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Savannah Wind Symphony presents its fall concert with world premiere

October 28, 2019



Savannah Wind Symphony

On Nov. 12, the Savannah Wind Symphony will host its fall concert in Georgia Southern University's Armstrong Campus Fine Arts Auditorium with the world premiere of "Pentangle," a concerto grosso for brass quintet and concert band by composer Philip Sparke. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m.

"It is very exciting to be a part of creating a work of art that will add to the repertoire of the fastest growing music ensembles in the world," said Johnson. "The work we have created is a very rare composition for the concert band medium. I am not aware of very many, if any, exist like it."

"Pentangle" which follows the traditional 18th-century concerto grosso form of the classical period and is updated with a modern twist, was commissioned by the Savannah Wind's artistic director and principal conductor Mark B. Johnson and made possible through a grant from the Savannah Orchestral Music Fund.

While putting together the show, Johnson was able to work closely with Sparke after meeting in Chicago at the Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference.

"We emailed each other throughout the summer months with general and specific concepts," said Johnson. "Sparke completed the finished work and emailed the score to me in early August."

The Savannah Wind Symphony is a community wind band serving the Coastal Empire and is comprised of musicians from the greater coastal empire region. The organization is sponsored by the Department of Music on the Armstrong Campus.

Tickets for the world premiere of “Pentangle” are \$15 for general admission, with discounts for military, seniors and children. Georgia Southern students, faculty and staff attend for free.

Purchase tickets by calling (912) 344-2801, or visit [georgiasouthern.edu/armstrong tickets](http://georgiasouthern.edu/armstrong_tickets). The Armstrong Campus Fine Arts Box Office is also open weekdays between noon and 3 p.m. in Fine Arts Hall.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving nearly 26,500 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

[Statesboro Campus Holiday Helper Tree back for 26th year of community giving](#)

October 28, 2019

Georgia Southern senior, Emilee Saigh, has participated in the Holiday Helper Tree on the Statesboro Campus since she was a freshman. Saigh has used the Holiday Helper Tree to continue a tradition of giving that was instilled in her during childhood.

“My family has always done some type of donation or gift-giving event during the holidays, so I thought it would be nice to carry the tradition into college with me,” she said.

At 10 a.m. on Nov. 1 in the Russell Union, there will be a kickoff event with a tree lighting ceremony and a musical performance by local children. During the kickoff, students, faculty and staff are invited to celebrate and pull tags for the gift exchange. Tags hung on the tree represent someone in the community who needs a gift and may not receive anything otherwise. Special guest and Georgia Southern first lady Jane Marrero will pull the first tag during the kickoff event.

“The Holiday Helper Tree is great because it’s something you can do as an organization or individually,” Saigh said. “You can pull family tags and individual tags, and you can pull as many as you can fulfill. When people think of donating around the holidays, often the first thing they think of is toys, but more times than not, the tags have things like clothes, shoes and socks.”

There are also gold tags on the tree that represent an act of service that can be done for someone in the community. Tags can be pulled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from Nov. 1 through 22.

“(As a part of Southern Ambassadors), we selected a family tag, and we asked each person to donate money so we could go shopping for the entire family,” Saigh said. “We bought gifts for the mother, a young boy, and a teenage boy and girl. All they really wanted were articles of clothing, so we got them a couple items each.”

The deadline to drop off gifts is Dec. 2 at 5 p.m. in Russell Union room 1056. For more information on the Holiday Helper Tree, visit <https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/LeadServe/hht/>.

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