CLTCOAA](https://www.facebook.com/CLTCOAA)** on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CLTCOAA) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/CLTCOAA).

Program Book Feedback

We welcome your valuable input on digital program books. Please complete [this brief survey](#) to provide your feedback.



The Department of Music presents
The Faculty & Friends Concert Series

Brass Area Faculty

featuring

Eric Millard, trumpet
Andrew Beiter '22, trumpet
Byron Johns, horn
Kevin Dugat, trombone
Joe Skillen, tuba
Claudio Olivera, piano

Rowe Recital Hall
Rowe Arts Building
Tuesday, September 15, 2026 | 7:30 pm
coaa.charlotte.edu

Program

As the Willow Tree Grows

Jordan VenHemert
(b. 1988)

Under Western Skies

Kevin McKee
(b. 1980)

II. Sunup – High Noon

8 Southern Jazz Duets

David Wilborn
(b. 1961)

I. Hey Reb, Pass the Biscuits!

III. The Nawleans Blues

VII. Just Another Smarty Pants

Nocturno, Opus 7

Franz Strauss
(1822-1905)

Andante for Tuba and Piano

Alexander Tcherepnin
(1899-1977)

Brass Quintet No. 3, Opus 7

Victor Ewald
(1860-1935)

I. Allegro moderato

II. Intermezzo

III. Andante

IV. Vivo

Fanfare & Chorus

Dietrich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

Hunter Kopczynski, conductor

About the Performers



Eric Millard is the Associate Professor of Trumpet at UNC Charlotte. Millard regularly performs with the Charlotte Symphony and was formerly the Third/Associate Principal trumpet with the Tallahassee Symphony. Millard's fond interest in chamber music has led him to cofound both the Bluegrass Brass and Garnet and Brass quintets and he currently performs with the UNC

Charlotte Faculty Brass Quintet. In addition to brass quintets, Millard has won prizes at the National Trumpet Competition (NTC) and performed at the International Trumpet Guild Conference with multiple trumpet ensembles.

Millard received his Doctorate and Master's Degrees in Trumpet Performance from Florida State University and received a Bachelor's Degree in Trumpet Performance from the University of Kentucky. Millard's primary instructors were Dr. Christopher Moore, Vince Dimartino, Robert Sullivan, Mark Clodfelter, and Dr. William Stowman. Dr. Millard also serves as the Conference Stage Manager for the International Trumpet Guild and as the Book Reviews Column Editor for the International Trumpet Guild Journal. Eric Millard is an S.E. Shires performing artist.



Andrew Beiter is a freelance trumpet player, educator, and clinician based in Knoxville, TN. He currently serves as Adjunct Professor of Trumpet at Western Carolina University. In addition to his work at WCU, Andrew maintains a private studio of middle and high school students across East Tennessee and teaches weekly masterclasses at schools throughout

the region. He also maintains an active performance schedule as a freelance musician.

Andrew recently completed an Artist Certificate in Trumpet Performance at the University of Tennessee. He previously earned a Master of Music in Trumpet Performance from the University of Colorado Boulder and

a Bachelor of Music in Trumpet Performance from UNC Charlotte. His primary teachers include Arthur Zanin, Ryan Gardner, Justin Bartels, and Eric Millard. Andrew is thrilled to return to UNC Charlotte and to perform alongside the university's faculty brass quintet.



Byron Johns was born and raised in the Gulf Coast city of Venice, Florida. He earned undergraduate degrees in horn performance and choral music education from the Florida State University where he studied with Kevin Reid, James Wilson and Michelle Stebleton. He earned a masters degree in horn performance and literature from the Eastman School of Music while studying with Peter Kurau. In September

2014, Byron joined the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra as a member of the horn section. He won the CSO Principal Horn position in the fall of 2019 after serving for a year as Acting Principal. Prior to his time in Charlotte, Byron held positions with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the Rochester Chamber Orchestra. He has performed as a guest with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and the Naple Philharmonic.

Mr. Johns has a passion for education and serves on the faculty of UNC Charlotte and Queens University of Charlotte. He has also held teaching positions with the Volusia County Public Schools and the Eastman Community Music School. When he is not performing or teaching, Byron enjoys fly-fishing, hunting, backpacking and spending time with his wife, Katy, and their two loyal canine friends.



Kevin Dugat is the Visiting Lecturer of Low Brass at UNC Charlotte. While living in Boston, he performed regularly with ensembles such as the Boston Chamber Symphony and the Boston Annex Players, and also appeared with the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, Portland Symphony, Plymouth Philharmonic, and Cape Ann Symphony. As a chamber musician, he co-

founded several groups, including the Boston Trombone Octet, the TexMass Brass Trio, the 855 Brass Quintet, and the Vox Trombonae Trombone Trio. Dugat has performed in recitals at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Keene State College, and Western Illinois University.

Dugat previously held the position of Coordinator of University Bands and Adjunct Instructor of Brass at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, from 2017 to 2021. During his tenure, he assisted with the University Concert Band, directed the University Basketball Band, the University Brass Ensemble, the University Jazz Band, and taught applied low brass. In addition to his university responsibilities, Dugat was a sought-after private instructor and clinician, working extensively with middle and high school programs across central Texas.

A native of Kerrville, Texas, Dugat holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Boston University, along with degrees from the University of Alabama and Texas State University. His principal teachers include Toby Oft, Dr. Jonathan Whitaker, and Dr. Martin McCain. Kevin Dugat is a performing artist for the Edwards Instrument Company.



[Joseph Skillen](#) came to UNC Charlotte in 2020 after 22 years at Louisiana State University (LSU), where he served in numerous capacities, most recently as the Galante Endowed Professor and associate dean for graduate studies in music and theatre in the College of Music and Dramatic Arts.

Skillen is a respected performer, teacher, and scholar. His scholarly work includes more than 40 publications, three book chapters, 12 professional recordings, musical transcriptions, and multiple solo performances on four continents. Current research interests include brass pedagogy, contemplative teaching practices, curricular design, commissioning and premiering new works for tuba, community engagement, and arts entrepreneurship.

Prior to his engagement at LSU, Skillen was a principal tubist in American orchestras, and he has performed with touring ensembles across the

United States, Europe, and Asia. As a Fulbright Scholar, Skillen studied in Stockholm, Sweden, at the Royal Music Academy and performed as a substitute tubist with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra. His performances have been broadcast in the U.S. on National Public Radio and on Sweden's National Radio. He holds degrees in music education and music performance from Tennessee Technological University, Pennsylvania State University, and Michigan State University.



Pianist [Claudio Olivera](#) began his musical studies in Venezuela at age eight and debuted as a soloist with orchestra at 12. Olivera has performed with nearly every major Venezuelan orchestra and internationally in Germany, Italy, Chile, Spain, France, and the U.S. Notable appearances include Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 3* with the RIAS Berlin International

Youth Orchestra at the Rachmaninoff Festival in Catania, Italy.

He obtained an undergraduate degree in Production Engineering at the Universidad Simón Bolívar in Caracas, Venezuela. He also holds a Pianist Certificate from Juan José Landaeta Conservatory and a Master's in Piano and Pedagogy from Germany's Martin Luther Universität Halle-Wittenberg, supported by a DAAD scholarship. He later earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the University of South Carolina under Dr. Marina Lomazov.

A dedicated educator and collaborator, he has served as Adjunct Piano Faculty and Staff Accompanist at USC, received the Yamaha In-Residency Fellowship for innovative community engagement, and was a three-time recipient of the Steinway & Sons Top Teacher Award (2018, 2019, 2021). Based in Charlotte since 2021, Olivera often collaborates with Opera Carolina, rehearses and performs regularly at Myers Park Baptist Church and is the main accompanist for Queen City Performing Arts. In 2025 he joined the Department of Music at UNC Charlotte as the staff pianist.

Support the Department of Music

The Music Department's Chair's Excellence Fund supports student welfare, class supplies, scholarship assistance, recruiting, lecture series, school-wide events, promotion, and related needs.

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College of Arts + Architecture

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

[Roots & Words](#)

A devised work by the Department of Theatre

Thu Sep 24 & Fri Sep 25 | 7:30 pm

Sat Sep 26 | 2:00 pm

Black Box Theater

[Choral Collage](#)

Mon Sep 28 | 7:30 pm

Anne R. Belk Theater

[Orchestra](#)

Tue Sep 29 | 7:30 pm

Anne R. Belk Theater

[Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble](#)

Wed Sep 30 | 7:30 pm

Anne R. Belk Theater

OCTOBER

[Jazz Combo & Ensemble](#)

Thu Oct 1 | 7:30 pm

Anne R. Belk Theater

[Charlotte Strings Collective](#)

Faculty & Friends Concert Series

Tue Oct 6 | 7:30 pm

Rowe Recital Hall

[Fall Dance Concert: SHIFT](#)

Thu Oct 22- Sat Oct 24 | 7:30 pm

Sun Oct 25 | 2:00 pm

Anne R. Belk Theater

NOVEMBER

[Eric Millard, trumpet](#)

Faculty & Friends Concert Series

Tue Nov 3 | 7:30 pm

Rowe Recital Hall

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
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