A Choral Silver Celebration

featuring

The Atlanta Opera Chorus
Walter Huff, Chorus Master and Conductor
Brian Eads, piano

with

Kennesaw State University School of Music
Chamber Singers and Men's Ensemble
Dr. Leslie J. Blackwell, Director of Choral Activities

This program is made possible by the generous support of John L. Hammaker, Judith and Mark Taylor, and the Charles Loridans Foundation.
GIUSEPPE VERDI (1813-1901)

**Fuoco di gioia**
from *Otello*

G. VERDI

**Brindisi**
from *La Traviata*

   Leah Partridge, soprano  
   Victor Ryan Robertson, tenor

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

**Placido è il mar**
from *Idomeneo*

   Leah Partridge, soprano

RUGGERO LEONCAVALLO (1857-1919)

**Bell Chorus**
from *Pagliacci*

G. VERDI

**Zitti, zitti**
from *Rigoletto*

GEORGES BIZET (1838-1875)

**Cigarette Chorus**
from *Carmen*
G. VERDI

*Va, pensiero*
from *Nabucco*

William Fred Scott, conductor

PHILIP GLASS (b. 1937)

*Psalm 104*
from *Akhnaten*

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883)

*Pilgrims’ Chorus*
from *Tannhäuser*

with KSU Men's Ensemble

GIACOMO PUCCINI (1858-1924)

*Moon Chorus*
from *Turandot*

Timothy Miller, tenor

BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1913-1976)

*Who Holds Himself Apart*
from *Peter Grimes*

GEORGE GERSHWIN (1898-1937)

*Oh Lord, I’m on My Way*
from *Porgy and Bess*

PIETRO MASCAGNI (1863-1945)

*Easter Hymn*
from *Cavalleria Rusticana*

Indra Thomas, soprano
with KSU Chamber Singers
about The Atlanta Opera Chorus

No Atlanta Opera production would be complete without the Atlanta Opera Chorus. Widely regarded as one of the top opera ensembles in the country, the Atlanta Opera Chorus performs in the majority of mainstage offerings produced by The Atlanta Opera each year. Under the leadership of Walter Huff for 25 years, the choristers are always an integral part of each performance.

Members of the Atlanta Opera Chorus are highly touted for their technical abilities and compelling acting skills, and have been featured in more than 100 productions since Maestro Huff began his tenure. Conductors, stage directors, and principal singers from the world over have consistently praised the ensemble for its characteristic sound, range of color, and consistent precision. Production highlights through the years have included *Turandot*, *Aida*, *Samson et Dalila*, *Il trovatore*, *Otello*, and *Manon*. Other memorable choral performances have been showcased in Philip Glass’ *Akhnaten*, Wagner’s dark and stormy *The Flying Dutchman*, Gluck’s *Orfeo ed Euridice*, a critically acclaimed double-bill of *Carmina Burana* and *Pagliacci*, 1992’s contemporary staging of Bizet’s *Carmen*, and Mozart’s *Requiem*.

In 1996, the Atlanta Opera Chorus was invited to perform in the Cultural Olympiad concert series, as part of the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. This invitation resulted in two memorable performances, seen by a distinguished international audience: Gershwin’s delightful musical comedy *Of Thee I Sing* and an Opera Gala Evening, featuring the Atlanta chorus and famed soprano Dame Gwyneth Jones. In 2008, the Opéra-Comique of Paris invited the Atlanta Opera Chorus to perform in their new production of *Porgy and Bess*. This 8-week engagement
included 12 performances in Paris and additional shows in Spain, Normandy, and Luxembourg.

Members of the Atlanta Opera Chorus were featured on the recording of P.D.Q. Bach’s *Oedipus Tex and Other Calamities*, which won a Grammy Award for Best Comedy Recording in 1990. The chorus can also be heard on a recording of Mozart’s *Requiem* (ACA Digital), recorded at St. Philip’s Cathedral in 1997. Numerous alumni of the chorus have now sung at leading opera houses around the nation and the world – including the Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden, Los Angeles Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, and many others.

*Carmina Burana*, 2007, photo: Tim Wilkerson

*Orfeo ed Euridice*, 2009, photo: Tim Wilkerson
Walter Huff has served as Chorus Master at The Atlanta Opera for 25 years, and now celebrates his Silver Anniversary with these special concerts. These programs are a first for The Atlanta Opera, offering a concert of popular opera choruses presented by the renowned Atlanta ensemble. Throughout his years of service, Maestro Huff has guided the Atlanta chorus in more than a hundred mainstage productions, with performances in six major Atlanta venues, all the while influencing countless singers who have sung with The Atlanta Opera Chorus under his leadership.

Huff received his Bachelor of Music from Oberlin College-Conservatory and his Master of Music from Peabody Conservatory (Baltimore). Throughout his career, Mr. Huff has served as conductor, vocal coach, and collaborative pianist throughout the United States and Europe, holding positions as a vocal coach with the Washington National Opera, Peabody Opera Theater, Tanglewood Music Center, The Atlanta Opera and Actor’s Express theater. In addition he has served as chorus master with the San Diego Opera.

For four years, Maestro Huff was a faculty member of Georgia State University as assistant professor, vocal coach, and conductor of the Georgia State University Choral Society. In 2013, he was appointed as full time faculty/associate professor of choral conducting at Indiana University’s esteemed Jacobs School of Music. His duties presently include class teaching, preparation of all opera choruses for the Indiana University Opera Theater productions, and the special mentoring of IU’s Masters and Doctoral choral conducting students toward the skills of opera chorus preparation – a unique educational offering, rarely seen in music schools throughout the country. While at the Jacobs School, Maestro Huff has led and prepared choruses in many diverse offerings, including performances of Don Giovanni, The Merry Widow, Falstaff, Philip Glass’ Akhnaten, Handel’s Serse, La Traviata, H.M.S. Pinafore, the Brahms Neuliebeslieder, and excerpts from the British operetta Robert and Elizabeth by Ron Grainer. He was a member of the
choral conducting faculty for this past summer’s inaugural Sacred Music Intensive Workshop, held at the Jacobs School.

As Chorus Master in Atlanta, one of Mr. Huff’s many proud achievements has been preparing members of the Opera Chorus in two critically acclaimed Atlanta Opera productions of Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess* (2005 and 2011), conducted by Stefan Lano and Keith Lockhart. After the 2005 production, members of The Atlanta Chorus were invited by Paris’ Opéra-Comique theater to be the opera ensemble in their new 2008 production of *Porgy and Bess* (conducted by Wayne Marshall, with choral preparation by Maestro Huff.) This engagement included an 8-week performance tour of the production in Paris, Normandy, Spain, and Luxembourg.

While an Atlanta resident, Mr. Huff held the position of Organist/Choirmaster at Morningside Presbyterian Church for 24 years, and has worked as a vocal coach and choral clinician for many singers throughout Atlanta, the Southeast and beyond. He has also served as voice/choral instructor at the Paideia School and as Music Director for the Atlanta Opera’s High School Opera Institute, offering guidance and support to students interested in pursuing their musical goals in a university environment.

Brian Eads, piano

Brian Eads, pianist, opera coach, and conductor, is currently a doctoral candidate in orchestral conducting at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. While at Indiana University, Mr. Eads has conducted performances with numerous student instrumental ensembles and has served as assistant to various conductors, including Arthur Fagen, David Effron, Cliff Colnot and Carl St. Clair. For the 2014-2015 season, Mr. Eads returns to Indiana University as an opera coach and accompanist for productions of *L’italiana in Algeri, La bohème, The Last Savage, and Die Zauberflöte*. In recent seasons he served as assistant conductor for IU Opera Theater presentations of *Werther, The Tale of Lady Thi Kihn*, and *La Traviata, The Merry Widow*, and Philip Glass’ *Akhnaten*. His guest conducting credits include performances with the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra, Lima Symphony Orchestra, and Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Eads holds a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from Florida State University and a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Delta State University. His principal conducting teachers include David Effron, Arthur Fagen, Crafton Beck, Alex Jimenez, and Phillip Spurgeon. Principal piano teachers include Dr. Donna Banks and Dr. Carolyn Bridger. As an active church musician, Mr. Eads has served as music director, pianist, and organist in churches throughout Mississippi, Florida, and Indiana. In the Bloomington area, he remains in high demand as a free-lance accompanist and most recently collaborated with renowned vocalist Sylvia McNair.
Leah Partridge, soprano

Leah Partridge has received consistent praise world-wide for her compelling stage presence and intelligent interpretations of opera’s most beloved characters. The soprano made her role debut as Micaëla in Carmen with Opera Omaha at the start of the 2013-2014 season, and joined the Seattle Opera as the four heroines in Les Contes d’Hoffman. Concert engagements included Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with Boston Baroque, and Brahms’ Requiem and Mahler’s Symphony No. 4 with Kennesaw State University in Atlanta, Ga. Highlights of the 2014-2015 season include performances as Musetta in La bohème with Washington National Opera. Career highlights include her Metropolitan Opera debut in 2008 as the First Niece in Peter Grimes, followed by return engagements as La Charmeuse in Thaïs, and as Marie in La fille du Régiment. She has joined Opera Company of Philadelphia as Musetta in La bohème, De Vlaamse Opera in Belgium as Cunegonde in Candide, Opera Grand Rapids as the title role in La Traviata, and both Michigan Opera and Pittsburgh Opera as Leïla in The Pearl Fishers. Additional appearances include the role of Roxane in David DiChiera's Cyrano with Florida Grand Opera, Adina in L'elisir d'amore with The Atlanta Opera and with the Folies Lyrique in Montpellier, France, Gilda in Rigoletto with Deutsche Oper Berlin, and La Contessa di Folleville in Rossini's Il Viaggio a Reims with the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in Florence. In 2012, the soprano released the recording Finding Home, a collection of American songs, accompanied by Ricky Ian Gordon and Jake Heggie.

Indra Thomas, soprano

Indra Thomas’ performances in the 2014-2015 season will include soprano performances of Villa-Lobos' Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 with the New West Symphony in California, Britten’s War Requiem with the Flint Symphony in Michigan and Serena in Porgy and Bess with the Spoleto Festival USA. The 2013-2014 season brought appearances as a soloist with the Orquesta Filarmonica de Bogotá in Britten’s War Requiem, a return to the title role of Aida with Bob Jones University and a role debut as Senta in The Flying Dutchman with the Princeton Festival. Other recent appearances include a concert with tenor Joseph Calleja for a program of arias and duets at Royal Festival Hall in London, Knoxville: Summer of 1915 with the Florida Orchestra Symphony, Leonora in Il trovatore with Arizona Opera, and a return to the Flint Symphony for the Verdi Requiem and a concert of music by Samuel Barber. Known for her rendering of the title role in Aida, Ms. Thomas has performed that signature role at Hamburg State Opera, London’s Royal Albert Hall, Palau de les Arts in Valencia, Spain, and Choregies d’Orange in Orange, France. She has appeared in recital at Seattle University and Agnes Scott College, at the Mozart Festival La Coruña in Spain, and at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall in New York.
Timothy Miller, tenor

Timothy Miller’s operatic roles include Monastatos and First Armored Man in Mozart’s Die Zauberflöte, Street in Anthony Davis’ X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X, and Un Messaggero in Verdi’s Aida. Mr. Miller sang the role of Crab Man in the Atlanta Opera’s critically acclaimed performances of Porgy and Bess at the Opéra-Comique in Paris, and on tour in Luxembourg, Granada, and Normandy. On the concert stage he has performed as a soloist in Handel’s Messiah, Bach’s Magnificat, and a concert version of excerpts from Richard Strauss’ Der Rosenkavalier with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. In 2013 Mr. Miller sang the role of Comrade Alexander Ossipon in the world premier of Curtis Bryant’s The Secret Agent with libretto by Alan Reichman. Perhaps most widely recognized for his stirring renditions of “God Bless America” during the seventh-inning stretch of Atlanta Braves home games, Mr. Miller has extended his exposure well beyond the concert stage. His solo appearances at the 2011 Georgia Gubernatorial Inauguration Ceremony and as a featured artist in promotional ads for Cartoon Network’s Adult Swim, round out a growing list of memorable career highlights. Mr. Miller is currently an Adjunct Professor of Voice and Music at Morehouse College.

Victor Ryan Robertson, tenor

Victor Ryan Robertson, American tenor, encompasses a versatile singing ability and style allowing him to cross between genres from classical repertoire to pop, contemporary, and Broadway. Last spring, Mr. Robertson starred in the world premiere of Terence Blanchard’s Champion, creating the role of Benny Paret/Benny Paret Jr. in a landmark production with Opera Theatre St. Louis. Also last season, Victor performed Le Capitaine/Ragotski in Candide with Oper Lorraine in France; and Rinuccio in Gianni Schicchi with Opera Carolina. He also performed in a tour of Porgy and Bess throughout Australia; and continued performances of Three Mo’ Tenors. Upcoming engagements include Zoogy in Romulus Hunt with Nashville Opera and Nadir in The Pearl Fishers with Dayton Opera. Widely noted for his portrayal of Count Almaviva in Il barbiere di Siviglia, he has seen in productions with the Minnesota Opera, Opera Carolina, Michigan Opera Theatre, Manitoba Opera, PORT Opera, and Arizona Opera. Another signature role is Sportin’ Life in Porgy and Bess, a role he has performed with the Los Angeles Opera and Dallas Opera, at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, and on tour in London, Edinburgh and Cardiff with the Cape Town Opera. Mr. Robertson is a former member of the Atlanta Opera Chorus, performing during the 1998-2001 seasons in I Capuleti e I Montecchi, Turandot, Macbeth, La bohème, and Lucia di Lammermoor.
Rolando Salazar is a graduate of Georgia State University with a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting and an Artist Diploma in Orchestra and Opera. As a pianist he has collaborated with Chamber Music Amarillo, the Amarillo Youth Choirs, the Bellingham Festival of Music, the NATS Artist Series, the Harrower Opera Program, and The Atlanta Opera. Mr. Salazar has conducted, coached, and prepared singers and orchestras for Chamber Music Amarillo, GSU Opera Theater, the Harrower Summer Opera Workshop, and the Taos Opera Institute. Mr. Salazar recently conducted performances in Atlanta of The Old Maid and the Thief, The Medium, Little Women, Street Scene, Werther, The Crucible, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. As Artistic Director of Musica Sacra Atlanta, he conducted performances of Amahl & the Night Visitors and The Christmas Rose, as well as accompanying members of the GSU Opera Theater in a 200th Birthday Celebration of Giuseppe Verdi. He has served as music director for the Harrower Summer Opera Workshop's Studio Program and as assistant conductor for La Musica Lirica in Novafeltria, Italy; the Bellingham Festival of Music, the Festival of International Opera of the Americas, and for The Atlanta Opera. An active member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, his teachers have included James Lee, Douglas Morrison, George Biffle, Mary Jane Johnson, Michael Palmer, Richard Clement, and Carroll Freeman. Mr. Salazar is currently the Interim Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, and the newly appointed Conductor of the Georgia Piedmont Youth Orchestra.

Jay Hunter Morris, tenor

Jay Hunter Morris is perhaps best known for his recent success in the role of Siegfried in Siegfried and Gotterdammerung in the Metropolitan Opera’s recent Grammy Award-winning Ring Cycle by Robert LePage. He made a huge impact in the role of Captain Ahab in Moby-Dick, Jake Heggie’s newest opera in which he appeared at San Francisco Opera, San Diego Opera and at State Opera of South Australia, and which was committed to DVD as part of PBS’s Great Performances series. Renowned for his interpretation of contemporary works, Mr. Morris has inaugurated the roles of Captain James Nolan in Doctor Atomic at San Francisco Opera and De Nederlandse Opera; Marky in Cronenbourg’s The Fly at Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, and at Los Angeles Opera (under the baton of Placido Domingo); Unferth in Julie Taymor’s Grendel at Los Angeles Opera and at Lincoln Center Festival. Also at San Francisco Opera, Mr. Morris sang Father Grenville in the world premiere of Jake Heggie’s Dead Man Walking, Mitch in André Previn’s A
Streetcar Named Desire, and Frère Elie in the American premiere of Messiaen’s St. François d’Assise. Future roles include Herod in Salome at San Antonio Opera, and Teague in Cold Mountain in next summer’s world premiere at Santa Fe Opera. Other recent highlights include Calaf in Turandot, Paul in Die Tote Stadt and Erik in Der Fliegende Hollander. In 2012, Mr. Morris published his first book, Diary of a Red-Neck Opera Zinger, a humorous collection of stories from this remarkable artist’s life in classical music.

Conductor and former Artistic Director, The Atlanta Opera

William Fred Scott has been a part of the Atlanta musical scene for over thirty years. He moved to Atlanta at the invitation of Robert Shaw, for whom he served as associate conductor of The Atlanta Symphony and from whom he inherited the annual “Christmas with the Atlanta Symphony” concerts with orchestra and chorus. From 1985-2005 he was artistic director of The Atlanta Opera, overseeing the company through a period of unprecedented growth, a major capital campaign, and major productions in four different theaters in Atlanta. His rich and varied contributions to music in the Atlanta area have included five years as head of orchestral studies at Georgia State University, five years as artist-in-residence at Brenau University, one year as Director of Music for the Cathedral of St. Philip, and many appearances as lecturer, writer, judge, and master class technician. Scott currently holds the post of director of choral music at The Westminster School. He has conducted orchestras throughout the country, opera in theaters as far away as Honolulu and Prague, and has even been a guest conductor for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in its weekly radio program. He has worked with some of the best-known soloists in classical music, from Beverly Sills and Kiri te Kanawa to Itzhak Perlman and Earl Wild. Scott is a native of Thomasville, Georgia; a graduate of Georgetown University; a member of the Cathedral of St. Philip; and a summer resident of Ocean Park, Maine.

Radio Host, WABE

Lois Reitzes' distinctive voice has been heard over WABE’s airwaves since 1979. Reitzes is Atlanta’s favorite classical announcer. As host of the weekday program Second Cup Concert, which airs from 9 a.m. until noon, she selects music especially to complement your morning tasks. In addition to Second Cup, Reitzes produces and hosts WABE’s Atlanta Symphony Orchestra broadcasts and Spivey Soirée series. She served as program director from 1992-2007, and became director of arts and cultural programming in 2007. Hosting arts features and interviews is an ongoing joy of her job. Reitzes pursued graduate study at the Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington. She lists her favorite exercise as reading - preferably while eating. Her favorite island getaway is Manhattan.
Reitzes resides in Atlanta with husband Don, who chairs the Sociology Department at Georgia State University. The Reitzes have two children, Jackie and Michael, and a golden non-retriever named Rex.

General and Artistic Director, The Atlanta Opera

Tomer Zvulun, general and artistic director of The Atlanta Opera, is also one of opera’s most exciting young stage directors, earning consistent praise for his creative vision, often described as cinematic and fresh. His work has been presented in prestigious opera houses around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, the opera companies of Seattle, Atlanta, Cleveland, Dallas, Cincinnati, Buenos Aires and Wolf Trap; as well as leading educational institutions such as The Juilliard School, Indiana University, Boston University, and IVAI in Tel Aviv. In 2013 he directed a critically acclaimed new production of La bohème for Seattle Opera, Don Giovanni for Cincinnati Opera, and a new Lucrezia Borgia in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He then returned to the Metropolitan Opera to direct Carmen and to Wolf Trap Opera for a new Falstaff. In 2014 he directed a new co-production of Rigoletto, which premiered at Boston Lyric Opera and will be remounted in Omaha and Atlanta. In summer 2014, Zvulun created a new Madama Butterfly, for Lorin Maazel’s Castleton Festival, a production that will open the season in his home company of Atlanta. In the 2014-2015 season he will make his European debut with a new production of Silent Night for the Wexford Festival in Ireland and will return to Seattle Opera for a new production of Semele. For The Atlanta Opera, Zvulun directed three productions before his appointment as general and artistic director: Der fliegende Holländer, The Magic Flute and Lucia di Lammermoor. For the Metropolitan Opera, Zvulun directed revivals of Tosca and Carmen and worked on a number of new productions during his seven years on the directing staff.
THE ATLANTA OPERA CHORUS
Walter Huff, Chorus Master
Rolando Salazar, Assistant Chorus Master

**Soprano**
Jayme Alilaw
Rebecca Blouin
Miffanwy A. Grayson
Jennye Guy
Christina Howell *
Keli Jackson
Amy Little *
Ann Marie McPhail
Megan Mashburn *
Nadeen Paul
Rebecca Shipley
Allegra Whitney *
Carrie Anne Wilson *

**Alto**
Lynnette Anderson *
Beverly Blouin
Lara Longsworth Gaare *
Melissa Godbee
Abigail Halon
Valerie Hamm
Maria McDaniel *
Teri Sawyer
Laurie Tossing
Lenna Turner

**Tenor**
Kyle Barnes *
Charles Baugh
Keith Blount
John Burnett
Bill Fair
Michael Gaare
Will Green
Grant Jones
Timothy Miller
Marc L. Porlier *
Stuart Schleuse
Gregory Sterchi
Matthew Talley
John M. Young *

**Baritone / Bass**
Michael Arens
Josh Borden
Zachary Brown *
Christopher S. Connelly
Mitch Gindlesperger
C. Augustus Godbee *
Christopher Hawkins
Conrad J. Moore
J. Brandon Odom
Bryan Saxon
Iván A. Segovia *
Jonathan L. B. Spuhler
Trenton Tunnell III

*indicates soloist in the Britten and Mascagni selections.
Tomer Zvulun, General and Artistic Director
Arthur Fagen, Music Director
Walter Huff, Chorus Master
Shawn Rieschl Johnson, Director of Production
Cory Lippiello, Director of Artistic Planning and Community Engagement
Paul Deckard, Director of Finance
Sarah Zabinski, Director of Development
Rae Weimer, Associate Director of Development
Greg Carraway, Foundations and Grants Manager
Natasha King, Events and Volunteer Manager
Matt Burkhalter, Creative Services Manager
Renee Smiley, Patron Services Manager
Rebecca Danis, Patron Services Associate
Rachel Jorgensen, Development Services & Database Manager
Inga V. Murro, Controller
Stephanie Cantillo, Administrative and Human Resources Manager
Wade Thomas, Education Manager
Lene Sabin, Executive Assistant

Special thanks to Adam Hayes and John Morrison, instrumentalists.

Support is also provided by the Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA also receives support from its partner agency – the National Endowment for the Arts.

Kennesaw State University Men's Ensemble

The Kennesaw State University Men’s Ensemble, formed in 2000, is a non-auditioned choir open to all students, including both music majors and non-majors from across the campus. Ranging from freshmen to seniors, the choir represents a variety of musical backgrounds and academic disciplines. In 2007, the KSU Men’s Ensemble was featured at the Georgia Music Educators Association Conference presentation “Men…Can’t Live with Them, Can’t Sing Without Them!” The KSU Men’s Ensemble performed at the 2012 Georgia Music Educators Association Conference in Savannah, Georgia and in the summer of 2013, the KSU Men’s Ensemble was featured at the American Choral Directors Association State Conference with Dr. Jerry Blackstone at Spivey Hall. Most recently, the Kennesaw State University Men’s Ensemble was selected to perform at the 2013 American Choral Directors National Conference in Dallas, Texas, and the 2014 American Choral Directors Southern Division Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

Kennesaw State University Chamber Singers

The Kennesaw State University Chamber Singers is the premiere auditioned choral ensemble at Kennesaw State University. Ranging from freshmen to seniors, the choir is open to all students including both music majors and non-majors from across campus and represents a variety of musical backgrounds and academic disciplines. The KSU Chamber Singers have performed masterworks of Bach, Haydn, Duruflé, Mozart, Britten, and most recently Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem*. In the spring of 2012, the KSU Chamber Singers, KSU Chorale, and KSU Symphony Orchestra performed Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony broadcast on Atlanta 90.1WABE. The KSU Chamber Singers performed at the 2002, 2006, 2008, and 2011 Georgia Music Educators Association State Conferences. In 2010, the choir was invited to sing at the American Choral Directors Association Southern Division Conference in Memphis, Tennessee, presenting music of South America. In October 2013 the KSU Chamber Singers was selected to perform at the National Collegiate Choral Organization 5th National Conference performing David Maslanka’s masterwork *A Litany for Courage and the Seasons*. 
Leslie J. Blackwell is the Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music and Music Education at Kennesaw State University where she has directed choral activities since 1998. Dr. Blackwell's duties include conducting the KSU Men’s Ensemble and KSU Chamber Singers as well as teaching advanced choral conducting and literature along with supervision of student teachers. A native of Georgia, Blackwell received the Associate of Arts degree from Gordon Junior College (1982), the Bachelor of Music in Music Education from West Georgia College (1984), the Master of Music from Georgia State University (1991), and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky (2002).

Choirs under Dr. Blackwell’s direction have performed at National, Regional, and State conferences of the American Choral Directors Association as well as numerous Georgia Music Educators Association State Conventions. In 2010, Dr. Blackwell presented Songs of South America for the American Choral Directors Association with the KSU Chamber Singers, featuring music of South America based upon her choral research and work in Argentina. In October 2013 the KSU Chamber Singers was selected to perform at the National Collegiate Choral Organization 5th National Conference.

Recognized for her work with men’s voices, Dr. Blackwell served six seasons as the Artistic Director of the Atlanta Gay Men’s Chorus, conducted the 2013 Georgia All-State Men’s Chorus, and established the annual KSU Male Chorus Day at Kennesaw State University, bringing upwards of 200 high school male students to campus. Under Dr. Blackwell’s direction the KSU Men’s Ensemble, a non-auditioned ensemble, has achieved prestigious accomplishments on a State, Regional, and National stage. Most recently, the Kennesaw State University Men’s Ensemble was selected to perform at the 2013 American Choral Directors National Conference in Dallas, Texas and the 2014 American Choral Directors Southern Division Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

Influential musicians with whom Dr. Blackwell has worked are Robert Shaw, Ann Howard-Jones, Yoel Levi, Norma Raybon, John Haberlen, Rodney Eichenberger, David Maslanka, Ola Gjeilo, Ethan Sperry, and Jefferson Johnson.

In addition to her commitments at Kennesaw State University, Dr. Blackwell is active as a clinician and adjudicator and holds memberships in MENC, GMEA, and ACDA. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Georgia ACDA. Currently, Dr. Blackwell is the Artistic Director and Founding Director of the Kennesaw State University Community & Alumni Choir.
Kennesaw State University Men’s Ensemble

Tenor 1
Connor Finton
Thomas Hartwell
Julian Nole
Forrest Starr
Alex Trull
Alexander Turner
Jarod Vautrot

Tenor 2
Camden Anich
Michael Bart
Terrell Flemings
Kevin Loggins
Jake Glover

Cody Hixon
Erinn Johnson
Zach Planchet
Jason Raphael
Joss Stark

Baritone
Ryan Cox
Benjamin Cubitt
Kristopher Davis
Dylan Gray
Daniel Hidalgo
Christian Hopper
Clay Isom
Avery McCoy

Timothy Marshall
Brian Reid
Phillip Staples
Aaron David Wyman

Bass
Sean Eliason
Daniel Gibson
Kenan Mitchell
Abisai Pena
Michael Thomas
Jacob Wachtel
Reed Williams
Hunter Young

Kennesaw State University Chamber Singers

Soprano
Vanessa Burnham
Victoria Caracci
Emily Crisp
Lauren de Koekkoek
Megan Gibson
Amy Hebel
Emily Hering
Ashley Naffziger
Shannan O’ Dowd
Siobhan Rodriguez
Jennell Smith
Brianna Westland

Alto
Kristen Brantley
Naarah Callender

Camille Hathaway
Karen Martin
Julie Mitchell
Susan Reyes
Kim Royer
Lana Urbina
Chanqueria Grimes

Tenor
Jake Glover
Cody Hixon
Erinn Johnson
Joseph McBrayer
Forrest Starr
Alex Trull
Julian Nole
Jason Raphael

Bass
John Brashears
Ryan Cox
Michael Bart
Matthew Dollar
Sean Eliason
Daniel Hidalgo
Kevin Loggins
Timothy Marshall
Kenan Mitchell
Phillip Staples
Reed Williams

Leslie J. Blackwell, Director of Choral Activities
School of Music Faculty and Staff

Music Education
Judith Beale
Janet Boner
Kathleen Creasy
John Culvahouse
Charles Jackson
Charles Laux
Alison Mann
Angela McKee
Richard McKee
Harry Price
Terri Talley
Amber Weldon-Stephens

Music History & Appreciation
Drew Dolan
Edward Eanes
Kayleen Justus
Dane Philipsen

Music Theory, Composition & Technology
Kelly Francis
Jennifer Mitchell
Laurence Sherr
Benjamin Wadsworth
Jeff Yunek

Woodwinds
Robert Cronin, Flute
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
Thomas Witte, Horn
Tom Gibson, Trombone
Brian Hecht, Bass Trombone
Bernard Flythe, Tuba/Euphonium
John Lawless, Percussion

Strings
Helen Kim, Violin
Kenn Wagner, Violin
Catherine Lynn, Viola
Allyson Fleck, Viola, Chamber Music
Charae Krueger, Cello
James Barket, Double Bass
Joseph McFadden, Double Bass
Elisabeth Remy Johnson, Harp
Mary Akerman, Classical Guitar

Voice
Jessica Jones
Adam Kirkpatrick
Eileen Moremen
Oral Moses
Leah Partridge
Valerie Walters
Jana Young

Piano
Judith Cole, Collaborative Piano & Musical Theatre
Julie Cougheron
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
Oral Moses, Gospel Choir
Eileen Moremen, Opera
Michael Alexander, Orchestras
Charles Laux, Orchestras
Debra Traficante, Concert Band
David T. Kehler, Wind Ensemble

School of Music Staff
Julia Becker, Administrative Specialist III
David Daly, Director of Programming and Facilities
Susan M. Grant Robinson, Associate Director for Administration
Joseph Greenway, Technical Director
Dan Hesketh, Digital Media Specialist
June Mauser, Administrative Associate II
Andrew Solomonson, Facility Operations Manager

Ensembles in Residence
Atlanta Percussion Trio
Faculty Jazz Parliament
Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus
KSU Faculty Chamber Players
KSU Faculty String Trio
KSU Community and Alumni Choir
Kennesaw State University School of Music

The School of Music at KSU has dedicated, vibrant, and talented faculty and staff that are completely devoted to teaching, performing, scholarship, and serving our community. It is an incredibly exciting place to study, boasting state-of-the-art facilities with opportunities to produce and explore music in a dynamic place that is ahead of the curve for what it means to be a musician in the 21st century. Our students come from the leading musical honor organizations across the region and are poised to lead the cultural offerings and musical education in our area and beyond for years to come.

We welcome you to attend a concert, meet our faculty and staff, and feel the energy and excitement that our students exude. We are fully committed to our purpose as educators, performers, and scholars. We hope that you will find as much enjoyment in our product as we do in producing it.

Michael Alexander
Interim Director, KSU School of Music

Connect with the School of Music

For more information about the School of Music, connect with us online at the websites below. Tweet us during tonight’s concert from Morgan Hall’s Tweet Seats to connect with fellow concertgoers during the performance.

facebook.com/musicKSU twitter.com/musicKSU youtube.com/musicKSU
ksutv.kennesaw.edu/musicKSU musicKSU.com

Please consider a gift to the Kennesaw State University School of Music. http://community.kennesaw.edu/GiveToMusic

upcoming events

Unless otherwise noted, all events will take place at 8:00 pm in Morgan Concert Hall.

Wednesday, September 17
Wind Ensemble with
Elizabeth Koch-Tiscione, oboe

Thursday, September 18
Faculty Recital: Doug Lindsey, trumpet

Monday, September 22
William Johnston, viola
with Tim Whitehead, piano

Tuesday, September 23
Faculty Recital: Mary Akerman, guitar

Thursday, September 25
Jazz Ensembles

Friday, September 26
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Monday, September 29
Faculty String Trio

We welcome all guests with special needs and offer the following services: easy access, companion seating locations, accessible restrooms, and assisted listening devices. Please contact a patron services representative at 470-578-6650 to request services.