

# UNCG Wind Ensemble Nominated for Grammy Awards

The most recent UNCG Wind Ensemble compact disc *fireworks!* has been nominated for Grammy Awards in two categories by a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. The UNCG compact disc, released in March 2010 on the Equilibrium label, is a nominee for "Classical Album of the Year" and for "Best Orchestral Performance."

UNCG faculty conductors on the compact disc include Dr. John R. Locke, Director of Bands, and Dr. Kevin M. Gerald, Associate Director of Bands and Director of Orchestras. Dr. Andrea Brown, a music faculty member at the Georgia Institute of Technology, also conducted a selection on the Grammy-nominated recording during her doctoral conducting work at UNCG. Mr. Dennis Hopson, Director of Recording Services at UNCG was the sound engineer who recorded and mastered the *fireworks!* compact disc. Assisting with the editing and production of the CD was Mr. Mark Norman, Director of Bands at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas and a former doctoral conducting major at UNCG.



"This was a very nice occurrence for all of us, especially our students. There were 61 student UNCG student performers on this recording and they represented the very finest wind and percussion students in the School of Music," commented Dr. Locke. "This year, there are some 300 nominees for Classical Album of the Year, so we're realistic about our chances. Nonetheless, to be placed on a world-wide ballot with the greatest classical ensembles is very rewarding in itself," Locke observed. "And, it's a first for us. Recording a commercial CD is a very arduous task stretching out over many months and having our work gain this sort of recognition is deeply satisfying," Locke said.

Members of the Recording Academy will vote over the next two weeks for their top five selections in a variety of musical categories during the first round of voting. A second ballot will then be distributed in December from which the winners will be selected in each category. The UNCG Wind Ensemble CD is on the same ballot alongside such world-renowned classical ensembles as the Berlin Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, and the London Symphony, among others.



"It is especially noteworthy that there are several other band or wind ensemble recordings among the nominees in these categories this year," commented Dr. Gerald. "That is a clear statement of the importance of the medium, and our work is nominated along with some of the other band programs of prominence around the country," he said.

*fireworks!* is sold at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and many other online distributors, directly through Equilibrium Records ([www.equilibri.com](http://www.equilibri.com)), and is available for download at the Apple iTunes Store.