

MIT Wind
Ensemble
Solar Return
for Change
Kresge
Auditorium
Friday,
May 8
8pm

An environmentally-themed concert bringing together three of the most innovative musicians of their generations with the MIT Wind Ensemble and celebrated author, educator, and environmentalist Bill McKibben

Featuring the world premiere of Guillermo Klein's *Guitierra*, a prayer for the Earth, and Klein's *Solar Return Suite*, a work honoring the energy and depth of the natural world

Presented by MIT Music and the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) with support from the MIT Human Insight Collaborative (MITHIC), made possible by the MIT-GE Vernova Energy and Climate Alliance

Frederick Harris, Jr., Music Director
Guillermo Klein, composer-pianist
Miguel Zenón, saxophonist
Ben Monder, guitarist
Bill McKibben, guest speaker

Music
at MIT



MIT WIND ENSEMBLE - SOLAR RETURN FOR CHANGE

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026 | 8:00 PM | KRESGE AUDITORIUM

MIT WIND ENSEMBLE

Frederick Harris, Jr., Director
Kenneth Amis, Assistant Conductor
Peter Torpey, Lighting and media design

Presented by MIT Music and Theater Arts (MTA) and the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST), with support from the MIT Human Insight Collaborative (MITHIC), made possible by the MIT-GE Vernova Energy and Climate Alliance.

Remarks: Dean Agustín Rayo
Kenan Sahin Dean of the MIT SHASS

Remarks: The Honorable Roger Martella
Chief Corporate Officer and Chief
Sustainability Officer, GE Vernova

Spring Overture (2018)
Kenneth Amis, Conductor

Dance of the Whale (2014)
A Ballet for the Endangered Species

Interlude
Klara Poznachowska, harp

The Butterfly that Stamped (2008)
Mackenzie Riley (G), Baritone Saxophone

Presentation of the 2026 Richard and Jody Nordlof Award

Firefly (2008)

Intermission
Please join us in the lobby for refreshments

Children of Nature (2026)
Guest environmentalists:
Kannan Thiruvengadam, Vedant Ramesh

Remarks: Bill McKibben
Environmentalist, author, and journalist

Kenneth Amis (b. 1970)

Philip Sparke (b. 1951)

Maxine Aulio (b.1980)

Ryan George (b.1978)

Solar Return Suite (2006)

1. Terrenal
2. Pulmón
3. Cátaros
4. Between the lines
5. Platense
6. Camello
7. Solar (...gracias que hay viento)

Miguel Zenón, alto saxophone

Ben Monder, guitar

Guillermo Klein, piano

Interlude

Ben Monder, guitar

Guitierra (2026)

World Premiere

Miguel Zenón, alto saxophone

Ben Monder, guitar

Guillermo Klein (b.1969)

Guillermo Klein (b.1969)

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

MIT VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE SINGS CHET BAKER

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH AT 8PM - TULL CONCERT HALL

MIT MUSIC TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH SHOWCASE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH AT 7PM - TULL CONCERT HALL



SCAN HERE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Dean Agustín Rayo, MTA Music Office: Andy Wilds, Caroline Collins, Riley Vogel; Cuco Daglio, Tony DiBartolo, Mike McKenzie, Jerry MacDonald, Will Grueb, Peter Torpey, Campus Activities, MVP, MITAV, MITWE Officers, MITWE Alumni, Roger Matella, Tia Giurleo, Maeve Downey, Lisa Bush, Jenn Atton, CAST, Rayna Chou, David Colfer, Leah Talatinian, Dan Pecci, Michael Brindley, Miguel Zenón, Ben Monder, Guillermo Klein, Evelyn Wang, and Miho Mazereeuw

MIT WIND ENSEMBLE

Frederick Harris, Jr., Music Director

Kenneth Amis, Assistant Conductor

Piccolo

Jeewoo Kang '27, IL
Charlotte Wickert '24, CO

Flute

Corrina Berger '25, ID
Diana Ding (Harvard '20), CA
Brian Li '27, MA
Jeewoo Kang '27, IL
Sara Kornfeld-Sylla
Aba Kpeglo '21, GA
Charlotte Wickert '24, CO
Deetya Verma '29, TX
Clara Zhu '27, PA
(Postdoc), CA

Oboe

Jayne Chen '29, PA
Jennifer Kim '26, TX
Paola Romero '27, TX

English Horn

Paola Romero '27, TX

E♭ Clarinet

Teddy Werner (G), NM

B♭ Clarinet

Rebecca Chang '26, CA
Sora Egozy '29, MA
Andy Huang '13, CA
Lynn Jung '25, TX
Aleksandra Kaminska '26, IL
Teo Lara '26, GA
Angus Li (G), CT
Noah McAllister (G), NJ
Ruby Mykkanen '29, MN
Angeline Peng '27, UT
Teddy Warner (G), NM
Kaleb Asfaw '26, CA
Sheri Pearlman MD

Bass Clarinet

Karis Cooks (G), FL
Lynn Jung '25, TX
Isaiah Lopez (Harvard G), IL

Bassoon

Jovi Altadonna MA
Abigail Heyrich MA

Alto Saxophone

Daniel Gliksberg '26, MA
Tiegen Kamidollayev,
Kazakhstan
Tina Kambil '16, MA

Tenor Saxophone

Nathan Leung '28, MI
Ian Buss, MA

Baritone Saxophone

Mackenzie Riley (G) MA

French Horn

Connor Bushnell '27, MT
Scott Stransky '05, CT
Alex Wardle '25, MA
Christian Gutierrez, MA

Trumpet

Daniel Brown '25, SC
Ellie Erbenbraut '29, SD
Akshay Kapur '28, TX
Cameron Holt '26, HI
Brian Jiang (G), NJ
Nicholas Leasure '29, GA
Morgan Schaefer (G), NY

Trombone

Anthony Wang '28, CA
Christopher Urffer '19, PA
Eric Ryan Lee (G), Canada
Evan Harrison '26, MD
Collin Good, MA

Euphonium

Maynard Larweh '27, NE

Tuba

Christopher Forsyth (G), CA
Frederick Ajisafe (G), FL
Nnamdi Ometu '29, WA
Tyler Matsuzaki '26, HI

String Bass

Aloysius Ng '27, Singapore

Piano and Celeste

Claire Southard (G), MO

Percussion

Frank Wang (G), NJ
Ian Hueston '25, NY
Stanley Chen '26, Taiwan
Dhruv Srinivasan Phd, MD
Mark Chilenski '17, MA
Simone Ovsey '10, CA

Harp

Klara Poznachowska, Poland

MIT WIND ENSEMBLE ALUMNI

Flute

Phoebe Lin, '24
Vincent Lin, '24
Sophie Poizeau '13

Horn

Samantha Rencher '25

Trumpet

Alex Ferguson '23
Annmarie Hashimoto '27
Katie Silberstein Pastore '10

Trombone

Kirk Kolenbrander, former MIT
Vice President
Michael Peters, G

Percussion

Andrew Eckel '06 (RPI)
Simone Ovsey '10
Laura Rosado '22, '25

ABOUT THE MIT WIND ENSEMBLE

Founded by Music Director Dr. Frederick Harris, Jr. in the fall of 1999, the MIT Wind Ensemble (MITWE) is one of the most innovative such ensembles of its kind. Comprised primarily of outstanding MIT undergraduates and graduate students studying a wide range of disciplines within science, engineering, and the humanities. Repertoire includes outstanding traditional works and new music for full wind ensemble, chamber winds, brass ensemble, percussion ensemble, and woodwind ensembles. MITWE has commissioned 55 original works from many prominent composers. MIT Affiliated Artist, renowned composer, and tuba player of the Empire Brass, Kenneth Amis, is the Assistant Conductor of MITWE.

MITWE has been featured on NPR and was the subject of the 2014 Emmy-winning documentary *Awakening: Evoking the Arab Spring Through Music*, aired on PBS. MITWE is also featured in the 2019 Emmy-nominated documentary *The Great Clarinet Summit*, and *Call and Response: Creativity at MIT*. MITWE's joint recording with the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble, *Infinite Winds*, received a five-star review from DownBeat and was chosen by the magazine as one of its "Best Albums of 2015 Five-Star Masterpieces" — the first such recognition of its kind for a collegiate wind ensemble. The Boston Globe called the recording "one of the most compelling of 2015."

Throughout its 26-year history, MITWE has collaborated with elementary, middle and high school students throughout Massachusetts. In March of 2019, MITWE embarked on its first tour, spending a week in the Dominican Republic, presenting four concerts, many STEAM presentations for middle, high school and college students, and premiering the eco-music piece *In Praise Of The Humpback*.

In May of 2020, MITWE had the honor of opening MIT's virtual Commencement with *To The Light, To The Flame*. MITWE also participated in MIT's 2021 virtual Commencement, performing *Diary Of A Pandemic Year*.

In March 2023 the MIT Wind Ensemble, along with the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble and MIT Vocal Jazz Ensemble, toured and performed in the Brazilian Amazon. The project was focused on cultural and environmental sustainability and music's power as a vehicle for change.

ABOUT THE GUEST ARTISTS

Guillermo Klein

A composer, arranger, pianist, and occasional singer, Guillermo Klein began his craft in childhood in Argentina. When his father gave him a piano at age 11, he promptly began writing songs, inspired by the legendary Argentinean composer Astor Piazzolla. Klein attended Berklee College of Music, where his intention to study classical music gave way to his passion for jazz. His colleagues at Berklee—many of whom came from South America—provided the framework for what would eventually become Klein's main musical voice, the Big Van large ensemble (later called Los Guachos). After graduating from Berklee, Klein moved to New York City and quickly became associated with Smalls, a jazz club where he established a weekly engagement with his 17-piece Big Van band. Smalls was critical in fostering young artists who would ultimately be some of the most influential voices of modern jazz.

Ben Monder

A musician in the New York City area for over 30 years, Ben Monder has performed with a wide variety of renowned artists around the world. Monder is an American modern jazz rock guitarist who continues to perform original music internationally with his own quartet and trio and in an ongoing duo project with vocalist Theo Bleckmann. He has appeared on over 130 CDs as a sideman (including on David Bowie's last studio album, *Blackstar*), and has released six albums as leader. A guitarist's guitarist, Monder is also a master of texture and unusual voicings, creating what one reviewer has called "detailed sonic landscapes of mystery and power."

Miguel Zenón

GRAMMY Winner, Doris Duke Artist, Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellow Miguel Zenón represents a select group of musicians who have masterfully balanced and blended the often-contradictory poles of innovation and tradition. Widely considered one of the most groundbreaking and influential saxophonists and composers of his generation, Zenón has also developed a unique voice as a conceptualist, concentrating his efforts on perfecting a fine mix between jazz and his many musical influences.

Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Miguel Zenón has released eighteen recordings as a leader including his latest *Vanguardia Subterránea: Live at The Village Vanguard* (2025), the GRAMMY-winning album *El Arte Del Bolero Vol. 2* (2023) and the GRAMMY-nominated *Golden City* (2024), *Música De Las Américas* (2022), and *Sonero: The Music of Ismael Rivera* (2019). He has worked with luminaries and organizations such as The SFJAZZ Collective, Charlie Haden, Fred Hersch, Kenny Werner, David Sánchez, Danilo Perez, The Village Vanguard Orchestra, Kurt Elling, Joey Calderazzo, Steve Coleman, Ray Barreto, Andy Montañez, Jerry Gonzalez & The Fort Apache Band, The Mingus Big Band, and Bobby Hutcherson.

Bill McKibben

Bill McKibben is a contributing writer to *The New Yorker*, and a founder of Third Act, which organizes people over the age of 60 to work on climate and racial justice. He founded the first global grassroots climate campaign, 350.org, and serves as the Schumann Distinguished Professor in Residence at Middlebury College in Vermont. In 2014 he was awarded the Right Livelihood Prize, sometimes called the 'alternative Nobel,' in the Swedish Parliament. He's also won the Gandhi Peace Award, and honorary degrees from 19 colleges and universities. He has written more than twenty books about the environment, including his first, *The End of Nature*, published in 1989, *The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon: A Graying American Looks Back* at his Suburban Boyhood and *Wonders What the Hell Happened*, and his latest book is *Here Comes The Sun*.

Kannan Thiruvengada

Kannan Thiruvengada leads Eastie Farm, an urban farm in East Boston that fosters food security, regenerative land use, and environmental stewardship. He also serves as President of the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh.

Kannan grew up in a farming family in southern India where life was inextricably linked with land and agricultural adages were part of everyday parlance. After an early career in technology, he responded to his calling and returned to his agrarian roots.

In response to the COVID crisis, he co-created Mutual Aid Eastie and served over 5000 meals every week to food-insecure families in an initiative that also supported shuttered restaurants. Under his leadership, Eastie Farm built the first geothermally powered zero emissions greenhouse in the region, a space for all year growing, gathering, and education. Eastie Farm's Community Supported Agriculture supports small farmers in the region and serves hundreds of families in East Boston all across the economic spectrum in a manner that destigmatizes food insecurity and strengthens local economy. Eastie Farm connects people with nature and with each other, which Kannan hopes is the ultimate antidote to apathy.

Vedant Ramesh

Vedant Ramesh, a 15-year-old freshman at Commonwealth School, moved to East Boston from Louisiana a year ago. Having grown up experiencing climate change firsthand, he arrived already motivated to take action — and his awareness only deepened upon learning that Eastie is an environmental justice community. He quickly got involved, joining the Climate Corps internship with Eastie Farm, participating in Eastie Clean & Green cleanups, planting trees with Tree Eastie, and leading the Massachusetts Youth Climate Coalition. He also runs a YouTube channel, *Slay It*, where he interviews high-achievers to offer viewers guidance and inspiration.

Mackenzie Riley

Mackenzie Riley is a second year PhD student in the chemistry department studying the molecular foundations of neurobiological phenomena. She has been selected as an Emerson Harris classical winds scholar in 2024 and 2025 and is a student of Andy Wilds. She plays with both the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble and the MIT Wind ensemble.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

Dr. Frederick Harris, Jr. is the Director of Wind and Jazz Ensembles at MIT, where he serves as Music Director of the MIT Wind Ensemble, MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble, and Jazz Coordinator, overseeing MIT jazz performance and the Emerson/Harris Jazz Scholars program. He has been highly active with public school students and music educators throughout his career, leading seminars, guest conducting, and coordinating enrichment events at MIT and beyond. He is founder/conductor of the Groton Hill Wind Ensemble, a youth ensemble at the Groton Hill (MA) Music Center.

At MIT Harris has initiated and led various projects on themes of social and environmental justice including *It Must Be Now!*, creating music and visual art on themes of racial justice, *Hearing Amazonia*, combining Brazilian music and environmental research, and *Solar Return for Change*, amplifying the climate challenge through music, research, and advocacy. He has led music-science-impact trips for MIT music students to Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and the Brazilian Amazon.

Harris and the MIT Wind Ensemble have been featured on NPR and PBS in the 2014 Emmy-winning documentary *Awakening: Evoking the Arab Spring through Music*, with music by Jamshied Sharifi. Harris and his students also are featured in the 2018 Emmy-winning documentary *Imagination Off The Charts: Jacob Collier Comes to MIT*, and the Emmy-nominated documentaries *The Great Clarinet Summit* and *We Are The Forest*.

Nominated by his students, Harris is a 2013 and 2019 recipient of the James A. and Ruth Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at MIT. He was awarded the 2010 Paul Smith Hall of Fame Award from the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association. In 2025 he received the Dennis Wrenn Distinguished Music Educator Advocacy Award presented by Boston's Arts Learning, and in 2026 he became the first MIT music faculty member to receive the 2026 MIT Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award for advancing equity, compassion, and community empowerment.

World renowned composer-performer, **Kenneth Amis**, enjoys an international career of high acclaim. Mr. Amis began his musical exploits in his home country of Bermuda. He began playing the piano at a young age and upon entering high school took up the tuba and developed an interest in performing and writing music. *A Suite for Bass Tuba*, composed when he was only fifteen, marked his first published work. A year later, at age sixteen, he enrolled in Boston University where he majored in composition. After graduating from Boston University, he attended the New England Conservatory of Music where he received his master's degree in composition.

As a tuba player, Mr. Amis has performed as a soloist with the English Chamber Orchestra and has been a member of the Tanglewood Festival Orchestra and the New World Symphony Orchestra. His performance skills are showcased on many commercial records distributed internationally. Mr. Amis is presently the tuba player of the Empire Brass and the Palm Beach Opera Orchestra, the assistant conductor for the MIT Wind Ensemble, a performing artist for Besson instruments, and on the faculties of Boston University, the Boston Conservatory of Music, Longy School of Music and the Conservatory at Lynn University.

An active composer, Amis has been commissioned over a dozen times and has written for many organizations including the New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston, the University of Scranton, the College Band Directors National Association, the Boston Classical Orchestra, and a consortium of twenty universities and music organizations. His music is published by Subito Corp., Boosey & Hawkes, Inc. and through his own company, Amis Musical Circle, which can be found at www.AmisMusicalCircle.com.

He has been commissioned by such groups as the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Academy of Music Symphonic Winds, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the National Arts Center Orchestra of Ottawa. In 2003 Mr. Amis became the youngest recipient of New England Conservatory of Music's "Outstanding Alumni Award."

ABOUT OUR SPONSERS

The **MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST)** connects the worlds of art, science, and technology by collaborating with departments, labs, and centers across the Institute in four primary areas of activity.

To integrate the arts across the curriculum, CAST supports the development of new classes that reach across disciplines and majors. To enrich and encourage artistic collaborations, CAST looks for unexpected partnerships for visiting artists and seeks to embed residencies in ongoing research and teaching at MIT. To encourage the experimental phase of artistic creation, CAST provides creativity seed funds and research grants for faculty, curators, and postdoctoral associates. To share this creative work and knowledge with the public, CAST produces concerts, symposia, exhibitions, and publications in multiple media platforms.

The **MIT Human Insight Collaborative (MITHIC)** is a bold Institute priority designed to identify and elevate scholars at the frontiers of human-centered research and education, providing them with resources to pursue their most innovative ideas.

MITHIC is fostering creativity, inquiry, and understanding, and amplifying impact on global challenges like climate change, AI, pandemics, poverty, democracy, and more:

- Energizing innovation and inspiration with new resources for ambitious endeavors in the arts and humanities that broaden humanity's horizons.

- Empowering interdisciplinary teams led by experts in human-centered disciplines with colleagues across the Institute to achieve large-scale, long-term impact.

- Elevating human-centered education across MIT with new tools and techniques that equip new generations of leaders with essential knowledge and skills.

The **MIT-GE Vernova Energy and Climate Alliance** is a collaboration that brings together MIT researchers and GE Vernova experts to develop and scale sustainable energy systems worldwide. The mission is to advance research, education, and career opportunities across MIT while focusing on critical themes: decarbonization, electrification, digital + AI, and renewable energy acceleration. As part of the Alliance, GE Vernova will provide \$50 million over five years to fund MIT research initiatives, student fellowships, and internships, philanthropic causes, as well as educational and professional development programs for GE Vernova leaders. Research initiatives focus on the areas of Electrification, Decarbonization, Renewables Acceleration and Digital Solutions. Our philanthropic commitments include support for the MIT Human Insight Collaborative initiative (MITHIC).

For 2025-26, GE Vernova's MITHIC contribution will support:

- The MIT Wind Ensemble's Solar Return for Change

- A collaborative project that is exploring alternative materials to replace the heavily protected wood, pernambuco, used in professional stringed instrument bows

- And tackling the shared priority of addressing global energy poverty by supporting the MIT Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), which among other areas is working on an initiative to improve the growth of affordable electricity in South Africa

The mission of this alliance is ambitious — advancing research, education, and career opportunities that can help shape a more sustainable, energy-efficient future. Through this exciting Alliance, we are already seeing exciting results: new research projects, new graduate fellowships, and new opportunities for our students to lead," said Anantha P. Chandrakasan, MIT Provost, and Vannevar Bush Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

"We're proud to collaborate with the world's leading research institution and combine forces to bring tomorrow's technologies to life faster and solve some of the world's most pressing challenges," said GE Vernova CEO Scott Strazik. "Building on our sense of relentless optimism, I'm inspired by MIT's amazing students and researchers and excited to develop career paths and opportunities for their futures."