

## FRIENDS OF MUSIC

Friends of Music (FOM) grew out of a need to provide a base of community and alumni support for the Performing Arts Department at Methodist University. In the past few years, FOM has been fortunate to help bring a wide variety of faculty-student concerts to campus, establish an endowed music scholarship, and present professional guest artist concerts and master classes. With your continued support, we can bring this excellence in music to everyone in our community.

YES, I would like to renew my membership with Friends of Music at Methodist.

YES, I would like to become a member of the Friends of Music at Methodist.

YES, I would like to be notified of upcoming Friends of Music events via email.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you would like it to appear in programs)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_

(evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

The minimum recommended contribution to become a FOM member is \$50. Members' names will be listed in all concert programs and in the Methodist University Annual Report.

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your gift and this form (please copy this form if you would like to keep your brochure intact) may be mailed to:

Friends of Music at Methodist  
Office of Advancement, Methodist University  
5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC 28311

**ARTS COUNCIL**  
FAYETTEVILLE • CUMBERLAND CO.

*This project is supported by the Arts Council in part by contributions from businesses and individuals, and through grants from the City of Fayetteville, Cumberland County and the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.*

# 2021-22

## Methodist University Music Events

**Melvin Ezzell, Tenor Vocalist – Friends of Music Guest Artist Series**  
Sept. 17, 2021, 7:30 p.m. – Recital in Matthews Chapel

**MU Concert Band & Fayetteville Symphonic Band Concert**  
Oct. 5, 2021, 7:30 p.m. – Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall

**MU Chorale & Cumberland Choral Arts Present “Mozart’s Requiem”**  
Oct. 16, 2021, 7:30 p.m. – Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall

**MU Jazz Monarchs Concert**  
Oct. 19, 2021, 7:30 p.m. – Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall

**Taylor Eigsti, Jazz Pianist – Friends of Music Guest Artist Series**  
Oct. 29, 2021, 7:30 p.m. – Recital in Matthews Chapel

**MU All-Choirs Concert**  
Nov. 19, 2021, 7:30 p.m. – Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall

**MU Chamber Strings Concert**  
Nov. 21, 2021, 3 p.m. – Matthews Chapel

**MU Concert Band & Fayetteville Symphonic Band Concert**  
Nov. 30, 2021, 7:30 p.m. – Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall

**Yuletide Feaste (Tickets Required)**  
Dec. 3-4, 2021, 7:30 p.m. – Haymount United Methodist Church

**Eric Gilfus, French Horn – Friends of Music Guest Artist Series**  
Jan. 28, 2022, 7:30 p.m. – Recital in Matthews Chapel

**Methodist University Faculty Recital**  
Feb. 11, 2022, 7:30 p.m. – Matthews Chapel

**MU Concert Band & Fayetteville Symphonic Band Concert**  
March 1, 2022, 7:30 p.m. – Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall

**Jeri-Mae Astolfi, Pianist – Friends of Music Guest Artist Series**  
March 18, 2022, 7:30 p.m. – Recital in Matthews Chapel

**MU Jazz Monarchs Concert**  
March 29, 2022, 7:30 p.m. – Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall

**Cape Fear New Music Festival**  
April 6, 2022, 7:30 p.m. – Recital in Matthews Chapel  
– see CapeFearNewMusic.com for more information

**MU Concert Band & Fayetteville Symphonic Band Concert**  
April 12, 2022, 7:30 p.m. – Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall

**MU All-Choirs Concert**  
April 22, 2022, 7:30 p.m. – Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall

**MU Chamber Strings Concert**  
April 24, 2022, 3 p.m. – Matthews Chapel

*Guest artist workshops at MU will take place at 11 a.m. in Hensdale Chapel on the day of the guest artist performances. These workshops are free and open to the public. Guest artists will also give private classes on the day of the performances at the Capitol Encore Academy.*

*Parking is available for Huff Concert Hall in the lot by the Reeves Building. Parking for Hensdale Chapel is available in front of the Berns Student Center and by Clark Hall.*

**Attendance guidelines will be in accordance to University protocols at the time of the event and are subject to change at any time. Please visit [methodist.edu/friends-of-music](http://methodist.edu/friends-of-music) for details.**



**METHODIST  
UNIVERSITY**

*Engage. Enrich. Empower.*

### PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

Methodist University  
5400 Ramsey Street  
Fayetteville, NC 28311-1420  
910.630.7100

[methodist.edu/performing-arts](http://methodist.edu/performing-arts)

### GOALS OF FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT METHODIST

- ◆ Increase support and donations for the Friends of Music at Methodist Endowed Scholarship Fund
- ◆ Provide funds for the Performing Arts Department
- ◆ Provide funds for special guest artist performances, festivals, performance series and/or professional master classes
- ◆ Develop projects that explore important issues in music education
- ◆ Assist the Performing Arts Department with the identification and recruitment of prospective students

### BOARD MEMBERS

Doug Stephens, <i>Treasurer</i>	Joseph Potter
Julia Atkins	Penny Schulken
Doug Elwell	Betty-Neill Parsons, '64
Sherri Garcia	

### HONORARY MEMBERS

The late Jane Weeks Gardiner, *Founder*

Elaine Bryant Hayes	Lou Tippet
Margaret Ann Player	Donna A. Wiggs
Carol Short	Mary F. Wright '68

*Friends of Music*  
AT METHODIST



2021-22  
CONCERT  
SERIES



## MELVIN EZZELL

**Tenor Vocalist**

7:30 p.m. | Sept. 17, 2021  
Matthews Chapel

**M**elvin Ezzell holds a B.M. in vocal performance from UNC Wilmington, where he studied with Nancy King. He later studied in NYC with Brian Jauheinan and John Daniecki. He served on the Board of Directors of Opera Wilmington in 2015-16. Ezzell's most recent performances include Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Fayetteville Symphony in April 2019. In August of 2018, Ezzell performed the role of Alfred in Opera Wilmington's production of "Die Fledermaus." In May of 2016, he performed the role of the Town Crier and Ugly Step Sister, in the North Carolina debut performance of "Cinderella in Spain" by Mary Carrol Warwick. Performances were held in the Historic Carolina Civic Center in Lumberton, N.C.

Ezzell has enjoyed an active solo performance schedule with regional orchestras and choral societies including, Wilmington Symphony, Long Bay Symphony (N.C.), Baroque Orchestra, Fayetteville Symphony, the Carolina Philharmonic, Cumberland Oratorio, Southeastern Oratorio and Carolina Master Choral. His performances include many of the choral and solo masterworks of Bach, Beethoven, Dubois, Hayden, Handel, Orff and Rameriez, to name a few. In October 2009, Melvin was selected to participate in the IBLA Foundation vocal competition in Ragusa, Italy. Melvin resides in Whiteville, N.C., with his wife Marty, and they have two children, Anna and Wil.



## TAYLOR EIGSTI

**Jazz Pianist**

7:30 p.m. | Oct. 29, 2021  
Matthews Chapel

**N**ew York-based pianist and composer Taylor Eigsti began playing the piano when he was 4 years old. Eigsti has released seven albums as a bandleader, in addition to appearing on more than 50 albums as a sideman. Eigsti has garnered multiple individual Grammy Award nominations through the years for his work as a recording artist and composer, including Best Instrumental Composition and Best Jazz Instrumental Solo.

In the past 30 years, Eigsti has had the good fortune of performing, touring or recording with such luminaries as Dave Brubeck, Chris Botti, Joshua Redman, Sting, John Mayer and Terence Blanchard, among many others.

Eigsti has travelled internationally extensively with his trio and quartet and also has been an integral part of the regular touring bands of Chris Botti, Eric Harland, Gretchen Parlato, Kendrick Scott Oracle and Sachal Vasandani. Eigsti has performed at many premier venues throughout the world, including the Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall and many more performances worldwide, including a private performance for former President Bill Clinton.

In addition to leading and performing with various small ensembles, Eigsti frequently has had the opportunity to work with various symphony orchestras and has written an extensive repertoire of music for orchestra and jazz ensemble. Soloist and compositional features include the San José Chamber Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, New York Pops and multiple featured collaborations with the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra, among others.

Recently, Eigsti released his eighth album (and his first new album in 11 years), called "Tree Falls" on GSI Records.



## ERIC GILFUS

**French Horn**

7:30 p.m. | Jan. 28, 2022  
Matthews Chapel

**A**t the age of 6, Eric Gilfus began studying piano and within a year he performed his first piano recital. He fell in love with the horn when he was 12 and continues a deep and happy relationship with this instrument today.

Gilfus is a proponent of new music and is constantly working to incorporate horn into styles of music not typical to the horn, such as folk, rock, blues and jazz, in addition to his main focus of classical music. He enjoys performing in local outreach programs and works as a clinician, coach and theory teacher at the Eastern U.S. Music Camp in up-state New York.

His orchestral experience includes the Carolina Philharmonic (N.C.), Augusta Symphony (Ga.), Columbia Chamber (S.C.), Illinois Symphony (Ill.), Longmont Symphony (Colo.), and Bloomington Symphony (Ind.), among others.

Gilfus holds a music education degree and recently pursued a master's degree and a performance diploma, all at Indiana University in Bloomington. He now lives in Columbia, S.C.

In his spare time, Gilfus enjoys cycling, remodeling houses, exploring caves and hiking with his dog, Zelda.



## JERI-MAE ASTOLFI

**Pianist**

7:30 p.m. | March 18, 2022  
Matthews Chapel

**J**eri-Mae Astolfi is a Canadian-born pianist whose playing has been lauded as "brilliant" (New Music Connoisseur), "persuasive" (Sequenza21), and "beautiful" (American Record Guide). Her repertoire, ranging from the Renaissance era through the present, clearly affirms her keen interest in new music, which has led her to commission and premiere many new solo and collaborative works—music that has been featured on live radio broadcasts and released by Albany Records, Innova Recordings, Ravello Records' Capstone Collection, Ravello Records, as well as various recordings for the Society of Composers, Inc.

The recipient of numerous performance and research awards and grants, Astolfi's passion for new music has been recognized by invitations to many regional, national and international music forums, where she has premiered and spoken about new piano music. An enthusiastic educator, she frequently serves as an adjudicator, clinician, coach and masterclass instructor and is an active member in various local, state, and national music associations, including her service as Commissioning Chair for the Georgia Music Teachers Association and as a governing board member of PianoArts (a North American piano competition, festival and fellowship organization). As a chamber musician, Astolfi is a founding member of duoARTia with pianist Holly Roadfeldt, and of Piedmont Camerata, the resident chamber ensemble of Piedmont University, where she is an Artist-in-Residence. Her advanced studies in piano performance were with pianists Helmut Brauss (University of Alberta), Tom Plaunt (McGill University) and Lydia Artymiw (University of Minnesota), with whom she completed doctoral studies.