

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS

Boyer College of Music and Dance

Temple University Wind Symphony

Roots and Revelations

Patricia Cornett, conductor

Steve Wilson, saxophone

Jillian Laakso, graduate student conductor

Friday, October 3, 2025 at 7:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center

1837 North Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19122

Program

Cool Cat (2023)

Adam Schoenberg (b.1980)

Sweet Chariot (2019)

Carlos Simon (b.1986)

Concerto for Saxophone and Wind Symphony (2025) Billy Childs (b. 1957)

Steve Wilson, saxophone

Intermission

Second Prelude (1927/1964)

George Gershwin (1898-1937)

arr. Krance

Jillian Laakso, graduate student conductor

Come Sunday (2018)

Omar Thomas (b. 1984)

I. *Testimony*

II. *Shout!*

The use of photographic, audio and video recording is not permitted.

Please turn off all electronic devices.

Seventeenth performance of the 2025-2026 season.

Temple University Wind Symphony

Patricia Cornett, conductor

FLUTE

Steven Guard
Jacob Hawkins
Samantha Humen
Caterina Manfrin
Anee Reiser
Sabrina Stemetzki

OBOE

Simon Couchound
Gav Durham
Shawn Garrone

CLARINET

Chloe Bidegary
Sara Bock
Sarah Connors
Sarah Eom
Shin Woo Kim
Jonathan Leeds
Tian Qin
Qili Zhong

BASSOON

Noah Hall

CONTRABASSOON

Maria Bounviri

SAXOPHONE

Anjelo Guiguema
Aaron Kershner
Laurans Trinh
Ellis Holman

TRUMPET

Logan Bigelow
Ariana Diaz
Jacob Flaschen
Noah Gordon
Antoine Jackson
Kokayi Jones
Andrew Smallberger
Kevin Tinoco-Gonzalez

HORN

William Czartoryski
Grace Doerr
Adam Dougherty
Dana Reckard
Nick Welicky

TROMBONE

Micah Bautista
Dalton Hooper
Javid Labenski
Sen Liang
Carynn O'Banion

EUPHONIUM

Sophia Bonamo
Michael Fahrner

TUBA

Josh Berendt
Claire Boell
Michael Loughran
Loralie Minde

PERCUSSION

Tristan Bouyer
Joseph Fiore
Livi Keenan
Shawn Pierce
Jose Soto
Jacob Treat
Lorenzo Williams
Sam Wylie

PIANO

Dean Quach

STRING BASS

Omar Martinez
Dan Virgin

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Jillian Laakso
Kalia Page

About the Soloist

Jazz Times calls him “the consummate saxophonist-composer” and “one of the finest alto and soprano saxophonists of our time.” Saxophonist and flautist **STEVE WILSON** has contributed his unique artistry to over 200 recordings, collaborating with distinguished musicians including Chick Corea, Ron Carter, George Duke, Dave Holland, Michael Brecker, Dianne Reeves, Bill Bruford, Gerald Wilson, Joe Henderson, and Charlie Byrd among many others.

He is currently engaged as a touring member with Grammy-winning ensembles under the leadership of Christian McBride, Maria Schneider, Billy Childs, and Buster Williams. His involvement in film includes serving as artistic consultant to Harvey Keitel for “Lulu On the Bridge” and contributing to the soundtrack of the anime series “Cowboy Bebop.”

He has released nine albums as a bandleader, and he leads two renowned quartets—Wilsonian’s Grain and The Analog Band. His tenth album, featuring Renee Rosnes, Joe Locke, Kendrick Scott, Jay Anderson, and Kevin Newton, is scheduled for release in Spring 2026, on Smoke Sessions records.

In Spring 2025, Wilson premiered a commissioned piece by Billy Childs at West Chester University. The “Concerto for Saxophone and Wind Symphony” was co-commissioned by eight institutions: West Chester University (PA), University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Temple University (PA), University of Northern Colorado, Bowling Green State University, University of South Florida, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the DC Jazz Festival.

Wilson holds appointments as Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at City College of New York, as well as Co-Director of the Ravinia Steans Music Institute Program for Jazz. He is a sought-after clinician and has served as a visiting artist at universities and conservatories in the United States, Canada, Europe, China, and Japan.

About the Conductor

PATRICIA CORNETT is Associate Professor and Director of Bands at Temple University where she conducts the Wind Symphony, teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting, and courses in wind literature. Prior to joining the faculty at Temple, she was the Director of Bands at Cal State Fullerton where she conducted the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Winds, and taught courses in conducting and music education. She was also a Visiting Assistant Professor at SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music. She earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan, Master of Music degree from Northwestern University, and Bachelor of Music dual degree in music education and saxophone performance from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Dr. Cornett taught at Essex High School in Essex Junction, Vermont from 2007–2010 where she conducted three concert bands, jazz band, and taught courses in guitar and history of rock. She was also the Director of Instrumental Music at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls, Connecticut, from 2003–2005. She is published in the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series, the *CBDNA Journal*, the *WASBE Journal*, and *The Instrumentalist*. Her editions of *Divertimenti Nos. 2, 3, and 4* by eighteenth-century composer Vicente Martín y Soler are published by Boosey & Hawkes in the *Windependence* Series. She has presented sessions at The Midwest Clinic, national and regional CBDNA conferences, the Texas Music Educators Association Convention, WASBE, and over a dozen other state conferences. Guest conducting engagements have included "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, the Interlochen Arts Camp, and district, region, and state-level ensembles in over 25 states. She is a member of the College Band Directors National Association, the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, and the National Association for Music Education.

Program Notes

Cool Cat (2023)

Adam Schoenberg

Adam Schoenberg is an Emmy Award-winning and Grammy-nominated American composer who currently teaches composition and film scoring at Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. His works span a wide range of genres, including orchestral, solo, choral, film, and wind ensemble music. Schoenberg earned his undergraduate degree from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and holds both a Master's and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Juilliard School.

The composer offers the following insights on this piece:

“*Cool Cat* is inspired by the extraordinary life of P-22, the mountain lion that captured the heart of Los Angeles and beyond. This playful and celebratory concert-opener, aka fanfare, is meant to get the party started. It is dedicated to my son, Leo, our very own cool cat.”

Sweet Chariot (2019)

Carlos Simon

As a part of the Sundance Institute, Simon was named as a Sundance Composer Fellow in 2018, which was held at the historic Skywalker Ranch. His string quartet, *Elegy*, honoring the lives of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and Eric Garner was recently performed at the Kennedy Center for the Mason Bates JFK Jukebox Series. With support from the US Embassy in Tokyo and US/Japan Foundation, Simon traveled with the Asia/America New Music Institute (AANMI) on a two-week tour of Japan in 2018 performing concerts in some of the most sacred temples and concert spaces. Simon earned his doctorate at the University of Michigan, where he studied with Michael Daugherty and Evan Chambers. He has also received degrees from Georgia State University and Morehouse College. Simon writes the following about *Sweet Chariot*:

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” is perhaps one of the most well-known African American spirituals. As beautiful and rapturing as its melody is, it should be. However, it’s beauty and popularity often overshadow the song’s true meaning about death. I have taken fragments of the melody and combined it with the Gregorian chant from the Latin mass for the dead, ‘In Paradisum’.

The text is as follows:

‘May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs receive you and with Lazarus, once (a) poor (man), may you have eternal rest.’

Concerto for Saxophone (2025)

Billy Childs

Billy Childs’ new *Concerto for Saxophone and Wind Ensemble* was composed for saxophonist Steve Wilson. As Wilson prepared for the initial premiere of this piece, he recounted the origins of the *Concerto for Saxophone and Wind Symphony* in an interview. Wilson spoke about his roots as a “band kid” growing up in Hampton, Virginia, playing in school bands as an oboist, drummer, and later saxophonist. Throughout his celebrated career, Wilson has enjoyed the opportunity to perform and serve as a soloist with many of the world’s preeminent ensembles across a wide spectrum of styles, to include jazz ensembles, symphony orchestras, and chamber ensembles. He reflects on these experiences and expresses a desire to return to his beginnings in band and reaches out to his friend and six-time GRAMMY Award winner, Billy Childs, to compose this piece for solo collaboration with wind bands. Childs’ *Concerto* explores the possibilities of both the soprano and alto saxophone and creates an opportunity for Wilson to showcase the symphonic and jazz aspects of his instruments, including several opportunities for the soloist to freely improvise over the accompaniment of the band.

Second Prelude (1927/1964)

George Gershwin
arr. Krance

Known for his works such as *Rhapsody in Blue*, *An American in Paris*, and *Porgy and Bess*, George Gershwin offers a musical gateway to bridging the worlds of classical music and jazz. Combining recognizable elements of popular music, blues, and classical music forms in a way that is innovative and accessible to audiences. The *Three Preludes* for piano were premiered in December of 1926 by Gershwin at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York. The *Second Prelude* is particularly notable for its poignant mix of sophistication and blues-influenced melodies. Gershwin himself referred to the piece as “a sort of blues lullaby”. John Krance’s arrangement for concert band preserves the introspective and contemplative mood of the original piano score while adapting to the unique timbres and dynamics of the wind band.

Come Sunday (2018)

Omar Thomas

Omar Thomas was born to Guyanese parents in Brooklyn, New York in 1984. He moved to Boston in 2006 to pursue a Master of Music in Jazz Composition at the New England Conservatory after studying Music Education at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. His primary teachers include Ken Schaphorst, Frank Carlberg, and multiple Grammy-winning composer and bandleader Maria Schneider. Hailed by Herbie Hancock as showing “great promise as a new voice in the further development of jazz in the future,” educator, arranger, and award-winning composer Omar Thomas has created music extensively in the contemporary jazz ensemble idiom. It was while completing his Master of Music Degree that he was appointed the position of Assistant Professor of Harmony at Berklee College of Music at the age of 23. He was awarded the ASCAP Young Jazz Composers Award in 2008 and invited by the ASCAP Association to perform his music in their highly exclusive JaZzCap Showcase, held in New York City. In 2012, he was named the Boston Music Awards “Jazz Artist of the Year.” Following his Berklee tenure, he served on the music theory faculty at The Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Now a Yamaha Master Educator, he is currently an Assistant Professor of Composition and Jazz Studies at The University of Texas at Austin.

The composer offers the following insights on the piece:

"*Come Sunday* is a two-movement tribute to the Hammond organ's central role in black worship services. The first movement, *Testimony*, follows the Hammond organ as it readies the congregation's hearts, minds, and spirits to receive The Word via a magical union of Bach, blues, jazz, and R&B. The second movement, *Shout!*, is a virtuosic celebration - the frenzied and joyous climactic moments when The Spirit has taken over the service. The title is a direct nod to Duke Ellington, who held an inspired love for classical music and allowed it to influence his own work in a multitude of ways. To all the black musicians in the wind ensemble who were given opportunity after opportunity to celebrate everyone else's music but our own - I see you and I am you. This one's for the culture!

Boyer College of Music and Dance

The Boyer College of Music and Dance offers over 500 events open to the public each year. Students have the unique opportunity to interact with leading performers, composers, conductors, educators, choreographers and guest artists while experiencing a challenging and diverse academic curriculum. The Boyer faculty are recognized globally as leaders in their respective fields. Boyer alumni are ambassadors of artistic leadership and perform with major orchestras, opera and dance companies, teach at schools and colleges and work as professional music therapists, choreographers and composers. Boyer's recording label, BCM&D records, has produced more than thirty recordings, five of which have received Grammy nominations.

boyer.temple.edu

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts consists of the Boyer College of Music and Dance, School of Theater, Film and Media Arts, the George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater and the Temple Performing Arts Center. The School of Theater, Film and Media Arts engages gifted students with nationally and internationally recognized faculty scholars and professionals. A hallmark of the School of Theater, Film and Media Arts is the Los Angeles Study Away program, housed at historic Raleigh Studios. The George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater engages visiting performers, guest artists, set designers, playwrights and other Broadway professionals. The Temple Performing Arts Center (TPAC), a historic landmark on campus, is home to a state-of-the-art 1,200 seat auditorium and 200 seat chapel. More than 500 concerts, classes, lectures and performances take place at TPAC each year.

arts.temple.edu

Temple University

Temple University's history begins in 1884, when a young working man asked Russell Conwell if he could tutor him at night. It wasn't long before he was teaching several dozen students—working people who could only attend class at night but had a strong desire to make something of themselves. Conwell recruited volunteer faculty to participate in the burgeoning night school, and in 1888 he received a charter of incorporation for "The Temple College." His founding vision for the school was to provide superior educational opportunities for academically talented and highly motivated students, regardless of their backgrounds or means. The fledgling college continued to grow, adding programs and students throughout the following decades. Today, Temple's more than 35,000 students continue to follow the university's official motto—*Perseverantia Vincit*, or "Perseverance Conquers"—with their supreme dedication to excellence in academics, research, athletics, the arts and more.

temple.edu

Boyer College of Music and Dance

Upcoming Events

Rite of Swing Jazz Café: Tatum Greenblatt Quintet

Tatum Greenblatt, trumpet

Geoff Vidal, saxophone

Misha Piatigorsky, piano

Boris Koslov, bass

Isaiah Bravo, drums

Thursday, October 9 at 4:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

Mosaic Concert

Friday, October 10 at 12:00 PM and 7:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center

Graduate Conductors Chorus and Recital Chorus

Matt Lista and Adrianna Barnett, conductors

Monday, October 13 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

CPCA Arts Interdisciplinary Research (AIR) : Melanie Julian

Wednesday, October 15 at 5:00 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Chapel

Rite of Swing Jazz Café: Julian Pujols Quall Sextet

Julian Pujols Quall, piano

Alfredo Colon, saxophone

Ethan Bailey-Gould, guitar

Micah Collier, bass

Shakoor Hakeem, percussion

Oscar Evely, drums

Thursday, October 16 at 4:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change without notice.

For further information or to confirm events, please call 215.204.7609

or visit www.boyer.temple.edu.