



# Kennesaw State University Jazz Ensembles

Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall  
Eleventh Concert of the 2014-15 Concert Season

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## Jazz Ensemble II

Wes Funderburk, director

**Rubber Ducky** / MOSS / ARR. FUNDERBURK

**88 Basie Street** / NESTICO

**I'll Be Seeing You** / FAIN / KAHAL

**What a Wonderful World** / THIELE

**Symphony in Riffs** / CARTER

# Jazz Ensemble I

Sam Skelton, director



*Courtesy of the artist*

## ***"Infernal Machines"***

### **The Music of Darcy James Argue**

All Compositions by  
DARCY JAMES ARGUE (b. 1975)

**The Neighborhood**

**Zeno**

**Redeye**

**Transit**

**Jacobin Club**

**Phobos**

## program notes

"For a wholly original take on big band's past, present and future, look to Darcy James Argue" - so says *Newsweek's* Seth Colter Walls.



*npr.org*

**D**arcy James Argue, the Vancouver-born, Brooklyn-based composer and bandleader has toured nationally and internationally with his 18-piece ensemble, Secret Society, garnering countless awards and nominations and reimagining what a 21st-century big band can sound like. "It's maximalist music of impressive complexity and immense entertainment value, in your face and then in your head," writes Richard Gehr in the *Village Voice*. *Stereophile's* Fred Kaplan adds, "Argue is tying together the disparate strands of music that have shaped his life and his rambling era."

Argue made his mark with his critically acclaimed 2009 debut *Infernal Machines* (New Amsterdam Records). 2013 saw the release of *Brooklyn Babylon* (also from New Amsterdam), which, like *Infernal Machines* before it, earned the group nominations for both GRAMMY and JUNO Awards. *Brooklyn Babylon* continued to net accolades for Argue and Secret Society, including top spots for Arranger and Big Band in the 2013 *DownBeat* Critics Poll.

Proclaimed the "Best Album of 2013... almost crazily ambitious music about ambition itself," by *The New Republic's* David Hadju, *Brooklyn Babylon* tells the tale of Lev Bezdomni, a carpenter in a future Brooklyn, who is tasked with building the carousel that will crown the tallest tower in the world - it's an urban fable about an artist torn between his ambition and his connection to the people in his neighborhood. The album grew out of a multimedia work Argue co-created with graphic novelist and illustrator Danijel Zezelj for the 2011 BAM Next Wave Festival. Live music, live painting, and projected animation combined to create a uniquely immersive experience that *Studio 360's* David Krasnow called "a masterpiece... a new work of originality, power, and beauty." The multimedia performance was next staged at the 2013 Holland Festival, a production *Eye Magazine's* John L. Walters called "a triumph... a multi media magnum opus."

Between the release of their two recordings, Secret Society has been busy on the road with Brazilian and Canadian tours, global festival performances, and two appearances at the Newport Jazz Festival, with a third slated for the summer of 2014.

This summer will also see more international touring activity for the group, with a string of shows across Canada and Europe.

Secret Society's performances have been celebrated for their "slashing fury and awesome full-ensemble precision" (*The New York City Jazz Record*). The band's Canadian tour drew notice for its "brilliant soundscapes" (*Globe and Mail*) and "gorgeous musical details, maneuvers and transformations" (*Ottawa Citizen*). Their London Jazz Festival debut was declared "a contender for gig of the year" by *The Guardian*, and their performance at the Moers Festival in Germany was hailed by the *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger* as "one of the highlights of the 38th annual festival."

In addition to his work with Secret Society, Argue has toured Australia and New Zealand leading the Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra and was featured in the Orquestra Jazz de Matosinhos' inaugural international Jazz Composers Forum. He has led performances of his music by the WDR Big Band, the Danish Radio Big Band, the Frankfurt Radio Bigband, the Cologne Contemporary Jazz Orchestra, the Big Band Palácio das Artes, and the West Point Jazz Knights. Argue has composed works for chamber duo and string quartet, art songs for Newspeak, and created arrangements for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. He has conducted residencies and workshops at the University of North Texas, McGill, Cornish College, Western Connecticut State University, and with the Western Australian Jazz Youth Orchestra, among others. In 2012, he was composer-in-residence for Missouri State University's annual Composition Festival.

Argue has received commissions from the Danish Radio Big Band, the Hard Rubber Orchestra, the West Point Jazz Knights, the Orquestra Jazz de Matosinhos, The Jazz Gallery, the Manhattan New Music Project, and the Jerome Foundation, as well as grants and fellowships from *New Music USA*, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the MacDowell Colony. His awards include the BMI Jazz Composers' Workshop Charlie Parker Composition Prize and SOCAN's Hagood Hardy Award. He is a 2013 fellow in Music/Sound from the New York Foundation for the Arts.

# personnel

## JAZZ ENSEMBLE II

### Trumpets

Collin Siesel  
Jonny Fallin  
Jesse Baker  
Michael Lewis

### Trombones

Stewart Yancey  
Tony Wolcott  
George Blevins  
Devin Witt

### Saxes

Brandon Radaker  
Nathan Hollis  
Muhsin Quraishi  
Ben Humkey  
Steven LaRose  
Damontae Scott  
Andrew Erreddia

### Drums

Janna Graham  
Matteo Castano

### Guitar

Darren Wheeler  
Don Snowden

### Piano

Cynthia Gannon  
Hunter Young

### Vocals

Julie Mitchell

## JAZZ ENSEMBLE I

### Reeds

Reed I, Kwame Paige  
Reed II, Devin Okey  
Reed III, Jason Kaplan  
Reed IV, Michael Opitz  
Reed V, Nic Chambers

### Trumpets

Brandon Austin  
Bob Wright  
John Thomas Burson  
Stacie Novik  
Kristen Gravlee

### Trombones

Michael DeSousa  
Katie Riess  
Mitchell Frey  
Joseph Poole

### Piano

Brian Reid

### Guitars

Patrick Arthur  
Jared Leach

### Bass

Brandon Boone

### Drums/Percussion

Cameron Austin  
Jonathan Pace

# biographies

## Jazz Ensembles and Jazz Arranging

**W**es 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* (formerly *Funderbone.com*) 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, 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 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 the 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 clinician and performing artist for Rath trombones and Facet Mutes.

## Director of Jazz Studies and Senior Lecturer in Saxophone

**S**am 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 2002-04 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.

## 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 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  
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.*

Monday, September 29  
**Faculty String Trio**

Wednesday, October 8  
**KSU Symphony Orchestra**

Tuesday, September 30  
**Philharmonic and Concert Band**

Thursday, October 9  
**Chamber Singers and Men's Ensembles**

Thursday, October 2  
**University Chorale, Women's Choir with  
Northwestern Middle School Chorus**

Monday, October 13  
**Faculty Recital: Robert Henry, piano**

Monday, October 6  
**Faculty Recital: Soohyun Yun, piano**

Tuesday, October 14  
**Guest Artist Recital: Tammy Yonce, flute**

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.