

An evening with

The Purple Hulls



Featuring the SFA Youth
Orchestra and SFA Strings Project

Presented by SFA's Music Preparatory Division



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

Program Order

Brad Maule, Master of Ceremonies

Strings Project Ensemble

Home on the Range

American Folk Song

Philharmonic Orchestra

Cotton Fields

Huddie Ledbetter

Don't Fence Me In

Cole Porter

Chamber Orchestra

Roly Poly

Fred Rose

America the Beautiful

Samuel A. Ward

Wabash Cannonball

American Folk Song

All Orchestra's

Old Joe Clark

American Folk Song



Our Mission

Since 1980, the Music Preparatory Division faculty members have worked together to create a fun and rewarding environment for children and adults to pursue their musical endeavors.

Our mission is to provide an accessible and inclusive community center for music education that fosters the creative growth of individuals, inspires passion and creativity, and promotes excellence and well-being in our greater community.



Our History

In 1980, Dr. Robert Blocker, chair of SFA's Department of Music, and Shirley Wolfson Watterston, established a music program that would "teach music to children" from newborns to age 18. The program, a part of the Department of Music, was named the SFA Music Preparatory Division.

Watterston served as the director of the SFA Music Preparatory Division from 1980 to 1995. For fifteen years, she was the "mover and shaker" of the program. "A growing awareness of beauty in sound" reflected the philosophy and purpose of the program under her direction and continues today in the quality of the program.

In 1996, the division was the first community school in Texas to become an associate member of the National Guild of the Community Schools of the Arts.

Former directors include Linda Parr, Bobbie Ann Anderson and Pat Barnett.

The SFA (formerly Piney Woods) Youth Orchestra, organized in the fall of 2004 by Dr. Evgeni Raychev in collaboration with his wife Dr. Jennifer Dalmas, fulfilled the need for the development of the classical ensemble for young people. Richard Leppert assumed the position of director of the SFA Youth Orchestra in August 2021.

In June 2020, Alba Madrid assumed the position as director of SFA Music Preparatory Division.

Rooted in the Community Grant

This grant is intended to help String Projects activate artistic resources from within their surrounding communities in order to address challenges they may be facing, particularly in the areas of community-building, inclusion, and culturally relevant curriculum. Projects should include inviting a local guest artist into the String Project to collaborate with students and teachers and may involve bringing the String Project out into the community to participate collaboratively in its cultural life. Funded collaborations should be process-oriented and address an identified need within the String Project's learning community.





2026 Outstanding NSPC String Project Awardee

Stephen F Austin State University

Alba Madrid -Director/Master Teacher



The SFA Strings Project is an educational initiative at Stephen F. Austin State University designed to provide high-quality string instruction to students of all ages and skill levels. In partnership with the Nacogdoches Independent School District, the Lufkin Independent School District, and the East Texas Boys and Girls Club, the program strives to make string education accessible throughout East Texas.

This collaboration not only enhances the musical landscape of East Texas but also provides valuable teaching experience for SFA students, benefiting both the community and aspiring musicians.

Through the program, students have the opportunity to take private lessons, participate in the SFA Youth Orchestra, and collaborate with local artists, enriching their musical experience beyond traditional classroom settings. The program also offers group lessons and performance opportunities, fostering both individual growth and community engagement.

The Purple Hulls



Born and raised on a working family farm in deep East Texas, identical red-headed twins Katy Lou and Penny Lea Clark learned the value of hard work and the goodness of country life, and were blessed to grow up in an environment that cultivated their God given aptitudes for music. With music and athletic ability in their family blood, it came as little surprise when the twins made their way to play basketball and study music at South Plains College in Levelland, TX. After three years in West Texas, the Clarks moved to the hills of Tennessee, where they quickly gained work touring as backing musicians for various country artists, working for the Grand Ole Opry, and writing songs for Nashville's biggest publishing company, Sony ATV. After five fruitful years in Music City and the Lord leading them back to their home state, The Purple Hulls continue their travels based from their family farm (where they really grow purple hull peas!) and for the last twelve years, they have been sharing their unique and authentic, uplifting and energetic acoustic driven music with churches, festivals, and venues across the horizons of America and Europe.



Chance Moore

Chance Moore is an adjunct faculty member. Moore earned an Associate in Music from Angelina College in 2013, and a Bachelor of Music from Stephen F. Austin State University. While at SFA, he began teaching guitar, ukulele and songwriting through SFA's Music Preparatory Division.

In 2017, upon receiving an assistantship to work for the music theory and sound recording technology areas, Moore continued his studies at SFA at the graduate level, majoring in music composition and theory. He also began playing guitar for churches. During his graduate studies, Moore studied abroad for a semester in Australia at the University of Tasmania, where he had the first international premiere of an original work. In Spring 2019, he was inducted into the Pi Kappa Lambda national honor society for music. He received a Master of Music in 2019.

Moore moved to Houston in 2019 where he taught music for various private schools and after-school music programs,. At Fusion Academy, he rebuilt the music program and became department head of electives. He also served as adjunct professor of applied guitar and bass at Lone Star College-North Harris from 2023-25.

In addition to working miscellaneous freelance gigs and private commissions, he routinely played with the contemporary praise band for Christ Church Sugar Land, helping lead worship, play guitar, piano, bass and banjo.

He returned to East Texas in 2025 to teach at Angelina College, SFA and SFA's Music Prep.

SFA Strings Project Ensemble

Violins

Aarya Sonigra
Ava Bunn
Carmello Hinton
Chloe Tutt
Ella Wahl
Esteban González
Isabella Camacho
Jaxon Hollins
Jordan Weihe
Josephine Bailey
Joy Bailey
Melanie Cisneros
Penelope Winslett
Rainyia Griffin
Sarah Atienza
Tariyah Mitchell
Xion Simon-Green

Violins

Ahlaya Deckard
Aizen Marinez
Bethany Mejorado
Tiana Anthony
Zmyah Simon-Green
David Bailey

Cello

Cherish Griffith
Corlyn Roberts
Dayana Lopez
Landon Long
Luke Hassell
Ruth Bailey
Tre Bennett
Zoey Bailey

Viola

A'lyrica Smith
Benjamin Thompson
Castiel Jayz Manto
Elizabeth McDonald
Ezequiel Ochoa
Grayson Kowalick
Jayden Craft
Kennedy Johnson
Luis Sifuentes
Lyla Coleman
Rebecca Knepp
Niya McDaniel

Bass

Juliet Puckett



SFA Strings Project



Providing practical hands-on training to undergraduate SFA students in the School of Music, the SFA Strings Project is a member of the National String Project Consortium, whose mission is training tomorrow's string educators while providing string lessons to the community. Students from every school district in Nacogdoches County and surrounding areas are welcome to participate. This program is funded by a grant from the National Association of Music Merchants, the NAMM Foundation.

Strings Project Instructors

Kelley Bass

Jackson Campbell

Santiago Canizalez

Bridida Flores

Katie Gutierrez

Leah Heartline

Chanhee Lee

Reema Russell

Elijah Salinas



SFA Youth Orchestra

Philharmonic Ensemble

Violin

Abigail McDonald
Ace Temple
Annabelle Hannah
Averly Drake
Ayden Cook
Ethan Martinez
Ezra Fuller
Fisher Dodge
James Caraway
Julie Weihe
Justin Weihe
Logan Grimes
Lydia Jones
Naomi Hendricks

Viola

Alex Hannah
Alison Martinez
Carter Krebs

Cello

Ivy Whisenant
Solomon Hannah



Chamber Ensemble

Violin

Abigail Hendricks
Ben Grabowski
Carmen Moreno
Liberty Ham
Leah Hendricks
Melanie Walburn
Naya Sifuentes
Riley Wellman
Zoe Fuller

Viola

Alison Martinez
Amelia Blount
Fernando Ramirez

Cello

Camila Sifuentes
Maya Ibanez

Bass

Case Krebs



SFA Youth Orchestra



Under the direction of Richard Leppert, the SFA Youth Orchestra is comprised of the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra. These are audition based ensembles comprised of elementary, middle and high school aged instrumentalists in the East Texas area.

An SFA graduate and former Nacogdoches resident, Richard Leppert was happy to return to the Piney woods in 2021. He previously taught orchestra in Sugar Land for eight years.

An active violist, Leppert plays "anywhere that will have him", but his true passion is teaching orchestra, where he relishes each opportunity to pass along the joy and satisfaction of making music together with friends. Leppert is proud to be the director of the SFA Youth Orchestra and the opportunities this program brings to the Nacogdoches community.

He enjoys spending time with his wife, Missy, their daughter, Sophie, their dog, Gertie, and cats Milo and Millie



Summer Programs

Click on the image below to learn more about our summer offerings:



PIANO IMPROVISATION CAMP

\$100 per student | 9 a.m. to noon | July 15 - 17

Open to students of all ages who have at least three years of piano playing experience.

Learn the basics of church music, contemporary lead sheet reading, jazz, rag and blues.

Way Cool KEYBOARDING

FOR KIDS AGES 6 TO 10

\$100 per student | 9:30 to 11 a.m. | July 13 - 16

Designed for beginners with little or no previous musical background, students will develop listening skills and learn music fundamentals.



SONGWRITING FOR KIDS & TEENS

\$100 per student | July 27 - 31

9 - 11:30 a.m. for rising grades 5 - 7

1:30 - 4 p.m. for rising grades 8 - 12

Open to new & existing members with at least one year of learning a musical instrument and/or the ability to read treble clef

You'll review basic music concepts, write melodies, and explore ways to create vivid and engaging lyrics.

STRINGS ADVENTURE CAMP

STRINGS ADVENTURE CAMP

\$65 per student | 3 to 5:30 p.m. | June 8 - 12

Open to students ages 9 to 15

This camp provides a fun environment for students to learn and grow as musicians where they can try instruments and participate in musical activities.



SUZUKI SUMMER PROGRAM

\$150 | Tuesdays & Thursdays May 26th - June 25th

Open to new and existing members 4 years and up

10 - 10:30 a.m. New Students & Pre Twinkle

10:30 - 11 a.m. Book 1

11 - 11:30 a.m. Book 2



SFA YOUTH ORCHESTRA

\$85 per student | 9 to 11:30a.m. | July 27 - 31

Open to students ages 9 to 18 with at least one year of string experience.

Refine your instrumental skills, collaborate with peers and explore classical music pieces.



STRINGS PROJECT CAMP

\$100 per student | 8a.m. to 2 p.m. | June 8 - 12

Open to students of all ages with at least one year of string experience.

For string musicians looking to improve their musical knowledge and performance abilities.



PRIVATE LESSONS

Cost varies based on length of lesson

Open to all new and existing students

The Music Preparatory Division offers private lessons in piano, violin, viola, cello, voice & harp



INTRO TO HARP

\$100 | 1 to 3 p.m. | July 20 - 24

For beginners aged 5 and up

Designed for beginners with little or no previous harp background, experience the joy of learning a new instrument! Harps available to rent.

Donation

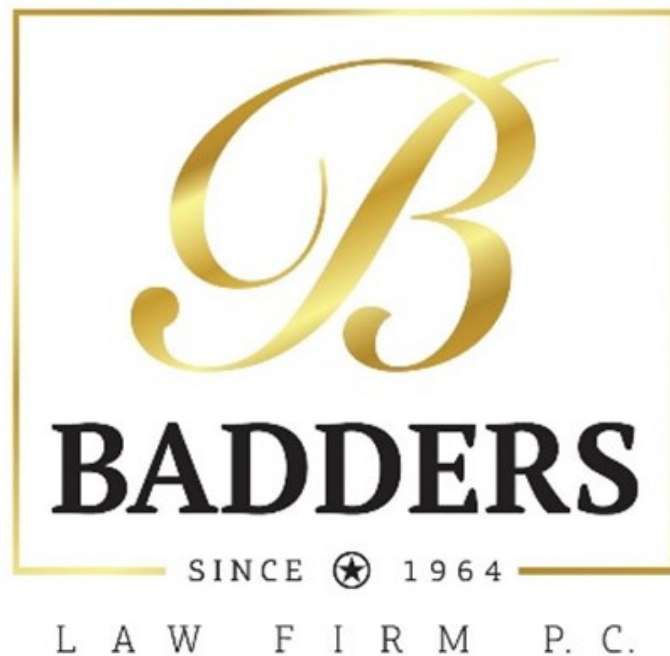
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Thank You to Our Sponsors!

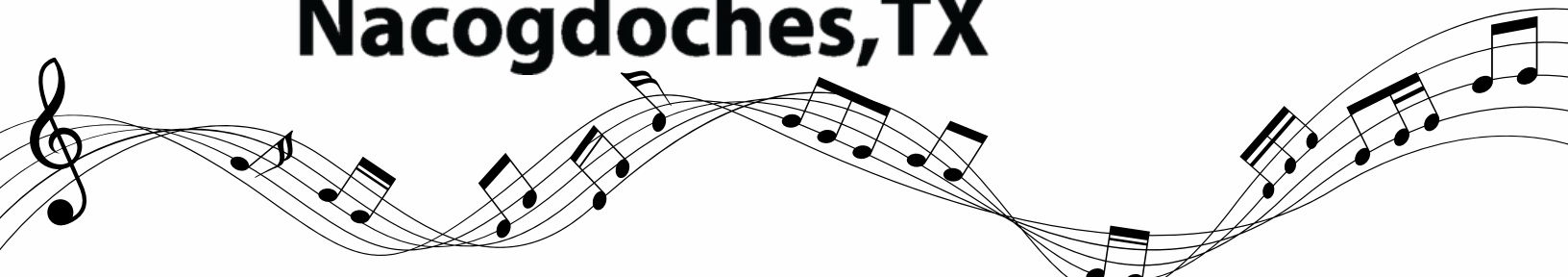
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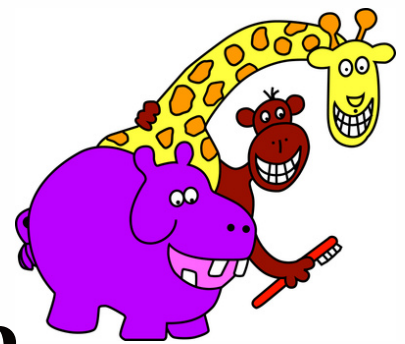


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Adagio



Friends of Music Prep



Thank you to our Partners and Supporters!

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Dr. Jennifer Dalmas, SFA School of Music Faculty
Dr. Evgeni Raychev, SFA School of Music Faculty
Dr. Gregory Grabowski, Director of Orchestral Activities

Brad Maule, Master of Ceremonies

Music Preparatory Advisory Board:

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