

Monday, May 2, 2016 at 8 p.m.
Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center
Morgan Hall
One Hundred and Thirty-seventh Concert of the
2015-16 Concert Season



Kennesaw State
University
School of Music
presents

**Percussion
Ensemble**

"Spring Concert"

John Lawless,
Director

program

JOHN WESLEY DANKWA (Traditional)
Kete Abofo/Ohene De Hene

LYNN GLASSOCK (b. 1946)
Factions

ERIC LOUIS RAMOS (b. 1995)
Whispers

Caty Mae Loomis
Michael Berry

TYRONE JACKSON (b. 1971) and
JOHN LAWLESS (b. 1959)
Crystal

JOHN PSATHAS (b.1966)

Kyoto

Lindsay Rohskopf

Josh Bouland

Joe Donohue

Eric Ramos

Michael Ollman

ELLIOT COLE (b. 1984)

Postludes No. 5

Mary Madison Jones

Caty Mae Loomis

Joe Donohue

Cooper Sewell

JACOB REMINGTON (b.1986)

Prelude to Paradise

program notes

Kete Abofo/Ohene De Hene | John Wesley Dankwa

In 2013, we had the wonderful good fortune of John Wesley Dankwa, master drummer from Ghana, spending spring semester working with the KSU Percussion Ensemble. He arrived with a custom set of Kete drums made for our ensemble. These are the red and black drums that will be played on the first piece this evening. Here is what John Wesley had to say about Kete:

“This music is commonly found in the royal courts of traditional Akan communities. In particular, the Ashanti perform this musical type in the courts of every chief whose status entitles him to be carried in a palanquin. Occasions on which this music would be heard include state durbars, funerals, and traditional festivals of the Akan.”

Factions | Lynn Glassock

This is not the first time that *Factions* has been performed here, but it IS the first time by non-music majors. The KSU Percussion Ensemble has grown from 2 players in 1998, to 22 that will be playing the concert this evening. The 10 performers for *Factions* are: computer science, accounting, business, and English majors just to name a few.

Whispers | Eric Louis Ramos

Eric composed this work at the request of Caty Mae Loomis and Michael Berry this semester. It is a wonderfully expressive duo written for two marimbas and one vibraphone that showcases the talents of both of these gifted performers. *Whispers* represents the third composition that Eric has written for the KSU Percussion Ensemble.

Crystal | Tyrone Jackson and John Lawless

This is unlike any work ever played by our percussion ensemble. All 22 players will surround the audience playing either crystal glasses, or Austrian crystal bowls. The chords represented are both fully diminished, and were shown to me by my dear friend Tyrone Jackson. I will explain how this piece came about from the stage prior to its premier.

Kyoto | John Psathas

A constant rhythmic semiquaver pulse sustains momentum through varying time signatures, with brief moments of silence giving way to shifts in harmonic content. Two contrasting ideas alternate throughout—the rhythmically driven melodic lines, and arpeggios heard in the vibraphone—before coming together at the climax of the work.

The title refers to a 1976 improvisation by pianist Keith Jarrett which was recorded in Kyoto. Acknowledging the influence of this recording, the composer writes:

“This improvisation of Jarrett’s is, more than anything, the piece that woke the composer in me, and set me on this journey of creating my own music for others.”

Postludes No. 5 | Elliot Cole

Postludes, is a book of eight pieces for a familiar instrument played in a new way. Four players with EIGHT double-bass bows play interlocking lines on a single vibraphone. The interplay of bows and hands tapping, muting and touching harmonics, weaves an intimate and intricate counterpoint that is as beautiful to watch as it is to hear: fragile, tender and haunting.

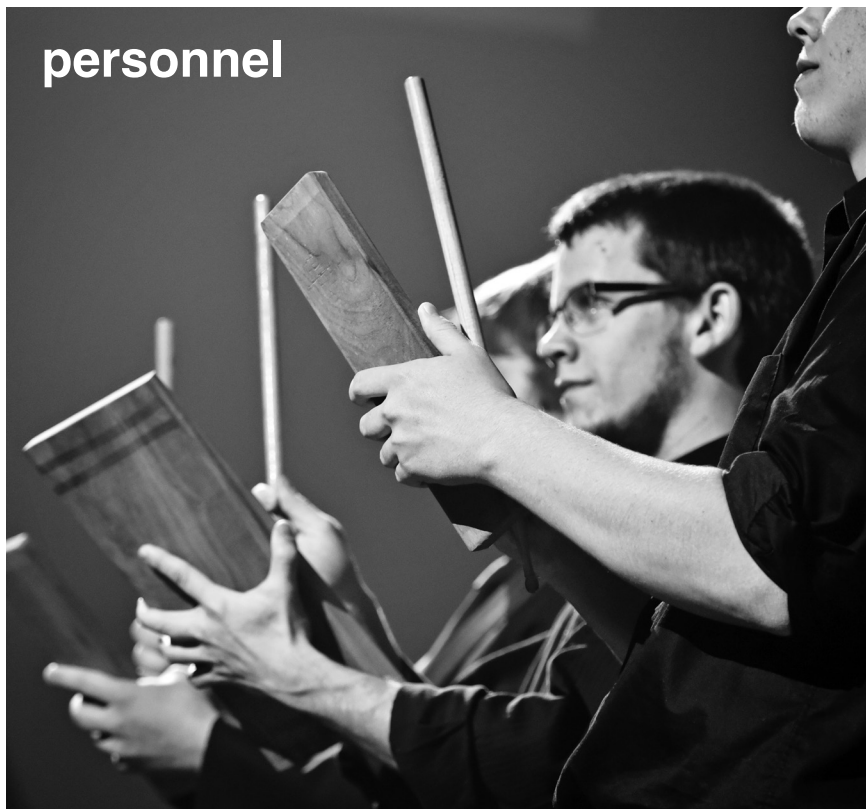
- *Elliot Cole*

Prelude to Paradise | Jacob Remington

Prelude to Paradise was written to reflect my personal view of the chaotic events surrounding the end of days as they are depicted in the Book of Revelations. I’ve always found the vivid imagery in this story to be quite shocking and powerful, and I’ve strived to replicate those feelings through music. Although the piece is not intended to chronicle the story, some important events and details of the book can be heard musically.

- *Jacob Remington*

personnel



KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

John Lawless, Director

Walter Aiken

Josh Arrants

Michael Berry

Josh Bouland

Katie Craven

Joe Donohue

Mark Fucita

Mitch Gillis

Lane Hunter

Mary Madison Jones

Caty Mae Loomis

Benjamin Morgan

Malcolm Muhammed

Michael Ollman

Brooks Payne

Eric Louis Ramos

Lindsay Rohskopf

Selena Sanchez

Cooper Sewell

Zach Sigmon

Foster Simmons

Clay Wilderman

biography



Senior Lecturer of Percussion Studies

John Lawless, Senior Lecturer, joined the music faculty of Kennesaw State University in 1998 and became the Director of Percussion Studies in 2004. Principal Timpanist of the Atlanta Opera orchestra since 1979, John held the same position with the Chattanooga Symphony for 21 years. Since 1978, Mr. Lawless has performed, toured and recorded with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra while maintaining a thriving freelance career as a studio and pit percussionist.

A founding member of the Atlanta Percussion Trio, Mr. Lawless performs hundreds of school concerts a year for thousands of children throughout the Southeastern United States. Along with Scott Douglas and Karen Hunt, the trio has been a performing group for 32 years, bringing educational programs to children of all ages.

As a soloist, Mr. Lawless played several concertos with the Chattanooga Symphony, including: *The Olympian for 8 Timpani and Orchestra* as well as *The Messenger for Multiple Percussion and Orchestra*, both written by James Oliverio. In 2009, Mr. Lawless performed Joseph Schwantner's *Concerto for Percussion* with the Cobb Symphony Orchestra. In 2014, he performed the Southeastern premier of Christopher Theofinidis' *Marimba Concerto* with the KSU Wind Ensemble for the Festival of New Music.

A graduate of Georgia State University, Mr. Lawless' teachers include Tom Float, Jack Bell, Cloyd Duff, Paul Yancich, Bill Wilder and Mark Yancich. Previous faculty appointments include those at Georgia State University, Clark Atlanta University and West Georgia State University.

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Bernard Flythe, Tuba/Euphonium
John Lawless, Percussion

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Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus
KSU Faculty Chamber Players
KSU Faculty String Trio
KSU Community and Alumni Choir

about the school of music



Welcome to our campus! The School of Music is an exciting place to live, learn and work. Housed in the College of the Arts, the School is infused with masterfully skilled and dedicated performing teachers who care deeply about their profession, our programs, our community and every student involved in music and the arts. Our facilities are aesthetically functional and well equipped, our professional staff first-class, and our motivation perfect; to prepare students to be accomplished, creative arts leaders - diversely trained, acutely challenged and well-practiced to ensure employability and empowerment to take the 21st-century music world by storm.


Our students come to us from the leading musical arts and honors organizations from across the southeast, and as a School of Music, we are dedicated to the purpose of furthering the arts and cultural offerings of our region and beyond.


Please take the time to meet our faculty, students and staff. Interact with them, talk shop with them - their enthusiasm is contagious whether on or off the stage. I look forward to a long and rewarding relationship, and with your involvement as an audience member and patron, there are no limits to what we can become. If we can be of assistance to you, simply ask.


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen W. Plate". The signature is fluid and cursive.


Stephen W. Plate, DMA
Director, School of Music
Kennesaw State University

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