



From left to right: Rich Holly, Amy Sawyers, Natalie Sherwood, Teal Lepley, Leslie Barber, Carter Harris, Holley Holmes, Drew Marshburn, Areon Mobasher, Spencer Monaco, Gary Greene.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NC State Students Presented with Creative and Performing Artist Awards by Arts NC State**

**NOV 30, 2016 – NC State University, Raleigh, N.C.**

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On November 9th, seven NC State students were presented the 2015-2016 Creative and Performing Art Awards; recognizing student achievement in the performing arts at NC State University. The awards were conferred by Executive Director of Arts NC State, Rich Holly, and Friends of Arts NC State Board Chair, Gary Greene. The Creative and Performing Art Awards are made possible by grant funding provided by the NC State Foundation.

### **2015-2016 Performing Artist Awards**

Dance: Rebecca Anderson and Holley Holmes

Music: Areon Mobasher (Voice), Spencer Monaco (Instrument), Drew Marshburn (Piano) Theatre: Natalie Sherwood

### **2014-2015 Creative Artist Awards**

Music: Carter Harris, *Waltzometry* for Jazz Ensemble

Theatre: Teal Lepley, *Of Ghosts and Strangers*

Dance: Leslie Barber, *Everything in My Head*

### **2015-2016 PERFORMING ARTIST AWARDS**

The Arts NC State Performing Artist Award honors student performers in music, dance and theatre. This award is open to any current full-time NC State student enrolled in an Arts NC State music, dance or theatre course and/or involved in an Arts NC State Music Department, Dance Program or University Theatre production or performance. Adjudicating faculty chooses the Performing Artist Award, and the winning performing artist receive a cash reward.

#### **Dance**



**Rebecca Anderson**, a former member of the Panoramic Dance Project graduated in 2016 with a degree in psychology, and was an integral part of the Dance Program since she was a freshman. Anderson has danced for many choreographers and beautifully adapts to a large range of movement styles, moods and intentions. She recently choreographed a piece, *Spoon-fed*, which was invited to be adjudicated in the Mid-Atlantic Regional American College Dance Association Conference at WVU, a great honor. Anderson plans to pursue an M.F.A. in Dance.



**Holley Holmes** has been a student and performer over the last four years with the NCSU Dance Company, and last year was recognized for her performance at the Mid-Atlantic Conference of the American College Dance Association where she was selected to perform Robin Harris's *forevermore* in the Gala Concert. One of the adjudicators called her, "an exceptionally poignant performer." Holmes is thoughtful, sensitive, intelligent and process oriented. She blends emotional complexity and psychological nuance with spatial and musical clarity to create exquisite dance performance. This is Holmes's second time as a Performing Artist Award recipient.

## Music



**Areon Mobasher** received the Music Performing Artist Award in the Voice category. Hailing from Charlotte and currently a junior majoring in English and minoring in theatre, Areon was a 2013 recipient of the Blumey Awards that recognizes achievement in musical theater among Charlotte-area high school students. A devotee of the theatrical arts, last year he received outstanding reviews in the role as Tevye in University Theatre's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, which followed on the heels of a best actor award for his role in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Areon's interpretation of "Heaven on Their Minds" from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar* was riveting with its drama, vocal dexterity, and convincing Broadway character.



**Spencer Monaco** triumphs in the Instrumental category. A senior from Cary majoring in polymer and color chemistry, “Mongo” (as his bandmates affectionately call him) is studying trombone with Dr. Wes Parker and Jonathan Randazzo. For three years Monaco has been a member of the NC State jazz program while pursuing a minor in music. His trombone performance of Steven Verhelst’s “A Song for Japan,” composed in dedication to the victims of the 2011 Japanese tsunami disaster, transmitted a warm and velvet tone that demonstrated considerable musical maturity.



**Drew Marshburn** received the Performing Artist Award in the Piano category. A sophomore from Cedar Point, Drew majors in computer science and minors in piano performance under the instruction of Dr. Olga Kleiankina. His performance of Maurice Ravel's "Une barque sur l'océan" (A Boat on the Ocean) from the piano suite *Miroirs* shimmered with the cascading arpeggios and tone colors characteristic of musical Impressionism, so much so that one could envision Monet's boats wafting on the water. And no surprise—Marshburn says he particularly enjoys Impressionist music and hopes to complete Ravel's entire 5-movement suite while at NC State. Drew also adds trumpet to his catalog of instruments, which he plays "to accompany my dog, Lucie, who is quite the singer."

### Theatre



**Natalie Sherwood** is a senior, polymer and color chemistry major with a minor in theatre. She was awarded the Performing Artist Award for her outstanding and versatile performances as Yente, the elderly matchmaker in last season's *Fiddler on the Roof*, and as the young ingénue, Meg in the light comedy, *Leading Ladies*. Natalie continues a list of roles for University Theatre that show her unique talents in dramas, comedies, and musicals. She participated in the Southeastern Theatre Conference professional screening auditions for college students and attended the regional conference in March. She served as treasurer for the Psi Kappa cast of Alpha Psi Omega Honorary Theatre Society during the 2015-2016 academic year.

## 2015-2016 CREATIVE ARTIST AWARDS

The Arts NC State Creative Artist Award recognizes original work in music, dance and theatre created by full-time NC State students. Unlike the Performing Artist Award, the Creative Artist Award is not tied to enrollment/participation in the programs of Arts NC State.

A committee of music, dance and theatre faculty reviews submissions made annually of original work in the fields of music, dance and theatre, and chooses the artists who best exemplify the award(s) for Creative Artist. The winning creative artists each receive \$500 with acknowledgement in the following year's Arts NC State, *Creative State* magazine. A corresponding \$1,000 grant will be given to the appropriate Arts NC State program or department to assist in producing the selected work in performances by the Music Department, Dance Program and/or University Theatre in the following academic year.



### Theatre

**Teal Lepley** is a senior English major with a concentration in creative writing and a minor in Theatre. She was awarded the Creative Artist Award for her play, *Of Ghosts and Strangers*, about a woman wrestling with the loss of her memories following an auto accident. The work is structurally complex and emotionally evocative. *Of Ghosts and Strangers* was workshopped and staged as a reading in August and as a full production March 16-18, 2017 in the Kennedy-

Mcllwee Studio Theatre in Thompspon Hall. Teal is a member of the Psi Kappa cast of Alpha Psi Omega Honorary Theatre Society.



## Music

**Carter Harris**, a Cary native receiving his PhD in Electrical Engineering, is the 2016 recipient of the Creative Artist Award in Music. For the past seven years, Harris has played soprano and tenor saxophones with the NC State jazz ensembles under the direction of Dr. Wes Parker. Dr. Parker describes Carter as “one of my hardest working and most talented students of my career, who not only pushes our students to be better, but pushes me pretty hard to be better as well.” Harris’ winning composition, *Waltzometry* for jazz ensemble, was premiered with the NC State Jazz Ensemble I at the 2015 North Carolina Music Educators Association. *Waltzometry* traces the journey of a simple melody through three diverse waltz settings: first, a gentle ballroom waltz, then a roaring African-inspired romp, and finally a swinging race to the finish. The theme transforms with the curvature of its path, morphing as it travels through the unknown before finally returning home.





## Dance

**Leslie Barber** is a senior majoring in fashion and textiles management and has been a member of the Panoramic Dance Project for five years. Her original work, *Everything in My Head*, premiered at the NCSU Dance Company Fall Concert and is inspired by a spoken word poem about OCD by Neil Hilborn.