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SPRING 2020-21



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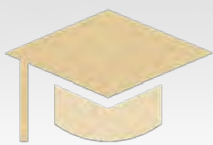
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FSU's commitment to increasing the number of students studying abroad was honored with a 2019 Seal of Excellence from the Institute of International Education. The award specifically recognized FSU's extraordinary global-engagement network.



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Florida State's freshman retention rate is 93 percent, meaning more freshmen than ever are returning for their second year. That places FSU among the Top 20 public universities in the nation for freshman retention!



## WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

FSU researchers received a record level of funding from federal, state and private sources in the 2019 fiscal year, bringing \$233.6 million to the university to support investigations into areas such as health sciences, high energy physics and marine biology.



## THE WORD IS OUT

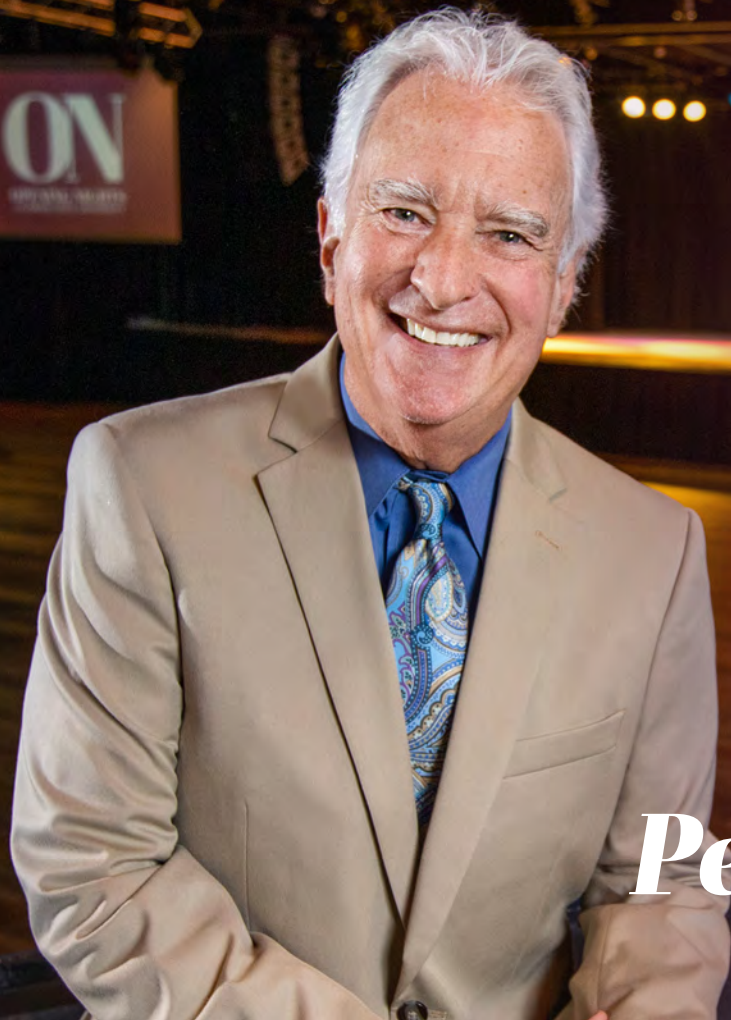
Prospective students are taking notice of FSU's preeminence. We received a record-breaking 60,555 first-time freshman applications for the 2019 summer and fall semesters.



## AN OUTSTANDING VALUE

Florida State is ranked No. 9 in the nation among public universities that offer high-quality education at an affordable price, according to Kiplinger's annual list of Best Values in Public Colleges.





# Spring into Great Performances

**M**any of you, our valued audience members, have asked about enjoying a beverage before our performances. The Silver Moon Lounge will be open prior to all performances from 6:30 to 7:15 P.M., offering beer, wine, spirits and soft drinks for purchase. Opening Nights Sponsors and Members may use their drink tickets for complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks.

To comply with our mask requirement during the performance, drinks will not be allowed to leave the lounge.

We wrap up our March performances with Streetlight Cadence. This fun group comes from the streets of Hawaii. The band is high energy and known for their unique instrumentation and distinctive arrangements, creating an electrifying show with banjo, violin, cello and rich vocals. I encourage you to get up and dance!

On April 1, we present Máiréad Nesbitt Ensemble. Máiréad is known best as a former violinist with the popular all-female Irish singing group Celtic Woman. Her versatile playing and ability to capture the spirit and energy of Celtic and

Irish classics have made her one of the most well-known Celtic violinists performing today. She will be joined by soprano Ryann Murray and percussionist/keyboardist Neil Grover who performed with the Boston Symphony & Boston Pops for over 40 years.

PRISM, featuring the world-renowned Florida State University College of Music, returns to Opening Nights on April 11 at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center. I hope you'll join us for an evening with Michael Rosato who kicks off the Chain of Parks Art Festival with a keynote address that will be available in person and virtually on April 15.

Thank you for joining us this season. We couldn't do what we do without your continued support.

Michael Blachly  
*Director, Opening Nights at Florida State University*





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# UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

## MARCH

---

**27** **Streetlight Cadence**  
folk, pop, punk-folk

## APRIL

---

**1** **Máiréad Nesbitt Ensemble**  
Celtic, instrumental

**11** **PRISM**  
classical, jazz, marching band, pop

**15** **Michael Rosato: Chain of Parks  
Art Festival Presenting Artist**  
spoken word, visual arts

## MAY

---

**2** **Edwin McCain Trio**  
singer-songwriter, indie rock

**8** **Matthew Whitaker**  
jazz, instrumental

**27** **Old Salt Union**  
bluegrass

## JUNE

---

**10** **Veronica Swift**  
jazz, vocal

**17** **An Evening with Billy Dean**  
country, singer-songwriter

Cover: Streetlight Cadence photo by Genki Photos

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**March**  
**27**

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**7:30 P.M.**

---

**LOCATION**

*The Moon*

---

**GENRE**

*folk, pop, punk-folk*



Photo by Genki Photos

# Streetlight Cadence

*For this performance Jesse Shiroma, Accordion, will not be joining the band.*

Streetlight Cadence is a fresh and energetic 4-piece band that specializes in a “punk-folk” sound that is established through violin, cello, accordion, guitar and drums with group vocals. Their signature sound can be described as millennial pop punk energy with Nickel Creek instrumentation. With an extensive catalogue of originals and covers, the group is highly versatile and performs comfortably on stages of all sizes. Streetlight Cadence’s storytelling songwriting-style is appropriate for audiences of all ages.

*Continued on pg. 21*



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Streetlight Cadence is best known for their endless energy, unique instrumentation and distinctive punk-folk sound. Photo by Phillippe Villarubia

## Streetlight Cadence

*Continued from pg. 17*

The band began as three college students busking to afford food after a full day of classes. It all began with Jonathon Franklin. Hailing from Katy, Texas but looking for better surf than Galveston, Jon unexpectedly landed in Hawai'i, where a chance meeting and three days of not eating led to the beginnings of Streetlight Cadence.

With not much more than his violin, Jon did the only thing he could do—play some tunes from Suzuki and pray he'd have enough money for a sandwich by evening's end.

Soon after, Jon posted an ad on Craigslist seeking "interesting musicians", and that's how he met accordionist, Jesse. The guys began to play on the streets of Waikiki for food, fun, friendship and more food.

As budding musicians with degrees to study for, both Jon and Jesse made do with recreational, school-related music programs as formal training for what almost certainly would be an indefinite hobby. There are

advantages to participating in collegiate orchestras. Being recruited as a street performer is not one of them. But that's exactly how Brian, alongside his cello and deep voice, joined in the mix.

Two Nā Hōkū Hanohano (Hawaiian Grammy) awards later, the group made the monumental decision to leave Honolulu and pursue music full-time, in Los Angeles.

Fast-forward a couple of years. Jon finally manages to convince his brother-in-law, Ben, to join the band as the drummer. Ben is an enigma because he can and has played every instrument ever thrown at him. Except drums. Still, he decided to leave his day job, and with wife and baby in hand, moved to Los Angeles with dreams of superstardom.

Los Angeles provided the kick that the group needed to dedicate their livelihoods to music-making. As friends first and band second, they wrote songs, toured around the world, and made friends in ways that wouldn't have been possible without the band.

As 2020 arrived in unexpected bits, the group has ever prospered, writing songs and making

noises that deeply reflect on their decade-long experience as a band, one which has encompassed marriage, tragedy, childbirth, and yes, lots of surfing.

The members of Streetlight Cadence are friends first and band second. This is felt in their performance and their relationship with fans, who have supported them through their crowdfunding campaigns and purchased their albums in the tens of thousands. The group has three unique Billboard chart placements and even self-produced their own Emmy-nominated travel TV show, *Will Play For Food*.

The band has attracted a truly diverse crowd from all over the world. Highlight performance locations beyond the sidewalks include Aloha Stadium, Hawaii Theater; Grand Hyatt in the Bahamas; Disneyland Resort; Italia Cultural Hall in Japan and more. They've sold out shows at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center in California and the Maui Arts & Cultural Center in Hawaii. Over 10 years in and still friends with each other and their fans, Streetlight Cadence continues to step forward in the music world. ■



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