



A Night of GEORGIA MUSIC

THE
GRAND
OPERA HOUSE
MACON, GEORGIA

PROGRAM

A NIGHT OF GEORGIA MUSIC

Featuring Chuck Leavell, Robert McDuffie & Mike Mills • Conducted by Ward Stare
MARCH 5, 2022 • 7:30 PM • THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE

One Way Out

Papa's Got A Brand New Bag

Midnight Train To Georgia

Rainy Night in Georgia

Rain in Spain

SouthScape

Respect

Give Me Back My Man

Hey Ya

Georgia On My Mind

Losing My Religion

The Allman Brothers Band

James Brown

Gladys Knight

Brook Benton

Chuck Leavell

Chuck Leavell

Otis Redding

The B-52s

OutKast

Ray Charles, arr. Chuck Leavell

R.E.M.

• INTERMISSION •

Concerto For Violin, Rock Band, and String Orchestra

Mike Mills

I. Pour It Like You Mean It

II. On The Okeefenokee

III. Sonny Side Up

IV. Stardancers' Waltz

V. Nightswimming

VI. You Can Go Home Again

Major funding for A Night of Georgia Music is provided by:

THE
**PEYTON
ANDERSON**
FOUNDATION



**KNIGHT
FOUNDATION**

Fund at Community Foundation of Central Georgia

Family of Mansfield and Genelle Jennings

ARTISTS

Chuck Leavell, Piano

Robert McDuffie, Violin

Mike Mills, Bass Guitar/Guitar/Piano

Ward Stare, Conductor

Arrangements and additional music by David Mallamud

John Neff, Guitar/Mandolin

William Tonks, Guitars

Gerry Hansen, Drums

MC DUFFIE CENTER FOR STRINGS YOUNG ARTISTS

Amy Schwartz Moretti, Director

VIOLIN 1

Chelsea Cline (Senior - Honolulu, HI)

River Sawchyn (Freshman - Winnipeg, Canada)

Augusta Schubert (Senior - Woodway, TX)

Caitlyn Clingenpeel (Junior - Centreville, VA)

Hayoung Choi (Junior - Daejeon, South Korea)

Kai Cole (Freshman - Austin, TX)

Seido Karasaki (Third-Year Artist-Diploma -

El Cerrito, CA)

Wesley O'Brien (Freshman - Calgary, Canada)

Alec Luna (Junior - Orlando, FL)

CELLO

Sara Scanlon (Senior - Milford, CT)

Brelan Jenkins (Freshman - Newport News, VA)

Constantine Janello (Senior - Morton, IL)

Manou Magdalena Chakravorty (Freshman -

Chicago, IL)

Juliana Moroz (Junior - Winnipeg, Canada)

Daniel Stein (Freshman - Bainbridge Island, WA)

VIOLIN 2

Allyson Cohen (Senior - Narberth, PA)

Virgil Moore II (Sophomore - Lynchburg, VA)

Naomi Fan (Junior - Marietta, GA)

Kayla Yagi-Bacon (Freshman - Los Angeles, CA)

Anishka Vogl (Freshman - Austin, TX)

Katrina Stroud (Freshman - Austin, TX)

BASS

Sam Dugo (First-Year Artist-Diploma - Ashburn, VA)

Moa Glimberg (Freshman - Arlöv, Sweden)

David Weiss (First-Year Artist-Diploma -

Philadelphia, PA)

VIOLA

James Cunningham IV (First-Year Artist-Diploma -

Pittsburgh, PA)

Carlos Walker (Sophomore - St. Petersburg, FL)

TEAM

Larry Brumley	Executive Producer, Mercer University
Debra Leahy	Business Manager, Mercer University
Buck Williams	Artist Management, Progressive Global Agency
Jennifer Fowler	Artist Management, Progressive Global Agency
Bertis Downs	Legal
Matthew Hall	Legal
Dewitt Burton	Equipment Manager/Production, REM/Athens LLC
Adam Paul	Producer/Director, 7Cinematics
Dan Reeves	Coordinating Producer, 7Cinematics
Joe Patti	Executive Director, Grand Opera House
Bob Mavity	Technical Director, Grand Opera House
Chas Pridgen	Director of Patron Services, Grand Opera House
Julia Rubens	Director of Arts Marketing, Mercer University
Rebekah Howard	Video Coordinator, Mercer University
Christopher Ian Smith	Photographer, CISmith Photography
Cathy Carapella	Music Clearances, Global Image Works
Tina Waganer	Station Relations, WAGANER Program Management

NOTICE

By entering and by your presence at The Grand Opera House, you consent and acknowledge that you have been informed that you may be photographed, filmed and/or otherwise recorded. Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming and/or recording and to any use, in any and all media now known or hereafter devised throughout the universe in perpetuity, of your appearance for any purpose whatsoever in connection with the production titled *A Night of Georgia Music* including all advertising and publicity thereof. Further, by your presence here, you grant your permission for your likeness to be included in the production without compensation, credit or other consideration.

You understand that all photography, filming and/or recording will be done in reliance on this consent given by you by being a member of the audience.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

CHUCK LEAVELL

Chuck Leavell has been pleasing the ears of music fans for more than 50 years now. His piano and keyboard work has been heard on the works of Eric Clapton, The Rolling Stones, John Mayer, The Black Crowes, George Harrison, the Allman Brothers Band, Indigo Girls, Blues Traveler, Train, Montgomery-Gentry, Lee Ann Womack, David Gilmour and many, many more. In addition to being a well-established pianist/artist in the music industry, Leavell is also a published author, long time tree farmer, co-founder of the popular website now called Treehugger.com, and keeps busy with his advocacy work on behalf of the environment.

At the age of 13, Chuck got the opportunity to see Ray Charles in concert. He recalls, "Ray and the band played an incredible show, and it had such an impact on me that I made up my mind there and then that that was what I wanted to do. I decided that night what I wanted as my career." When he was 15, Leavell made his way to Muscle Shoals, AL, and the legendary studios there, where he played on several records, including Freddie North's soul classic *Don't Take Her, She's All I've Got*.

In 1970 Chuck moved to Macon, GA, where Southern music impresario Phil Walden had recently opened Capricorn Records and studios. There, he worked his way through the ranks, recording and touring with various artists. In 1972 having just turned 20 years old, Leavell was asked to join the Allman Brothers Band. The first album he recorded with the band was *Brothers and Sisters*, which included the classics "Ramblin' Man" and "Jessica." The album hit number one on Billboard's Pop charts, and he went on to record several more albums with them before the Allmans temporarily disbanded in 1976.

Emerging from the break-up of the Allman Brothers Band, Leavell formed the rock/jazz/blues fusion group Sea Level with Allman's drummer Jaimoe. The band toured relentlessly during the late '70s and released five critically acclaimed albums. Catching the ears of and becoming friends with the late rock 'n' roll impresario Bill Graham and keyboardist Ian Stewart, the original "sixth" Rolling Stone, in 1982 he was invited to assume a significant keyboardist/vocalist/musical director role for the Stones that continues today. Says guitarist Keith Richards: "Without the continuity that Chuck brings to us, the Stones would not be the Stones." Leavell describes his role with the Stones as a "sort of musical navigator" who keeps track of arrangements and keeps things balanced in addition to spicing up the music with his keyboards.

Leavell is also a solo artist in his own right, with six records currently in circulation.

ROBERT MCDUFFIE

GRAMMY-nominated violinist Robert McDuffie enjoys a dynamic and multifaceted career. While appearing as soloist with the world's foremost orchestras on five continents, he has also shared the stage with Rolling Stones' pianist Chuck Leavell and the late Gregg Allman in "Midnight Rider," and with actress and playwright Anna Deavere Smith in Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail." Philip Glass dedicated his Violin Concerto No. 2, *The American Four Seasons*, to Mr. McDuffie. Mike Mills of the iconic band R.E.M. composed *Concerto for Violin, Rock Band and String Orchestra* for him. Robert McDuffie is the founder of both the Rome Chamber Music Festival in Italy and the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings at Mercer University in his native city of Macon, Georgia.

Robert McDuffie has appeared as soloist with most of the major orchestras of the world, including the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics; the Chicago, San Francisco, National, Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, St. Louis, Montreal, and Toronto Symphonies; the Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Minnesota Orchestras; the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the North German Radio Orchestra, the Düsseldorf Symphony, the Frankfurt Radio Orchestra, the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, the Hamburg Symphony, Bruckner Orchestra Linz, Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala, Santa Cecilia Orchestra of Rome, Venice Baroque Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Mexico, Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería; and all of the major orchestras of Australia.

His recent appearances abroad have been at the Royal Festival Hall in London with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Philharmonie in Cologne, the Seoul and Daejeon Arts Centers in Korea, the National Concert Hall in Taipei, the Tonhalle Düsseldorf, the Brucknerhaus in Linz, the Musikhalle and the Staatsoper in Hamburg, and at the National Theater in Santo Domingo.

Mr. McDuffie gave the world premiere of Philip Glass's Violin Concerto No. 2, *The American Four Seasons*, with the Toronto Symphony. He completed a 30-city U.S. tour with the Venice Baroque Orchestra, pairing the Glass *Four Seasons* with the Vivaldi *Four Seasons*. He has also played the Glass with the National Symphony of Mexico, the Düsseldorf Symphony, the Hamburg Ballet; the Nashville, Louisiana, San Diego, Dallas, San Antonio, and Colorado Symphonies; the Poznan Philharmonic of Poland, the Prague Philharmonia at the Prague Spring Festival, the Scottish Ensemble in Glasgow, the Amsterdam Sinfonietta in Holland and Belgium, at the Belgrade Music Festival, at the Aspen Music Festival in Aspen, Colorado; and, paired with the Vivaldi *Four Seasons*, with the Zurich Chamber Orchestra at the Zurich Tonhalle, at the St. Christopher Festival in Vilnius, Lithuania, and with the Israel Chamber Orchestra in Tel Aviv.

Robert McDuffie recorded *The American Four Seasons* with the London Philharmonic and Marin Alsop on Philip Glass's Orange Mountain Music label. His acclaimed Telarc and EMI recordings include the violin concertos of Mendelssohn, Bruch, Adams, Glass, Barber, Rózsa, Bernstein, William Schuman, and Viennese violin favorites. He has been profiled on NBC's *Today*, CBS *Sunday Morning*, PBS's *Charlie Rose*, A&E's *Breakfast with the Arts*, and in *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

He has performed *The American Four Seasons* with the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings Ensemble in New York City at (le) Poisson Rouge and returned to Hamburg for additional performances with the Hamburg Ballet. Future plans include additional appearances with actor/playwright Anna Deavere Smith and his annual visit to the Aspen Music Festival. He has performed with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Louisiana Philharmonic. In June 2016 he performed the world premiere of Mills *Concerto for Violin, Rock Band and String Orchestra* with the Toronto Symphony, followed by performances at the Rome Chamber Music Festival, the Aspen Music Festival and a three-week U.S. tour. In 2017, he toured the U.S. with the Bruckner Orchestra Linz, alternating the Barber *Violin Concerto* with the Glass *American Four Seasons*.

As founder of the Rome Chamber Music Festival, Robert McDuffie has been awarded the prestigious Premio Simpatia by the Mayor of Rome in recognition of his contribution to the city's cultural life. He served for ten years on the board of directors of the Harlem School of the Arts in New York City where he was chairman of the artistic and education committee. Mr. McDuffie holds the Mansfield and Genelle Jennings Distinguished University Professor Chair at Mercer University in his native city of Macon, Georgia. He plays a 1735 Guarneri del Gesù violin, known as the "Ladenburg." This instrument is owned by a limited partnership formed by Mr. McDuffie.

MIKE MILLS

Mike Mills is one of the founding members of R.E.M., the internationally-acclaimed rock band from Athens, GA. His vocal harmonies and intricate bass lines are longstanding trademarks of R.E.M.'s recordings and performances.

Born in Orange County, California, Mills moved to Macon, Georgia, where he and drummer Bill Berry attended the same high school. The pair left Macon to attend the University of Georgia in Athens where they teamed up with guitarist Peter Buck and singer Michael Stipe, and began writing songs for the band which would become R.E.M.

Mills, the son of a tenor who sang on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and in the Naval Aviation Choir, developed a keen ear for harmonies and a talent for playing instruments at an early age. He has always been known for his musicianship, songwriting, vocals, and production sensibilities in his work with R.E.M., as well as his side projects and solo works. He also contributed piano, keyboards and assorted other instruments. After thirty-one years and more than eighty million records sold, R.E.M. disbanded in 2011, but the band members remain good friends and actively pursue further musical adventures and other artistic and humanistic pursuits.

R.E.M., one of the seminal groups of its generation, won numerous awards and toured most corners of the world throughout their storied career. Despite several hit singles such as *Losing My Religion*, *Man on the Moon*, *Nightswimming*, *Everybody Hurts* and *The One I Love*, R.E.M. always maintained their creative edge, and along with it, critical acclaim and their loyal and supportive fan base.

WARD STARE

GRAMMY-winning conductor Ward Stare, hailed by the *Chicago Tribune* as “A rising-star in the conducting firmament,” was Music Director of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra from 2014 - 2021. He has been praised for “inspiring musicians to impressive heights” by *The New York Times*, and as “a dynamic music director” by *Rochester CITY Newspaper*. In demand worldwide, Stare has led symphony and opera orchestras in Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Toronto, Miami (New World), Rome (Italy), Japan, Oslo (Norway), Sydney (Australia), and the DSO-Berlin. Stare served as resident conductor of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra from 2008 to 2012 and returns frequently as a guest. Stare made his debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 2017, conducting Lehár’s *The Merry Widow* with Susan Graham in the title role, and has had several critically-acclaimed collaborations with the Lyric Opera of Chicago including productions of *Hansel and Gretel*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *Porgy and Bess*. A passionate advocate for arts education, Stare is a Distinguished Artist at the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings. In 2016, Stare recorded *Concerto for Violin, Rock Band and String Orchestra*, by R.E.M. bassist/songwriter Mike Mills with the ensemble and its founder, Robert McDuffie. An enthusiastic collaborator and performer of new music, Stare gave the world premiere of *Pravda*, by Academy Award-winning composer Elliot Goldenthal and the regional premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Aaron Jay Kernis’ Flute Concerto, featuring Marina Piccinini. In 2020, Stare’s recording with the RPO, *American Rapture*, featuring Jennifer Higdon’s Harp Concerto with Yolanda Kondonassis as soloist, won the GRAMMY Award for Best Contemporary Classical Composition. For more information, please visit wardstare.com.