



Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 8:00 pm
Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall
Eleventh Concert of the 2015-16 Concert Season

Kennesaw State University Jazz Ensembles

Jazz Ensemble II, Wes Funderburk, director

Wack Wack / BUDDY RICH

May-hem / BILLY MAY

Li'l Darlin / NEIL HEFTI

La Fiesta / CHICK COREA / ARR. LOPEZ

Jazz Ensemble I, Sam Skelton, director

presents *"The Jazz Soul of Porgy and Bess"*

All arrangements composed by GERSHWIN / HEYWARD

All arrangements by BILL POTTS

Summertime

My Man's Gone Now

Strawberry Jam / It Ain't Necessarily So

I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'

I Loves You Porgy

There's A Boat Dat's Leavin' Soon For New York

Oh Lawd, I'm On My Way

program notes

Jazz Pianist and Arranger

Bill Potts (April 3, 1928, Arlington, Virginia – February 15, 2005, Fort Lauderdale, Florida) was an American jazz pianist and arranger. Potts played Hawaiian guitar as a child and accordion in his teens. He picked up piano in high school after hearing Count Basie. While serving in the Army from 1949 to 1955 he transcribed charts for Army bands; he also arranged for Joe Timer and Willis Conover's ensemble, THE Orchestra. He wrote four of the songs on THE Orchestra's 1954 Brunswick Records LP, and recorded some of their live shows, which occasionally featured guest appearances from Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie.

By 1956 Potts was leading a house band at Olivia Davis' Patio Lounge in Washington, DC. Lester Young booked an engagement there, and Potts convinced Young to record with him on two of the evenings. These recordings were later released as the *Lester Young in Washington, DC* sessions.

In 1957, Potts worked extensively as a composer, arranger, and performer for Freddy Merkle's *Jazz Under the Dome* album. Soon after this he was injured in a car crash and ended up in a body cast for several months. He had fully recovered by 1959, when he released a session under his own name entitled *The Jazz Soul of Porgy and Bess*. This album, consisting of jazz reinterpretations of many songs from George Gershwin's opera *Porgy & Bess*, featured Art Farmer, Bill Evans, Bob Brookmeyer and Phil Woods.

Following this, Potts spent several years working in New York City before returning to the DC area, where he worked locally in addition to touring with Ella Fitzgerald, Stan Getz and Woody Herman. He taught music theory at Montgomery College from 1974 to 1990, and led a big band for occasional performances at Washington's Blues Alley nightclub. He retired to Fort Lauderdale in 1995, and died of cardiac arrest in 2005.



JAZZ ENSEMBLE II

TRUMPETS

Miles Bonaker
Jonny Fallon
Joshua Klann

TROMBONES

Matt Lane
Andrew Pendleton
Sam Boeger

SAXES

Andrew Ereddiaj
Deonski Rogers
Molly Prince
Muhsin Quarishi
Nathan Hollis
Josh Inglis

DRUMS

Dennis Durrett-Smith
Brooks Payne
Tyler Neal

GUITARS

Robert Herrington
Jonathan Flores
Simon Needle

BASS

Francisco Lora

PIANO

Sarah Chari

JAZZ ENSEMBLE I

SAXOPHONES

Devin Okey
Brandon Radaker
Micheal Opitz
Damontae Scott
Nic Chambers

TRUMPETS

Brandon Austin
Stacy Novik
Ben Schiele
Jesse Baker

TROMBONES

Michael DeSousa
George Blevins
Travis Longenberger
Devin Witt

RHYTHM SECTION

Piano: Brian Reid,
Zach Wilson
Guitar: Patrick Arthur,
Christian Artieda,
Caleb Tokarska

Bass: Brandon Boone

Drums: Janna Graham,
Jonathan Morningstar,
Jonathan Pace

biographies

Jazz Ensembles and Jazz Arranging

Wes Funderburk has performed across the United States and Europe and is currently one of the most sought after trombonists and arrangers in Atlanta and the Southeast. He is the author of *Funderbone.net* and the inventor of *Blog Songs!* - his award-winning music blog and podcast.

Wes has written, performed, recorded with a wide array of national and internationally-renowned artists including Jennifer Holliday, Band of Horses, Spoon, Jermaine Dupri, Cee Lo, The Boston Brass, Natalie Cole, Dallas Austin, SoS-hy, Kelis, India Arie, Slide Hampton, Joe Gransden, The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Atlanta Pops Orchestra. He has also been a featured performer at The Atlanta Dogwood Festival, Atlanta Jazz Festival, Atlanta Black Arts Festival, Candler Park Festival, Inman Park Festival, Montreux-Atlanta Jazz Festival, Jacksonville Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival and North Sea Jazz Festival.

Wes' recording credits include So So Def Records, Atlantic Records, Verve Records, Columbia Records, Universal Records, Arista Records, Giant Step Records, the *Cartoon Network* and the *Weather Channel*. His arranging credits include music for Russell Gunn's Krunk Jazz Orchestra, Jennifer Holliday, Ben van Dijk, Natalie Cole, Joe Gransden Big Band, The Georgia Brass Band, The Atlanta Jazz Orchestra, Kennesaw State University Jazz Ensemble, Georgia State University Jazz Ensemble and brass band, the Piedmont Trombone Society and the Tempest Little Big Band. Wes is also the leader and co-founder of "The Funderhorns" - a freelance commercial horn section that has recorded in some of the finest recording studios in the country.



As an educator, Wes has given clinics and master classes at University of Georgia, Francis Marion University, The University of North Florida, Georgia State University, Columbus State University (GA), the Mars Hill Low Brass Retreat, Tanglewood Music Camp and numerous high schools across the Southeast. He maintains an active private studio for students of all ages and is currently the low brass instructor at the Atlanta International School. In 2007, Wes joined the faculty at Kennesaw State University as a jazz band director and in 2010, joined the faculty at Georgia State University as visiting lecturer in jazz studies. Wes earned his Bachelor's Degree in trombone performance from the University of North Florida and his Masters' Degree in trombone performance with a concentration in jazz studies from Georgia State University.

Wes is a governor for the Atlanta chapter of the Recording Academy and a clinician and performing artist for Rath trombones and Facet Mutes.

Director of Jazz Studies and Senior Lecturer in Saxophone

Sam Skelton, a native of Conyers, Georgia, has been active on the Atlanta music scene for well over two decades. Skelton graduated summa cum laude from Georgia State University and the private studio of Tony Carere with a degree in Jazz Studies.

During his course of study at GSU, Skelton was a Montgomery Music Scholar and a two-time fellowship recipient to the Aspen Music Festival. He continued his saxophone studies with Kenneth Radnofsky at Boston University in 1991.

As a woodwind doubler, Skelton is well versed in any genre of music. His grasp of saxophone, clarinet and flute has enabled him to remain very busy in live performance as well as in the studio.



Skelton has performed and/or soloed with The London Symphony Orchestra, The Atlanta Symphony, The Atlanta Pops, The Peachtree Pops, The Atlanta Ballet Orchestra and The Cobb Symphony Orchestra as well as numerous local high school and civic ensembles. World Premieres include James Oliverio's *Children of A Common Mother*, Lee Johnson's *Ora Pro Mi: Concerto for Winds Soloist* (clarinet, flute and soprano saxophone) and *Seaside Symphony* (clarinet and soprano saxophone soloist). Skelton also played the premier recording of *Ora Pro Mi* and *Seaside Symphony* with the London Symphony Orchestra.

As a sideman on over 175 compact discs, Skelton remains very active in the studio and can be heard on recordings by such artists as: Elton John, December Radio, Babbie Mason, Howard Tate, Matchbox 20, Train, Edwin McCain, The Gap Band and The Ohio Players. Television and radio jingles include *The Georgia Lottery*, *Glen Beck*, *The Weather Channel*, *The Travel Channel*, *Ford*, *The Cartoon Network*, *CNN*, *Nature's Own*, *Popeye's*, *Papa John's* and *Turner South*. Television appearances include *In the Heat of the Night*, *Savannah* and *Sinbad's Summer Jam II* on HBO.

Skelton is currently Director of Jazz Studies and Lecturer in Saxophone at Kennesaw State University. He is also Artistic Director of CSO Jazz and GYSO Jazz. Skelton served as Professor of Saxophone at Georgia State University from 1991 to 2004 and was Jazz Ensemble Director at Georgia Tech from 2002-2004 and Artist-in-Residence at The University of Georgia Jazz Department. He served as Visiting Professor of Saxophone at Furman University 2001-02. Professional associations include: Georgia Music Educators Association, Georgia Association of Jazz Educators, National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (voting member) and the American Federation of Musicians. Skelton is a Conn-Selmer Artist.

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Todd Skitch, Flute
Christina Smith, Flute
Elizabeth Koch Tiscione, Oboe
John Warren, Clarinet, Chamber Music
Laura Najarian, Bassoon
Sam Skelton, Saxophone

Brass and Percussion

Doug Lindsey, Trumpet, Chamber Music
Mike Tiscione, Trumpet
Jason Eklund, Horn
Tom Gibson, Trombone
Brian Hecht, Bass Trombone
Martin Cochran, Euphonium
Bernard Flythe, Tuba/Euphonium
John Lawless, Percussion

Strings

Helen Kim, Violin
Kenn Wagner, Violin
Justin Bruns, Chamber Music
Catherine Lynn, Viola
Paul Murphy, Viola
Charae Krueger, Cello
James Barket, Double Bass
Elisabeth Remy Johnson, Harp
Mary Akerman, Classical Guitar

Voice

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Eileen Moremen
Oral Moses
Leah Partridge
Valerie Walters
Todd Wedge
Jana Young

Piano

Judith Cole, Collaborative Piano & Musical Theatre
Julie Coucheron
Robert Henry
John Marsh, Class Piano
David Watkins
Soohyun Yun

Jazz

Justin Chesarek, Jazz Percussion
Wes Funderburk, Jazz Trombone, Jazz Ensembles
Tyrone Jackson, Jazz Piano
Marc Miller, Jazz Bass
Sam Skelton, Jazz Ensembles
Lester Walker, Jazz Trumpet
Trey Wright, Jazz Guitar, Jazz Combos

Ensembles & Conductors

Leslie J. Blackwell, Choral Activities
Alison Mann, Choral Activities
Cory Meals, Concert Band, Marching Band
Oral Moses, Gospel Choir
Eileen Moremen, Opera
Nathaniel Parker, Symphony Orchestra
Charles Laux, Philharmonic Orchestra
Debra Traficante, Concert Band, Marching Band
David Kehler, Wind Ensemble

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Ensembles in Residence

Atlanta Percussion Trio
KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament
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.





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

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