SIGAL MUSIC MUSEUM

EST. 2017

GREENVILLE, SC

Instruments That Inspire

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

Photo: Sabina Cavalli

A TASTE OF FRANCE

JANUARY 31, 2024

The European-American Chamber of Commerce held their "A Taste of France" event at the Sigal on January 31, which included a speech from the Consul General of France - Atlanta, Anne-Laure Desjonqueres, We took the opportunity to showcase some of our French instruments, such as the 1769 Taskin harpsichord, an 1818 Claude Laurent crystal flute, and a rare selection of French-made hurdy-gurdies and accordions.

HAMPTON-PINKNEY PORCH FEST

OCTOBER 20, 2024

The historic Hampton-Pinkney neighborhood is basically in the Sigal Music Museum's back yard, so it made perfect sense for us to serve as the lead sponsor of Porch Fest 2024, which featured 24 music groups performing on the porches of these historic homes. The very land on which our museum sits, Heritage Green, was once home to Greenville Women's College, which happens to be where many daughters of Hampton Pinkney homes went to study piano!

HARDWOOD FLOOR!

AUGUST, 2024

The City of Greenville's annual festival, Fall for Greenville, generates a grant program called "Fall for Giving." This is the first year that Sigal has applied for this grant, amazingly becoming one of three non-profit recipients! This allowed us to pursue a long-needed upgrade to our first floor space, hardwood floors. This not only helps with the look and feel of the museum, but also the acoustics (our concerts take place in the first floor exhibit space), dust abatement, and the long-term care of the instruments. A big thanks to Fall for Giving!

THE BERENT PIANO

In August 2024, WYFF's Jane Robelot visited the museum to do a feature story on the Berent Piano, the very first piano built and sold in the developing United States, in 1775 Philadelphia. Earlier in 2022, Curator Dr. Tom Strange and Alexandra Cade published a paper in the *Journal of the American Musical Instrument Society*, verifying the authenticity of this one-of-a-kind instrument. In 2025, the Berent Piano will have its 250th birthday, and will be played in public for the very first time. This piece of American history will be on display in the *Sigal Living Presence* exhibition throughout 2025.

Jane Robelot, WYFF

DIGITAL SAMPLE LIBRARY

The curator's conundrum – when you have a large collection of historically significant musical instruments going back as far as 1575, many of which are still in playable condition, how do you share the informative nature of these irreplaceable gems as widely as possible without damaging them? A long-term project for the museum with this goal in mind is now bearing fruit! In 2022 a partnership developed with Alex Davis, founder of Tempest Audio, a creator of high-quality sample libraries. After many long hours of laboriously recording thousands of individual notes, the results are as close as you can get to a musical time machine. Earlier this year, Sigal Music Museum was awarded our first federal grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Science (IMLS) to place a digital play station, like the one pictured, in ten Greenville County Schools!

OLLI CLASSES AT FURMAN

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2024

2024 marks the beginning of an important addition to our educational offerings. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) offers a world-class array of courses for curious minds in a wide variety of subjects. Sigal Music Museum created a course in ten classes, each led by a different museum representative. Classes were offered in modern music, local music history, female composers, the evolution of modern piano, and a tour of the museum! These classes were led by Jon Grier, Ruby Morgan, Tom Strange, and David Sims. We look forward to staying involved in the OLLI community in 2025 and beyond!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Musicians and Music Lovers,

Welcome to the first annual Sigal Music Museum Annual Report! We celebrated our 6th Anniversary in 2024, which was an incredible year of growth for the museum. We received our first Federal grant, became lead sponsors of Porch Fest, and increased our membership and overall attendance. In only six years, this museum has amassed a collection that would take most organizations decades to collect. Because of this, we are bursting at the seams with historic offerings that engage students and delight audiences throughout the year. Since we can only display about 10% of our total holdings, we are always poised to bring forward instruments that can tell a wide variety of stories, illuminating music developments from around the world over the centuries.

One of the core challenges for a museum featuring historic items is relevance. This has been the motivation behind our Digital Sample Library, which is highlighted on the previous page, along with our genre-spanning schedule of live concerts. We hope you can join us for a tour, concert, lecture, tea, or special event in 2025!

David Sims, Executive Director

FROM THE CURATOR

2024 was the strongest year yet for academic engagement at Sigal Music Museum. The museum has a mission to provide scholars with access to information and observations concerning the collection and information holdings, and we exceeded all other years in engagement with academic scholarship. We added the Sydney Forrest Collection of historic clarinets, and numerous keyboards from individual holdings, including the Marion Runkles collection.

Sigal engaged in extensive material discussion with twenty-seven different scholars around the world, with visitation by scholars in all areas of musical instrument research to directly examine and measure instruments at least once each month during the year.

Sigal presented two conference papers; **“American Keyboards in the Sigal Collection”** at the Historical Keyboard Society of North America, Colonial Williamsburg VA, and “An Inventive Leap, Placing the strings of the upright pianoforte from the floor upwards” at the Kloster Michaelstein Conference, Blankenburg, Germany. Sigal’s holdings of antique recorders was published in the *Journal of the American Musical Instrument Society* **“The Recorder Collection in the Sigal Music Museum**, Albert R. Rice” and an article on the piano maker John Osborn has been completed and submitted for consideration in 2025.

Sigal provided information and the cover photograph for the new book on the pianos by the Erard piano firm, **“Erard, A Passion for the Piano**, Robert Adelson, 2024”, and important new information for the successful Doctorial Dissertation **“The Lyraflugel: Its History, Design, and Place in Cultural Heritage Collections**; Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts, Edith Cowen University, Perth AU”.

Tom Strange, Curator

TEAM

David Sims
Executive Director
david@sigalmusicmuseum.org

Chris Stack
Director of Marketing
chris@sigalmusicmuseum.org

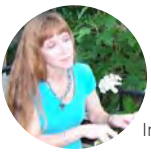
Dr. Thomas Strange
Chief Curator, Artistic Director
tom@sigalmusicmuseum.org

Dr. Wendy Winn
Director of Development
wendy@sigalmusicmuseum.org

Liam Farrar
Operations Manager
liam@sigalmusicmuseum.org

Debra Strange
Director of Community Engagement
debra@sigalmusicmuseum.org

ADVISORY BOARD



Anne Acker
Senior Editor
Grove Dictionary of Musical Instruments

Dr. Jenny Nex
Curator, Musical Instrument Collection and Lecturer in Musical Instruments

Dr. John Koster
Curator Emeritus
The National Music Museum

Dr. Albert Rice
Author and Appraiser

Darcy Kuronen
Curator Emeritus
Boston Museum of Fine Arts

Catalina Vicens
Curator of the Tagliabini Collection and Artistic Director of the Museo San Colombano, Bologna, Italy

Dr. Laurence Libin
Curator Emeritus
New York Metropolitan Museum

John Watson
Curator Emeritus
Colonial Williamsburg

Michael Lynn
Professor of Recorders and Baroque Flutes, Oberlin College

Dr. Andrew Willis
Professor Emeritus
University of North Carolina, Greensboro

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sigal Music Museum's board of directors is comprised of community leaders, industry professionals, and music enthusiasts. The museum draws on the expertise of this board to provide governance in this critical early stage of our organization. Working with the staff, board committees ranging from engagement to finance set goals and help gather support to make them happen. One of the most important components of this is our Strategic Plan, which received a critical update in 2024.

OFFICERS

John Beckford
Board Chair

John Stewart
Vice Chair

Charles Davis
Treasurer

Marshall Winn
Secretary

DIRECTORS

Linda Archer

Joe Blake

Jon Grier

Brett Hurt

Margaret Jenkins

Kathy McKinney

Ruby Morgan

Gustavo Nieves

Iliana Rose

Andrew Sigal

Debra Strange

Susan Thompson

Craig Walker

Andy White

BOARD TESTIMONIAL

Andy White

I always have enjoyed visiting museums. While I appreciate museums that feature works of visual art, I have a special affinity for museums that display artifacts of the past, artifacts both magnificent and costly as well as artifacts mundane and of little intrinsic value in their day. Buttons from civil war uniforms, Clovis arrowheads, antique cars, Byzantine coins - they all open windows to a past where these items served needs and were used by real people living real lives in worlds now lost in time.

The Sigal Music Museum is a great museum, indeed a world-class museum. Its collection of instruments, many of significant historical interest, is on par with other great music museums in the world. In just one room you can see a breathtakingly beautiful harpsichord owned by a British queen and played by a young Mozart on his visit to the royal family, a grand piano played by Chopin for a London house concert, the FIRST piano ever made for sale in the United States (long thought to have been lost... but Sigal now has it!), and many other instruments all of which were made, owned and played in homes and concert halls by persons who loved music then just as we love it today. And, even better, at Sigal you not only can see these instruments, but also you can hear many of them in our concerts, their sounds reaching across the ages to our twenty-first century ears. Close your eyes, listen, and you can imagine yourself there in the Paris salon, English court or humble home where the instrument once was played. What a wonderful, unique experience!

The Sigal Music Museum is an incredibly valuable gift not just to our local community, but to the world. Young music students visiting Sigal - and there are many - leave its doors inspired to continue their artistic training, and in some cases even to specialize their studies in antique instruments. Professional musicians of all types come to learn more about the instruments they themselves play. Scholars and curators from across the country come to study pieces held in its collection. And, of course, people like me come just to enjoy! As it says on the tee shirt, “Sigal Music Museum- Experience the Extraordinary.”

Andrew White, Board Member and Day Volunteer

CONCERTS

Sigal Music Museum is able to offer a hard-to-find commodity in Greenville - an intimate music venue that features a wide variety of genres. Not only that, but our concertgoers are surrounded by rare musical instruments! A world-class museum deserves world-class musicians, and our concert series brings them to Greenville audiences throughout the year.

Trio Tapestry
Tamara Wilcox
Valentine Wolfe
Daniel Bennett
Parrini Trio
Adam Maalouf
Camacho Duo
Iliana Rose
Slow Runner
Marcia Hadjimarkos
Cynthia Sayer
Edgewise
Rebecca Pechefsky
Daria Janssen
Gabriel Smallwood
Phillip Howe Trio
Greenville Chamber Players
Duo Beaux Arts
Avanti Guitar Trio
Clemson University Chamber Players
Matt Olson
Jazzville
Johnnie Felder
Joyful Harps
Aspen Trio

LECTURES

Our Distinguished Lecture Series is offered to the public, free of charge, at least twice each month. Experts, musicians, and scholars share their knowledge and talents with an intimate audience in our second-floor Conference Room. In 2024, our lecturers came from New York, Boston, Asheville, and the Upstate of South Carolina. Lecturers covered a wide variety of topics, from Ugandan music to Jazz banjo. 2024 marks the first year that our lecture series has received sponsorship, allowing us to provide a consistent slate of speakers. Thank you to SC Humanities!

Iliana Rose
Min Xiao-Fen
Suresh Jonnalagadda
Kevin Spears
Keith Davis
Ted Monnich
Ruby Morgan
David Sims
Michelle Moog-Koussa
Jon Grier
Adam Maalouf
Darcy Kuronen
Chinobay of Uganda
Free Planet Radio
Cynthia Sayer
Tom Strange
Vee Popat

South Carolina Humanities

EXHIBITIONS

WORLDS APART

The Musical Life of Frank Edwinn

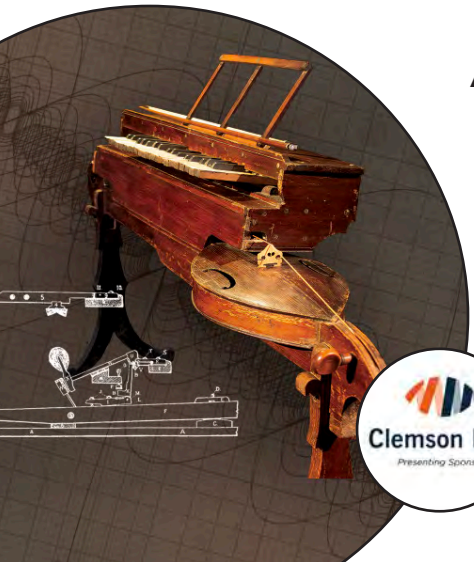
NOVEMBER 2023 - AUGUST 2024

This exhibition featured items from the personal collection of Frank Edwinn, an educator and world-renowned opera singer who collected musical instruments throughout his career. Edwinn used these items to teach his students at UNCG about music around the world.

SIGAL LIVING PRESENCE

CURRENTLY OPEN

This semi-permanent exhibition features instruments from the Sigal collection that are still in playable condition, many of which are played in concert. Marlowe Sigal had a deep love for pianos, harpsichords, and saxophones. Highlights include a rare collection of saxophones from Adolphe Sax's workshop, Queen Charlotte's personal harpsichord (played by Mozart), and an 1845 Broadwood & Sons piano played by Chopin.



A MEASURE OF MUSIC

STEAM and the Musical Mind

AUGUST 2024 - MAY 2025

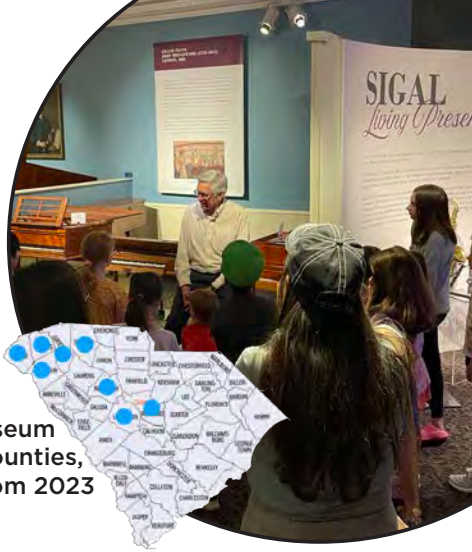
The second floor of the museum has been turned into an exploratory space for curious minds to learn about the science of sound. Key elements, such as vibration, resonance, and frequency are explained by way of interactive exhibits which allow visitors to understand music on a more fundamental level. Highlights include a playable theremin, a keyboard station featuring our new Digital Sample Library, and a rare 1939 Storytone/RCA-Victor electric piano.

Clemson Eye
Presenting Sponsor

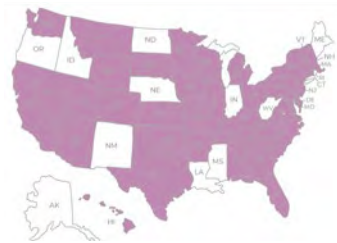
IMPACT

11% increase in overall Admission since 2023

20% increase in Memberships since 2023



Over 1,300 students toured the museum in 2024, from 26 schools across 8 counties, an 11% increase from 2023



54% of Sigal visitors are tourists from 37 States and 14 countries

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Sigal Music Museum is the perfect location for meetings and events for local business. Many groups took advantage of this in 2024:

Christ Church Episcopal School Alumni Association
Colonial Dames of America
Clemson Eye
The European-American Chamber of Commerce
Fine Arts Center Partners
Greenville County Historical Society
Greenville Music Teachers Association
Greenville Professional Women
Greenville Symphony Orchestra Advisory Council
Greenville Symphony Orchestra Guild
Music Club of Greenville
Rotary International
Steinway Regional Dealers

AFFILIATIONS

AASLH American Association for State and Local History
MUSEUMS for ALL
American Alliance of Museums
EMA Early Music America
Blue Star Museum arts.gov/bluestarmuseums
NARM Association
NORTH AMERICAN RECIPROCAL MUSEUM (NARM) ASSOCIATION
AMIS
ascap

MUSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Marlowe and Elise Sigal were champions of the arts, and education was a priority of the highest order for Elise. When the collection was being prepared to move to Greenville, this program was established in Elise's honor, to develop educational programs for the museum. This program is used in a variety of ways, with a new focus on classroom experiences.

SCHOOL TOURS

Sigal Music Museum hosts tours for school groups from the upstate and surrounding areas. We have a unique ability to tailor learning experiences to the needs of each class because our collection covers music, history, science, and art history - and with over 1,300 instruments to choose from, we can tell a variety of stories. While our relationship with Greenville County Schools continues to grow, we also welcome groups from the larger region throughout the year. Whether a public or private institution, K-12, university, college, or home school, we provide a valuable resource for teachers. Part of the Elise C. Sigal Musical Educational Program provides assistance with transportation costs for any Title 1 school in Greenville County.

EDUCATIONAL VIDEO SERIES

An early initiative of the Elise C. Sigal Musical Education Program was put in motion earlier in 2024, when we embarked on the creation of a video series for students in grades 3-5, which is just before most children begin learning an instrument. This series explores each major instrument, how it produces sound, and its aligning genres. Each video is hosted by young actors from the SC Children's Theatre, who interview musicians from the Greenville Symphony Orchestra. It is important for children at this age to see working professionals in the field of music, and there is no better local example than the GSO! The videos also feature animation to help to illustrate the inner-workings of each instrument. Due to roll out to Greenville County schools in early 2025, this series will be a free resource to be used at each institution's discretion. The first six videos will feature the flute, the harpsichord, the bassoon, oboe, the saxophone, and the trumpet.

CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2025, we are proud to offer a new tiered system for contributions, with new benefits at each level! If you're looking for a way to support the museum beyond Membership or Instrument Adoption, we encourage you to peruse the options below. At each level, contributors will receive access to exclusive online content in 2025.

GIVING LEVELS

GOLD CIRCLE
$10,000 +

- Quarter Notes (new quarterly newsletter for donors)
- Unlimited museum visits
- 12 Concert vouchers
- Invites to "Meet the Artist" events
- Preferred lecture seating
- The choice of a private tea or dinner with Chef Debra Strange for up to 8 people
- A private Collections Tour of the museum with Curator Tom Strange
- Invitations to donor events

SILVER CIRCLE
$5,000 +

- Quarter Notes (new quarterly newsletter for donors)
- Unlimited museum visits
- 6 Concert vouchers
- Invites to "Meet the Artist" events
- The choice of a private tea or dinner with Chef Debra Strange for up to 4 people
- A private Collections Tour of the museum with Curator Tom Strange
- Invitations to donor events

BRONZE CIRCLE
$1,000 +

- Quarter Notes (new quarterly newsletter for donors)
- Unlimited museum visits
- 4 Concert vouchers
- Private Movie Night at the museum for up to 8 people
- A private Collections Tour of the museum with Curator Tom Strange
- Invitations to donor events

BENEFACTORS
$250 +

- Quarter Notes (new quarterly newsletter for donors)
- Unlimited museum visits
- Invitations to donor events

INSTRUMENT ADOPTION PROGRAM

Looking for a fun way to support the museum? Adopt an instrument over a multi-year period, for yourself or in honor of a loved one! See our website for available instruments!

Interested in becoming a contributor?

(864) 250-8807

wendy@sigalmusicmuseum.org

2024 SUPPORTERS

John Beckford, Steven and Susan Bichel, Tom Strange

INSTRUMENTS

Steven and Susan Bichel
1859 Steinway Grand Piano "Oldest original example"

The Estate of Sidney Forrest
Historic Clarinet collection

Susan Freeman
1913 Dolcette, Chicago

John Warburg
Charlers Trute Square Piano

Arianne and Brad Williams
Grand Piano for "exploded view"

Washington & Lee University
Clementi Square Piano

The Estate of Marion Runkles
James Henry Houston Grand Piano
Thomas Haxby Spinet Harpsichord

Gary Davis & Dail Mengelkoch
1898 Ibanez Guitar, Italian Mandolin, Neopolitan Mandolin

Kathleen Heilig
James Stewart Piano, 1818

DONORS

Randy Akers
Linda Archer
Aurel Betz
John & Barbara Beckford
Joe & Claire Blake
John & Linda Bleuel
Rebecca & Stewart Bowne
Elizabeth Bradley
Charles Davis
Pat Dilger
Rosa Eisenstadt
Jon & Marion Grier
Sandi Holmes
Cathleen Hubbard
Brett & Cheryl Hurt
Malcom & Milly Isley
Roy Janse
Margaret Jenkins
Yoshi & Monika Kirsch
Joseph Kung
Mary & Jeff Lawson
Timothy Marshall
Ernest Martynyuk
John Melson
Ellie & John Mioduski
Ruby Morgan
Susan & Tom O'Hanlan
Anne Peden
Bill Pelham
Diane Perlmutter
Sue Priester
Janine Riding
Kathy & Gary Robinson
Pamela & David Rybarczyk
Karl & Marjorie Schnelle
Nancy Stanton
Sarah & Ruffin Stephenson
John & Susan Stewart
Tom & Debra Strange
Susan Thompson
Alex & Victoria Trepetin
Tracey Welborn
Jeff Whitehead
Bev Whitten
Wendy Winn

SPONSORS

Greenville County
South Carolina Humanities
Clemson Eye
Martin Printing Company, Inc.
city of greenville
South Carolina Arts Commission
metropolitan arts council
Jolley

MEMBERSHIP

Becoming a member of Sigal Music Museum is a great way to stay involved and up-to-date on our programming. Members receive a newsletter at the beginning of each month and receive other benefits, which you can see at the bottom of the page. Benefits will be expanded in 2025 to include a special members-only area of the website.

2024 MEMBERS

Anne & Chris Acker
Linda Archer
Ashley Batson
Jane & Boris Bauer
Barbara & John Beckford
Carolyn & Donald Beckie
Phillip Beckwith
Mary Biebbel
Susan & Steven Bichel
Claire & Joe Blake
Pam & John Brock
Martha Bunday
Kristin Camacho
Elizabeth Campbell
Dwight Chamberlain
Jim Clamp
Fannie Cromwell
Elizabeth & Charles Davis
Linda Elmore
George Fletcher
Keller Freeman
Charles Fritz
Judy & Stephen Gardner
Faith & Todd Harland-White
Elizabeth & Wade Harris
Beverly & Steven Henderson
Eileen Hendrickson
Powell Hickman
Harriet Hildebrandt
Elieen & Leo Hofmeister
Sandra Holmes
Richard Holzman
Carolyn & Howard Hunter
Cheryl & Brett Hurt
Margaret Jenkins
Elizabeth Joiner
Tricia & Bill Kelly
Thomas Kester
Monika & Yoshi Kirsch
BJ Koonce
John Koster
Darcy Kuronen
Kelley Lavin
Mary & Jeffrey Lawson
Margot Leroy
Sandra Liles
Lauren Luneckas
Karen Marfurt
Timothy Marshall
Ernest Martynyuk
Alan Matsuoka
Jackson McCarter
Pamela McCarter
Bonny & Jerry Miller
Ellie & John Mioduski
March & John Moody
Ruby Morgan
Felix Myers
Buford Norman
Kathleen O'Hare
Sally Parrott
Lou Peden
Mary & Richard Powers
Debbie & Roger Press
Sue Priester
Jo Prostko
Barbara & Roy Reeves
Amy & Martial Robichaud
Iliana Rose
Elizabeth Samples
Daphne Sawyer
Andrew Sigal
Mary Jane & Jay Simpson
Billie Sims
Carol & James Smeaton
Diane Smock
Gwynyth & Joseph Stephan
Emelia Stephenson
Sarah & Ruffin Stephenson
Ellen & Keith Stevenson
Susan & John Stewart
Debra & Tom Strange
Dianne Sutton
Lou Ann & Thomas Talley
Nancy Teachey
Harriet & Philip Van Hale
Myriam Velez-Baldwin
Rudd Veltman
John Watson
Douglas Weeks
John Watson
Douglas Weeks
Rita-Buscher Weeks
Ellen & Allen Weinberg
Tracey & Gregg Welborn
Janice Wenger
Mary & Bill West
Susie & Andrew White
Dennis Wiese
Betty Williams
Jeanette & Marshall Winn
Wendy Winn
Brad Wyche
Kurt Young
David Young
Beth & Ronald Zweigoron

A LOOK AT 2025

Lafayette in Charleston

2025 marks the 200th anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette's triumphant return to the United States, which began in 1824 and ended in 1825. When the tour stopped in Philadelphia, a square piano, made by the Loud and Brothers firm, was given to him. In March of 2025, Sigal Music Museum will transport this one-of-a-kind instrument to Charleston, where it will be played in concert for a SC Historical Society event honoring the anniversary.

Berent Grand Piano Debut

On February 13, one of Sigal Music Museum's most remarkable acquisitions, the 1775 "Berent" piano, will be played in public for the first time. The Berent Piano was recently featured on WYFF for its designation as the first piano ever built and commercially sold in the developing United States. This special event will mark the beginning of a new life for the instrument, which was recently brought back to playing condition by our Curator, Tom Strange. Get your tickets while you can!

WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR

JAN 23	Joseph Eller, Clarinet
JAN 26	Historic Woodwinds Lecture & Concert
JAN 29	January Tea
FEB 6	Louise Dubin, Cello & Piano
FEB 9	Gar Ragland Lecture (Vinyl pressing)
FEB 13	Debut concert of the Berent Piano
FEB 20	David Gross, Piano
FEB 23	Elizabeth York Lecture (Music Therapy)
FEB 26	February Tea
MARCH 6	Tuba Gin, Jazz/Ragtime
MARCH 9	Dr. Gary Robinson Lecture (Conducting)
MARCH 20	Gabriel Merrill-Steskal, Forte Piano
MARCH 23	Gene Berger & Kristi York Wooten Lecture
MARCH 26	March Tea
APRIL 3	Vor Cox Trio
APRIL 13	Tom Strange Lecture (Harpsichords and Pianos in the American South, 1740-1860)
APRIL 17	Iliana Rose, Cuban Jazz
APRIL 23	April Tea
APRIL 24	Andy Jurik, Guitar
APRIL 27	David Sims Lecture (Cycle of Influence in Music)
MAY 8	TBA
MAY 18	Keith Groover lecture (The Glide)
MAY 22	Danielle Knox & Jon Grier, Vocal & Piano
MAY 28	May Tea

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SIGAL MUSIC MUSEUM!

SIGAL MUSIC MUSEUM

516 Buncombe Street
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 250-8807
info@sigalmusicmuseum.org

Sigal Music Museum is a registered 501 (c)(3) organization