



Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 8:00 p.m.
Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall
Fifty-second Concert of the 2015-16 Concert Season

Kennesaw State University School of Music
presents

Faculty Jazz Parliament

"A Tribute to Creed Taylor Incorporated"

featuring

Sam Skelton, reeds

Lester Walker, trumpet

Wes Funderburk, trombone

Trey Wright, guitar

Tyrone Jackson, piano

Marc Miller, bass

Justin Chesarek, drums

Selections will be announced from stage.

program notes

CTI Records (Creed Taylor Incorporated) is a jazz record label founded in 1967 by producer/A&R manager Creed Taylor. Its first album release was Wes Montgomery's *A Day In The Life in 1967*. The latest new release, by the CTI Jazz All-Star Band, was recorded live at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2009, but released only in Japan in November 2010 on multiple formats: CD, DVD and Blu-ray. Initially, CTI was a subsidiary of A&M Records, then the label went independent in 1970. Its roster of artists included George Benson, Bob James, Walter Wanderley, Freddie Hubbard, Hubert Laws, Stanley Turrentine, Ron Carter, Antonio Carlos Jobim and Deodato.

Kudu Records, CTI's sister label, was launched in 1971 and was oriented towards soul jazz featuring releases by Grover Washington, Jr.; Esther Phillips; Hank Crawford; Johnny Hammond; Grant Green; Joe Beck; Lonnie Smith; and Idris Muhammad.

Salvation Records was a subsidiary label which released 10 albums during its existence including material by Roland Hanna, Johnny Hammond, Gábor Szabó, Airtio, the New York Jazz Quartet, and, in the 1990s, Faith Howard.

Green Street (which featured albums by Jack Wilkins, Claudio Roditi, Les McCann) and Three Brothers (which featured releases by Cassandra Morgan, The Clams, Lou Christie, and Duke Jones) were also short-lived labels affiliated with CTI.

Don Sebesky initially created many of the arrangements for CTI and its various sister and subsidiary labels. He was later joined by Bob James, and then by David Matthews in the mid 1970s. Sessions featured some of jazz's finest musicians including bassist Ron Carter, guitarist Eric Gale, keyboardist Herbie Hancock, pianist Bob James, organist Richard Tee, and drummers Billy Cobham, Jack DeJohnette, Steve Gadd, Idris Muhammad and Harvey Mason. Taylor mostly used Van Gelder Studios located in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, with Rudy Van Gelder engineering nearly all sessions until the later years of the label.

CTI's output was generally both commercially and artistically successful with the label becoming a leading force in jazz during its existence. CTI's best-selling release was Deodato's album, *Prelude*, which reached #3 on the **US Billboard Top 40** albums chart in 1973, an unusual achievement for a record on a jazz-based label. A single from the album, "Also Sprach Zarathustra (2001)," peaked at #2 on the **US Billboard Hot 100** and #7 in the U.K.

Other successful album releases included *Grover Washington, Jr.'s Mister Magic* and *Feels So Good* (both reaching #10 in 1975), Esther Phillips' *What A*

Diff'rence A Day Makes (reaching #32 in 1975), and Bob James' *BJ4* (reaching #38 in 1977).

Taylor had previously founded Impulse Records and worked for Verve Records where he earned the reputation as an industry-respected producer of jazz albums. His productions for CTI shared a characteristically warm ambiance and helped to establish smooth jazz as a commercially viable musical genre. CTI also became well known for its striking album sleeve designs, most of them featuring vivid photographic images by artist, Pete Turner.

In 1978, CTI Records filed for Chapter XI; however, much of its catalog has remained in print (Creed Taylor launched the 8000 reissue series in 1979), and the label continued active until 1984, releasing new studio albums by such artists as Jim Hall, Urszula Dudziak, Roland Hanna and the all-star studio band Fuse One, all taped at Van Gelder's Studio in Englewood Cliffs.

Creed Taylor restructured CTI in 1989, resuming his partnership with engineer Rudy Van Gelder and photographer Pete Turner when recording the all-star session "Rhythmstick" in June 1989 (an ambitious project released on vinyl, CD, VHS and LaserDisc in 1990). Many young artists were signed to the label, such as Charles Fambrough, Jim Beard, Ted Rosenthal, Bill O'Connell, Donald Harrison, Steve Laury and Jurgen Friedrich, as well as veteran guitarist Larry Coryell who teamed with arranger Don Sebesky on the best-selling *Fallen Angel* album, which reached #18 in the **Billboard Top Contemporary Jazz Albums Charts** in 1993.

CTI's post-A&M Records output (the titles released between 1970 and 1979) is now owned by Sony Music Entertainment and distributed by Masterworks Jazz in the U.S., while King Records handles the rights for exclusive distribution in Japan. Grover Washington, Jr.'s Kudu albums have been re-issued on Motown and its MoJazz imprint, but now are part of Universal Classics & Jazz. In addition, Bob James' four CTI albums are now controlled by James himself, while Seawind also owns their back catalog of CTI releases.

CTI's early A&M-subsiary releases are now distributed by Verve Records, a division of Universal Music Group where Creed Taylor ironically helped to make his name.

In 2009, Creed Taylor himself produced a reissue series of twenty CTI titles remastered by Rudy Van Gelder for release on SHM-CD format in Japan. New liner notes were provided by jazz writers Ira Gitler, Arnaldo DeSouteiro and Doug Payne. Another reissue series came out, also distributed in Japan by King Records, in December 2013, including forty titles released on Blu-Spec CD format.

biographies

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 2001-2002. 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.

Artist-in-Residence in Jazz Trumpet

Lester Walker, one of the most diversely skilled artists on today's music scene, combines blazing classical technique with a traditional jazz style recalling the names of Miles Davis, Clifford Brown and Freddie Hubbard. He has performed with many giants of music including Michael Brecker, Geri Allen, Bela Fleck, Jennifer Holliday, Gerald Levert, Edwin McCain, The Cab Calloway Orchestra, The Nelson Riddle Orchestra, The O'Jays, and The Temptations. He has appeared as a featured artist at many jazz clubs and music festivals throughout the United States, including the Atlanta Jazz Festival, The JVC Jazz Festival, and The Seagrams Jazz Festival, Music Midtown, and City Stages.

As a performing artist, he has presented concerts at premier concert halls and performance venues throughout North America. He is also one of a select few jazz musicians to be allowed to perform in concert at world renowned Spivey Hall. He has received numerous awards for outstanding performance in competitions sponsored by Seagrams Gin, Coca-Cola, Disney Entertainment Networks, Absolut Vodka, and Wurlitzer Musical Instruments. As an ongoing representative for promoting the highest standards of American musical artists, Lester Walker has been commissioned an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Aide-de-Camp by the Governor of Alabama. And, he has been sponsored by the U.S. State Department on a concert tour of Central America.

Mr. Jackson holds a B.M. from The University of Alabama, and a M.M. from Georgia State University. He previously served on the music faculties of Benedict College and at Florida A&M University. His recent recordings include, "The Story of Cathy and Me" with Legendary Blue Note Recording Artist, Curtis Fuller, and upcoming release, "Live From 800 East."

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, SoShy, 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.



Senior Lecturer In Jazz Guitar And Jazz Studies

Trey Wright is a jazz guitarist, composer and recording artist based out of Roswell, Georgia.

Initially inspired by the blues, Trey was exposed to jazz early in his development by a private instructor. While studying Sociology at the University of Georgia, Wright furthered his study of jazz improvisation with pianist and composer, Steve Dancz. In 1994, he co-founded the Athens/Atlanta based jazz band, Squat. The group is a six-time winner of **Best Jazz Band** at the Flagpole Athens Music Awards and has been a featured artist at the Atlanta Jazz Festival, Bel Chere, the Twilight Athens Jazz Festival, the Cherry Blossom Festival, Harvest Midtown and Athfest. Several of Trey's compositions with the group have received international airplay and have been featured on *Sirius* radio and NPR's *All Things Considered*.



Trey also performs freelance in the Athens and Atlanta area and has performed with Yellowjackets' bassist Jimmy Haslip, John Patitucci, Joe Lovano, Corey Christiansen and Darmon Meader of the *New York Voices*. Trey has performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival; Jazz A Vienne; the International Festival of University Theatre of Casablanca Morocco; the World Sacred Music Festival in Bangalore, India; and in Montepulciano, Italy. As a solo guitarist and with his trio, Trey has been a featured performer at the Athens Music and Arts Festival, the Lake Oconee Jazz Festival, and the Atlanta Jazz Festival. In early 2008, Trey began playing with the Georgia Symphony Jazz Orchestra.

In December of 2002, Trey completed a Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies at Georgia State University and he currently teaches Applied Jazz Guitar, Jazz Theory and Composition, Jazz Guitar Ensemble, Jazz History, Jazz Improvisation and The History of Rock at Kennesaw State University. Trey has also taught at LaGrange College, Gainesville College, the Atlanta Institute of Music and Media, and was a Jazz Artist in Residence at the University of Georgia. In addition, Trey writes a column on Jazz Harmony for the *Guitar* for the quarterly print magazine, *Just Jazz Guitar*.

In 2006, Trey released his first CD, *Where I'm Calling From*, receiving rave reviews and airplay throughout the United States, New Zealand, England, Australia, Germany, Italy, Canada, Luxembourg, Scotland, and the Netherlands. The Trey

Wright Trio released *Thinking Out Loud* in the summer of 2009 on Blue Canoe Records. In 2010, The CD was included in the first round Grammy Nominations for **Best Jazz Instrumental Album**. In the Fall of 2012, the Trey Wright Trio's version of Thom Yorke's "Analyze" was included on the compilation *Head Radio Retransmissions: A Tribute to Radiohead* on the German label ESC records. Trey's long awaited collaboration with Grammy winning saxophonist Mace Hibbard, *The Hibbard/Wright Project*, was released to rave reviews in May 2013 and Trey's most recent release, *Songs From Oak Avenue*, was released on Blue Canoe Records in Spring 2015.

Artist-in-Residence in Jazz Piano

Tyrone Jackson is quickly becoming synonymous with the quint-essential jazz piano player. His boundless creativity coupled with subtle accompaniments has Tyrone poised for national recognition. Jackson received his Bachelors degree from the University of New Orleans where he studied with Ellis Marsalis and received his Masters in Jazz Studies from Georgia State University. Born in the New Orleans' cradle of jazz, Jackson embodies the spirit of the Crescent City, but has made his home in Atlanta. Jackson has performed with Earl Klugh, Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Marcus Printup, Russell Gunn, Russell Malone, Eddie Henderson, Joe Lovano, Dave Douglas, Tim Armacost, David Sanchez, Sam Skelton, Bebe Winans, Jennifer Holliday, Kirk Whalum and Marcus Miller to name a few.



An accomplished educator, Jackson is an Artist-in-Residence at Kennesaw State University where he teaches applied Jazz Piano, Group Piano (Jazz), Jazz Improvisation II & III, and "The Blues." Jackson is also a lecturer and clinician with the Rialto for Youth Jazz Ensemble as well as a member of the Rialto Jazz Artist Foundation which educates and develops middle and high school students. Jackson has toured Italy, Austria, Brazil, Thule-Greenland, St. Lucia and the U.S. as a professional musician and educator.

As a composer, Jackson has released three CD's of original works: *Dedicated*, *Another Voyage* and *Melody in Nede: Suite for Jazz Quartet*. In addition to these solo projects, Jackson has composed and performed original works and arrangements for *Native Guard*, a book of poems written by Pulitzer Prize Winning

Author and Poet Laureate, Natasha Tretheway. *Native Guard*, directed by Alliance Theater Director Susan Booth, has received critical acclaim due to the synergy of drama, music and audio/visual artistry. Jackson has written and arranged countless works for a litany of artists and performers. His songs are currently played with much acclaim to worldwide audiences on local and Satellite radio.

Artist-in-Residence in Jazz Bass and Jazz Combos

Marc Miller joined Kennesaw State University in 2010. Starting on tuba in elementary school, he picked up electric bass in middle school and double bass in college.

Studying under Melanie Punter and Bill Peterson, Marc completed his bachelor's degree at Florida State University in Jazz Studies. He then went on to study under John Fremgen and David Neubert at the University of Texas at Austin, completing his master's degree in performance in 2002.

Comfortable in any musical style, Marc has performed and recorded with many jazz artists, rock groups, tango, hip-hop, flamenco, salsa, and folk ensembles. While in Austin he was a member of pioneering jazz group Blaze, winner of the Austin Music Awards Best Jazz Group for several years running. He has performed regularly with Bob Reynolds, Jason Marsalis and Lizz Wright. He has also shared the stage with Tim Hagans, Bob Brookmeyer, Wynton Marsalis, Marcus Printup and Mike Stern.

Prior to teaching at Kennesaw State, Marc taught at Jacksonville State University and LaGrange College. In addition to his bass studios at these universities, he led big bands and combos, and taught academic courses including music appreciation and music theory.

Marc can be heard performing around town in a variety of ensembles, encompassing many genres of music. He is a regular member of the Trey Wright Trio and the Mace Hibbard Group, appearing on their most recent albums, as well as many other local jazz ensembles. Additionally, he performs with salsa groups Orquesta Macuba and Vecinos Del Mundo, pit orchestras at the Fox, The Atlanta Pops Orchestra, along with many other local artists.

Artist-in-Residence in Jazz Percussion

Justin Chesarek is all about swing. It's what drives him, it's what makes him strike drum heads with well-composed intensity, and it's why some of the best jazz musicians in Atlanta keep him on call. Since arriving in Atlanta in August, 2008, Justin Chesarek, a transplant from rural Pennsylvania, has made quite a name for himself.

He isn't your average session drummer. While regularly playing gigs with Gary Motley, Laura Coyle and Gordon Vernick, Justin also flexes his composing muscles

with his group, The Tree-O of Love, who maintain a regular Wednesday night gig at Churchill Grounds, Atlanta's premier jazz club. Pulling diverse influences from jazz, classical, rock, world music, Justin writes and plays music with emotion, putting his artistry and talent in every note and beat he comes across. The end product is jazz — the virtuosity of Bebop, the soul and funkiness of the early days of Fusion, and a retro-modern mindset oozing with musicality and a beat that gets the inner ear thumpin'.

"Composing as a drummer allows me to supply more of a concept of drums in melody. It gives me the opportunity to inject different rhythms and colors," Justin said. Consorting with members of jazz royalty including Houston Person, Jerry Bergonzi and Johnny O'Neal, just to name a few, Justin is regularly asked to perform with some of the biggest names around. A graduate of Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA, Justin holds a Bachelors of Music in Education.

Under the direction of Dr. Stephen Hawk, Justin completed a two-week European tour, making appearances at the Montreaux Jazz Festival and the North Sea Jazz Festival. Justin finished his Masters of Music in Jazz Studies in May, 2010, at Georgia State University and currently teaches at Emory University and Kennesaw State University.

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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

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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.


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen W. Plate".


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

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