

10 MOSS
ARTS
CENTER
10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



VT VIRGINIA
TECH.

INVOKE

Thursday, November 16, 7:30 PM

Street and Davis Performance Hall, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre



SŌ PERCUSSION

WITH CAROLINE SHAW AND SPECIAL GUEST SHODEKEH

Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 PM

artscenter.vt.edu

10 MOSS
ARTS
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10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

The Nutcracker
presented by the Blacksburg Ballet

Saturday, December 9
1:00 pm and 6:00 pm
tickets on sale beginning September 1

Blacksburg
Ballet

Stay up-to-date on
Facebook and
Instagram
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blacksburgballet@gmail.com

The poster features several dancers in various costumes from 'The Nutcracker', including a ballerina in a red tutu, a character in a white dress with a halo, and a man in a tuxedo. The background is black, making the white and red costumes stand out.

INVOKE

NICK MONTOPOLI, violin, banjo, and vocals

ZACH MATTESON, violin and vocals

KARL MITZE, viola, mandolin, and vocals

GEOFF MANYIN, cello and vocals

Support for this performance is provided by the
Elizabeth McIntosh Mitchell Trauger Excellence Fund.

PROGRAM

Works by Invoke unless otherwise noted

BURLYWOOD

EVOLVE AND TRAVEL

PROHIBITION SONG

SWINDLERS

MIRROR MAZE

ALCHEMY

DOORWAY

ENIGMA FOR THE NIGHT BY JOCELYN C. CHAMBERS

RADAR

DEIFY

TENEBRAE BY OSVALDO GOLIJOV

PROGRAM NOTES

BURLYWOOD

Written in 2021 as a part of our virtual pandemic series for a concert themed around color — *Burlywood* is [Invoke violist, mandolinist, and vocalist Karl Mitze's] sonic imagining of the color of the inside of an Ash tree.

EVOLVE AND TRAVEL

The title track of our new album, *Evolve and Travel* was inspired by the life of a traveling musician. Like the Ship of Theseus, every new place we have visited has changed us slightly, and when we finally returned home, perhaps we weren't the same [people] that left before.

PROHIBITION SONG

Written as an exploration of the American prohibition of alcohol during the 1920's, *Prohibition Song* details the life of a barkeep put out of business by the U.S. Government. It also shines light on some of the parallels between the prohibition and the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in March of 2020.

SWINDLERS

A recounting of three swindlers throughout history. The first is William Chaloner, a British counterfeiter who was apprehended by Sir Isaac Newton, of all people. The second is John Keely, a con man who claimed to have created a new type of motive power powered by vapor, or an "etheric force," but was ultimately proven false by the FBI. The final swindler involves some audience participation, as it describes an unknown politician (of your choice).

PROGRAM NOTES, cont.

MIRROR MAZE

As the maze is a powerful image that frequently symbolizes mankind's search for self-realization and meaning, *Mirror Maze* adds to this by exploring the way relationships, arguments, and simply understanding one another can feel like a maze full of mirrors, where one often finds themselves staring back at their own reflection.

ALCHEMY AND DOORWAY

Alchemy and *Doorway* are two pieces inspired by science-fiction author Ted Chiang's short story, *The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate*. In the story, our protagonist is a merchant in medieval Baghdad who discovers a new shop, where the owner (the titular alchemist) has created a mysterious doorway where one side transports you 20 years into the future and the other side transports you 20 years into the past. *Alchemy* and *Doorway* both explore the mystery, intrigue, and paradoxes that come along with time travel.

ENIGMA FOR THE NIGHT BY JOCELYN C. CHAMBERS

Of her piece *Enigma for the Night*, written when she was just 16 years old, Jocelyn Chambers explains, "It's really vulnerable and breathy and reminds me [of] car rides home with granddaddy after music school let out for the day. [It's] one of my more personal pieces."

RADAR

Invoke violist and mandolinist Karl Mitze writes, "*Radar* is a song about the strain our brains are under due to how easy it is to access information via social media. At times it seems like the whole world could end tomorrow and no one would be able to stop. There are a few references to the old Burt the Turtle songs from the Cold War era, a time where people's brains were under strain due to the existential threat of nuclear war."

DEIFY

Invoke violinist and banjoist Nick Montopoli writes, “*Deify* is an amalgamation of two of my earliest musical interests — roots music and math rock — and features overlapping patterns of 13 and 12 notes over a slow, steady rhythm, giving the song a simultaneously grounded and unsettled feel... And providing us with plenty of twists and turns to navigate.”

TENEBRAE BY OSVALDO GOLIJOV

I wrote *Tenebrae* as a consequence of witnessing two contrasting realities in a short period of time in September 2000. I was in Israel at the start of the new wave of violence that is still continuing today, and a week later I took my son to the new planetarium in New York, where we could see the Earth as a beautiful blue dot in space. I wanted to write a piece that could be listened to from different perspectives. That is, if one chooses to listen to it “from afar,” the music would probably offer a “beautiful” surface, but — from a metaphorically closer distance — one could hear that, beneath that surface, the music is full of pain. I lifted some of the haunting melismas from Couperin’s *Troisième Leçon de Tenebrae*, using them as sources for loops, and wrote new interludes between them, always within a pulsating, vibrating, aerial texture. The compositional challenge was to write music that would sound as an orbiting spaceship that never touches ground. After finishing the composition, I realized that *Tenebrae* could be heard as the slow, quiet reading of an illuminated medieval manuscript in which the appearances of the voice singing the letters of the Hebrew alphabet (from Yod to Nun, as in *Couperin*) signals the beginning of new chapters, leading to the ending section, built around a single, repeated word: Jerusalem.

— Osvaldo Golijov



BIOGRAPHY

INVOKE

Described as “...not anything but everything: Classical, Folk, Bluegrass, Americana and a sound yet to be termed seamlessly merged into a perfect one” (David Srebnik, SiriusXM Classical Producer), Invoke (Nick Montopoli, violin, banjo, and vocals; Zach Matteson, violin and vocals; Karl Mitze, viola, mandolin, and vocals; and Geoff Manyin, cello and vocals) strives to successfully dodge even the most valiant attempts at genre classification. The multi-instrumental quartet encompasses traditions from across America, including bluegrass, Appalachian fiddle tunes, jazz, and minimalism. Fueled by its passion for storytelling, Invoke weaves all of these styles together to form a unique contemporary repertoire, featuring original works composed by and for the group.

Invoke was selected to be the Young Professional String Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Texas at Austin from 2016-2018. Since being selected as Interlochen’s Emerging Artists Quartet in 2014, the group has been a featured artist and on faculty at the Interlochen

Adult Chamber Music Camp. The group also participated in the Emerging String Quartet Program at Stanford, and was selected as an Artist-in-Residence at Strathmore and the Fellowship String Quartet at Wintergreen Performing Arts. In 2018 Invoke was named a winner of the Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition in New York City; received first prize at the M-Prize International Chamber Arts competition in Ann Arbor, Michigan; and received first prize in the Coltman Competition in Austin, Texas.

Invoke has shared the stage with some of the most acclaimed chamber groups in the country, including the Westerlies, Miró and Ensō Quartets, and the U.S. Army Field Band. Additional performance highlights include Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Lincoln Center, the Phillips Collection, and the Green Music Center. Invoke has also appeared with musicians from various genres, including chamber rock group San Fermin, indie group Never Shout Never, and Washington, D.C. beatboxer, rapper, and spoons virtuoso Christylez Bacon. The group has also performed with composer-performer Clarice Assad and will offer a collaborative program with her for the 2024-2025 season.

Invoke's discography includes its debut album, *Souls in the Mud* (2015), featuring works by composer Danny Clay, as well as original works composed by the group; *Furious Creek* (2018), featuring original compositions and arrangements; and *Fantastic Planet* (2021), an original soundtrack composed by the group inspired by the 1973 French animated feature. Invoke's next album, *Evolve and Travel*, will be released in fall 2023 on Sono Luminus.

Invoke is strongly committed to championing diverse American voices through commissioning and highlighting new music. Invoke's ongoing commissioning project, entitled *American Postcards*, asks composers to pick a time and place in American history and tell its story through the group's unique artistry.

BIOGRAPHY, cont.

In addition to *American Postcards*, Invoke has performed and recorded numerous world premieres, including works by Joseph C. Phillips Jr., Armando Bayolo, and Geoff Sheil. The group's recording credits appear on bassist/composer Ethan Foote's solo album, *Fields Burning*; singer/songwriter Marian McLaughlin's *Spirit House*; jazz/soul singer Rochelle Rice's EP, *Wonder*; and many more. Invoke has also worked extensively with composer Graham Reynolds and his non-profit organization, Golden Hornet, recording volumes IV-VI of *String Quartet Smackdown*, *Marfa: A Country & Western Big Band Suite*, and the 2019 film, *Where'd You Go Bernadette*.

For more information, please visit invokesound.com.

Invoke is represented by Jensen Artists. Find more information at jensenartists.com.

This is the first performance by Invoke at the Moss Arts Center.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!



We'd love your feedback on this performance. If you complete the short survey, you can enter for a chance to win two tickets to Blacksburg Master Chorale on Thursday, November 16, 2023. bit.ly/invoke-feedback

GO DEEPER

What styles of music do you hear expressed in Invoke's repertoire and how do they relate to one another?

ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

UNIVERSITY CLASS VISIT: MUSIC COMPOSITION

Members of Invoke offered feedback on original student compositions.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

AZURE CONCERTS

Students with physical and cognitive disabilities experienced Invoke's music in two sensory-friendly concerts.

CONCERT AND CONVERSATION WITH THE HONORS RESIDENTIAL COMMONS

Virginia Tech students in this living-learning program enjoyed a short performance and discussed collaboration with Invoke.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

SCHOOL-DAY PERFORMANCE

Educators and 6th-8th grade students predominantly from Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, Roanoke, and Salem attended a free performance by Invoke.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

VIRGINIA TECH STAFF APPRECIATION PERFORMANCE

As part of its 10th anniversary celebration, the Moss Arts Center thanked Virginia Tech staff with a concert by Invoke.

Special thanks to Honors Residential Commons, the SAFE Program through Virginia Tech Autism Clinic and Center for Autism Research, Amy Azano, Natalie Cook, Tanner Cooper, Charles Nichols, Lauren Oliver, and Danielle Thacker



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10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



10 YEARS

is just the opening act.

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IN THE GALLERIES

THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17



william cordova

can't stop, won't stop: tenets of southern alchemy

Ruth C. Horton Gallery

william cordova examines the visual aspects of transition and displacement, studying the evolution and adaptation of objects and perception across time and space. Constructing artworks composed of reclaimed elements, paint, gold leaf, and collage, cordova presents encoded representations of social systems and the material histories of objects and images.

THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17



Laurie Steelink

Spirit Is Alive, Magic Is Afoot

Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and Sherwood Payne Quillen '71
Reception Gallery

Multidisciplinary artist Laurie Steelink is a citizen of the Akimel O'otham Nation and a member of the Gila River Indian Community. Exploring connections to her Native American roots, Steelink creates assemblages of found objects and reassembled paintings to question authenticity and consider spirituality. Using her creativity to reconnect with and to reference her ancestors, culture, and community, Steelink defines her work as an expression of her personal identities.



K-12 PROGRAMS AT THE MOSS ARTS CENTER

Experiences with the arts cultivate the next generation of creative thinkers, engage learners of diverse backgrounds, and foster community dialogue. The Moss Arts Center has been dedicated to providing K-12 students in the region with free, high-quality, and exciting arts programming since opening our doors in 2013. Through school-day matinee programs, gallery tours, in-school performances, and workshops with artists, we are passionate about serving our youngest community members and schools.

Learn more at bit.ly/moss-K12.

DID YOU KNOW?

At the Moss Arts Center, student engagement is a priority. The center consistently maintains a high percentage of student attendance for its events (28% for its 2022-2023 season) compared to other university presenters, demonstrating strong campus partnerships that encourage student participation. Student tickets are always \$10, and free last-minute rush seats are available.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo / Monacan People's homeland, and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that the Morrill Land-Grant College Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands in California and other areas in the West.

LABOR RECOGNITION

Virginia Tech acknowledges that its Blacksburg campus sits partly on land that was previously the site of the Smithfield and Solitude Plantations, owned by members of the Preston family. Between the 1770s and the 1860s, the Prestons and other local White families that owned parcels of what became Virginia Tech also owned hundreds of enslaved people. Enslaved Black people generated resources that financed Virginia Tech's predecessor institution, the Preston and Olin Institute, and they also worked on the construction of its building.

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We are grateful for the generosity of our patrons and donors who sustain the Moss Arts Center with their annual gifts. The impact of all contributions, no matter the amount, is significant in helping us transform lives through exploration and engagement with the arts and the creative process. We are honored to have received cash donations during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, from the following:

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Saturday, December 2, 4 PM
Roanoke Symphony Orchestra
Holiday Pops Spectacular

Sunday, December 17, 4 PM
Blacksburg Master Chorale
Messiah

Tuesday, January 23, 7:30 PM
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
with **Wynton Marsalis**

Wednesday, January 31, 7:30 PM
Cirque Mechanics
Zephyr: A Whirlwind of a Circus

Wednesday, February 14, 7:30 PM
Broadway in Blacksburg
My Fair Lady

Thursday, February 1, 7:30 PM
No-No Boy

Saturday, February 24, 7:30 PM
Mark Morris Dance Group
The Look of Love

Tuesday, February 27, 7:30 PM
An Evening with
Elizabeth Kolbert

Friday, March 15, 7:30 PM
Meshell Ndegeocello

Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 PM
Sō Percussion
with **Caroline Shaw**
and special guest **Shodekeh**

Tuesday, March 26, 7:30 PM
Las Cafeteras

Thursday, April 4, 7:30 PM
Ukulele Orchestra
of Great Britain

Saturday, April 13, 7:30 PM
Les Ballets Trockadero
de Monte Carlo

Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 PM
Small Island, Big Song

Friday, April 26, 7:30 PM
Bamberg Symphony
Jakub Hrůša, conductor
Hélène Grimaud, piano

Saturday, May 4, 7:30 PM
An Evening with Leslie Odom, Jr.



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YMCA AT VIRGINIA TECH

GIVING TUESDAY

GivingTuesday is a global day of generosity that will take place on November 28, 2023.

Do you know what the YMCA at Virginia Tech does for Your community?

- Food Insecurity Initiatives- since April 2020 we distributed more than 70,000 meals to local children, and we are still going strong through our Meals On Main program!
- Our after school programs offer VT students opportunities to provide mentorship and tutoring to participants.
- Sustainability- the Y-toss initiative and our recycling program at the Thrift Shop work towards our efforts for greener environment!
- and so much more!

Make your donation today at www.vtymca.org/donate

Y Volunteers at work!

Our Y Student & Community Volunteers had a busy weekend in October covering our annual Book Fair & our Rocktoberfest annual band event. Looks like they had a lot of fun at the same time!



Volunteer at the Y
Contact:
volunteer@vtymca.org



Meet the Y Team



Dr. Steve Jacobs
Almost retired local Optometrist serving Blacksburg for 30+ years
YMCA Board member & Food Insecurity Task Force Member.

The Y has so many different valuable community programs - anyone can always find something they're interested in.
150 years is a long time to be doing something - we must be doing it right! And, how wonderful to be doing it with VT from the beginning!
We moved into town from NY in 1988, not knowing anything about the area. Figured if we didn't like it, we'd check out somewhere else after a year. About 2 weeks in, we said "Yeah, this is nice" - and here we are!



Aisha Sheikh
Senior Majoring in Public Health
YMCA Student Program Events Team Leader

My favorite thing about the Y is getting to meet new people and having a sense of community. I think it is wonderful that the YMCA has been around for so long. It is such a great way to celebrate the community and all of the volunteers who make up the Y nation wide! Ultimately, the 150th anniversary of the YMCA at VT is not just about looking back; it's about recommitting to the organization's mission and continuing to make a positive difference in the lives of individuals and communities for many more years to come.

Something about me is that I love helping others and building meaningful connections. Which is why I love being a part of the Y!

Meet more Y Team members in the next MAC program!

www.vtymca.org
