

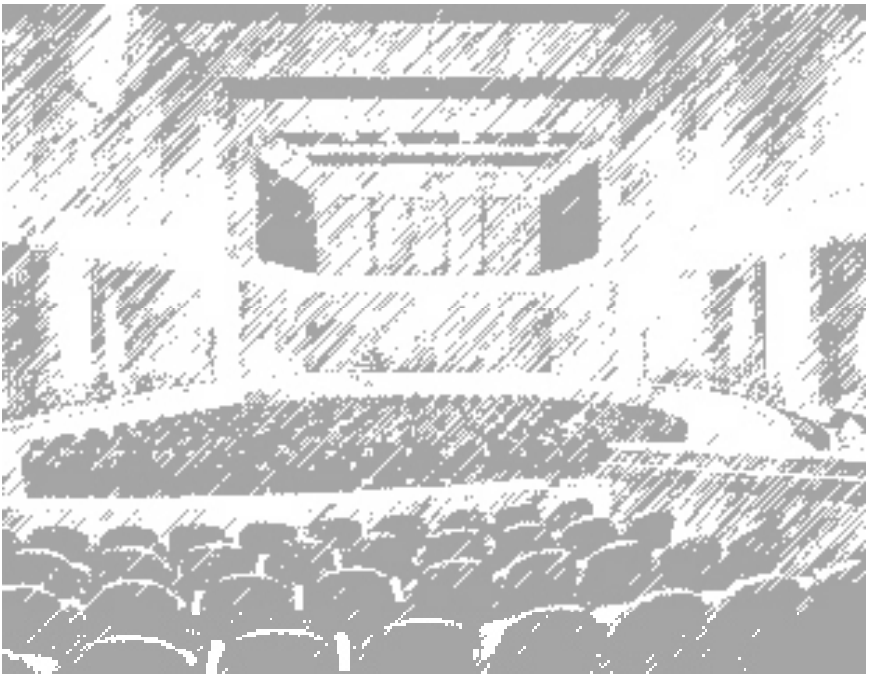
Kennesaw State University  
College of the Arts  
School of Music

presents

2014  
Kennesaw State  
Festival of New Music

Featured Guest Composer

Chen Yi



Monday, February 17 - Friday, February 21, 2014

## **Dear Friends,**

*On behalf of everyone at Kennesaw State University, we are excited to welcome you to the 2014 Kennesaw State Festival of New Music, our third festival honoring the music of our time.*

*Rules, as the saying goes, were meant to be broken. There are artists who discard the idea of traditional boundaries and instead choose to explore the sounds that move them, often through embracing innovative ideas that blend together varied musical or cultural traditions. As the world of music continues to evolve, artists continually find new ways for their voices to be heard amidst the growing landscape. The 2014 KSFNM proudly presents an impressive slate of exceptional artists, whose creative approaches to music making boldly lead us into new territory.*

*The KSFNM musicians challenge artistic boundaries in their work, as displayed in Chen Yi's blending of traditional Chinese folk culture with western music, Maria Schneider's exploration of the relationships between jazz and avant-garde concert hall genres, and Simone Dinnerstein and Tift Merritt's melding of their respective classical and pop aesthetics. In addition to these guest artists, the week's performances will highlight our talented students and faculty, including violinist Helen Kim who will perform the world premiere of Chinese Rap, a violin concertino composed by Chen Yi and commissioned by the KSU School of Music with the support of our partners in the Confucius Institute.*

*A festival of this kind creates an interesting opportunity to explore how music impacts other areas of our lives. To that end, we have developed class visits, lectures, master classes, and other residency activities in partnership with our colleagues in the Gender and Women's Studies program, Asian Studies, American Studies, and the Music and Entertainment Business Program. These residency activities expose our students and community to new, developing trends in the art form, and provide special access to the artists in an educational setting. Additionally, our music students gain the invaluable experience of interacting first hand with world-class artists.*

*Over a five-day period, we will present four concerts, thirteen residency activities, and one world premiere. We are delighted to give this music an audience, and hope you enjoy the opportunity to participate in this unique event. Thank you for joining us for this celebration as we explore music that challenges definition and breaks barriers.*

*David Daly and Laurence Sherr  
Co-Artistic Directors*

## Concert Schedule

### **KSU Wind Ensemble**

Tuesday, February 18, 2014 | 8 p.m.

### **KSU Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Singers, and Men's Ensemble**

Wednesday, February 19, 2014 | 8 p.m.

### **KSU Jazz Ensemble I performs the music of Maria Schneider**

Thursday, February 20, 2014 | 8 p.m.

### **Simone Dinnerstein and Tift Merritt in *NIGHT: an evening with Simone Dinnerstein and Tift Merritt***

Friday, February 21, 2014 | 8 p.m.

## **KSFNM 2014 RESIDENCY SCHEDULE**

### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2014**

Open rehearsals – Chen Yi with Orchestra and Chamber Singers

Orchestra: 11am-12:00 pm in Morgan Hall, Chamber Singers: 12-12:50 pm in Brooker Hall

Open rehearsal – Chen Yi with Wind Ensemble

2:10-3:10 pm, Morgan Hall

Composition masterclass with Chen Yi

4-6 pm, Wilson Building Room 119

### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

*East and West: Experiences in Cultural/Educational Exchange Programs*

Lecture Presentation with Chen Yi

Presented with the KSU Confucius Institute

1-1:50 pm, Morgan Hall

### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014**

Open rehearsals – Chen Yi with Orchestra and Chamber Singers

Orchestra: 11am-12:20 pm in Morgan Hall, Chamber Singers: 12:20-12:50 pm in Brooker Hall

*Tradition and Creation: Composing in My Own Voice*

Artist Meet and Greet, Lecture Presentation, and Q&A Session with Chen Yi

Meet and Greet: 2-2:30 pm, Lecture and Q&A: 2:30-3:50 pm, Brooker Hall

### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

Creative Women in Music and Art panel discussion

Panelists: Tift Merritt, Simone Dinnerstein; Moderators: Laura Davis, Laurence Sherr

Presented with the KSU Gender and Women's Studies Program

12:30-1:45 pm, University College Room 200

Skype Conversation with composer Maria Schneider

Moderators: David Daly, Sam Skelton

1-1:45 pm, Brooker Hall

Piano masterclass with Simone Dinnerstein

2-3:15 pm, Brooker Hall

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2014**

Bending Genre Boundaries, Artistic Entrepreneurship, Creating Music for Today's World

Artist Panel with Tift Merritt and Simone Dinnerstein

11am-12:50pm, Brooker Hall

Special thanks to: Keith Perissi, Danny Howes, Samantha Lane, Dongmei Liao, Ken Jin, Laura Davis, Rebecca Hill, LeeAnn Lands, Heeman Kim, May Gao, Robbie Lieberman, Kathie Beckett, Joshua Stone, Brenda Curtis, Patty Poulter, Jessica Drewry, June Mauser, Julia Becker, Doug Lindsey, Katherine Morehouse, Edward Eanes, Soohyun Yun, David Kehler, Michael Alexander, Leslie Blackwell, and Sam Skelton.

# Kennesaw State University Wind Ensemble

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014 | 8 P.M.

Audrey B. and Jack E. Morgan, Sr. Concert Hall  
at the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center  
*Seventieth Concert of the 2013-14 Concert Season*

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JENNIFER MITCHELL (b. 1974)

**Forge of Hephaestus** (2013)

Chen Yi (b. 1953)

**Tu** (2003)

CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS (b. 1967)

**\*Concerto for Marimba and Wind Sinfonietta** (2013)

Prologue

Allegro

Semplice

Vivace

Aria

John Lawless, marimba

*\*Georgia Premiere*

FLORENT SCHMITT (1870-1958)

**Dionysiaques**, Opus 62 (1913/2011)

arr. Felix Hauswirth (b.1955)

David Thomas Kehler, conductor

# Performer Biographies

## David Thomas Kehler, conductor

**D**avid Kehler has served since 2009 as Director of Bands at Kennesaw State University where he oversees all aspects of the University's band program and serving as Music Director and Conductor of the KSU Wind Ensemble. An advocate of new music, Professor Kehler has commissioned leading composers to write new works for wind ensemble, including Michael Markowski, Joel Puckett, James Stephenson, Christopher Theofanidis and an upcoming commission by Pulitzer Prize winner, Joseph Schwantner. In addition, the KSU Wind Ensemble has been featured on 90.1 FM (WABE- Atlanta public radio), and continues to garner praise from composers including Steven Bryant, Karel Husa, David Lang, David Maslanka, Scott McAllister, and Joel Puckett. In 2012, the KSU Wind Ensemble was a featured ensemble and hosted the Southern Division College Band Directors /National Band Association Conference and in 2013, was the winner of the 2013 American Prize for best Wind Ensemble/Concert Band performance. In addition to his ensemble responsibilities, Dr. Kehler teaches courses in instrumental conducting, wind literature and symphonic repertoire.

Previously, David Kehler served The University of Texas at Austin as a Graduate Conducting Associate receiving a Doctor of Musical Arts degree. From 2001-2009, Dr. Kehler served as Associate Conductor of America's Premier Wind-band; The Dallas Wind Symphony where he was the director of the Dallas Wind Symphony International Fanfare Project. In addition, Dr. Kehler conducted the Dallas Wind Symphony throughout Texas, including the annual Labor Day Concert at the Dallas Arboretum, various Chautauqua festivals, holiday concerts, and a formal gala presented by the United States Armed Forces with all of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in attendance.

While in Texas, Dr. Kehler was also Founder and Conductor of the GDYO Wind Symphony, an ensemble affiliated with the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestras, Inc. During his ten years of service, the GDYO Wind Symphony established itself as one of the premier youth wind ensembles in the United States. They were a featured ensemble at the Texas Bandmasters Association/National Band Association Convention in San Antonio, Texas, and were heard internationally on "From the Top", a syndicated radio program featuring the finest young classical musicians in the country. In addition, the GDYO Wind Symphony participated in exchange concerts with the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony and performed with Jeff Nelson, former horn of the Canadian Brass. In the summer of 2008, the GDYO Wind Symphony embarked on an extensive two-week tour of China, performing at all of the major music conservatories throughout China and Hong Kong.

Previous university appointments were at Southern Methodist University, the University of Rhode Island, and Bay City Western High School, in Bay City, Michigan. Growing up in Michigan, Dr. Kehler received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Michigan State University. Professor Kehler is an active conductor and clinician throughout the United States, and has memberships in musical organizations including CBDNA, NBA, NAFME, Phi Beta Mu, GMEA and others.

## John Lawless, marimba

**J**ohn Lawless became Director of Percussion Studies at Kennesaw State University in 2004. Principal Timpanist of the Atlanta Opera since 1979, Mr. Lawless was appointed as Principal Timpanist with the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera Orchestra in 1986. Since 1978, Mr. Lawless has performed and recorded as an extra with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra while maintaining a thriving freelance career as studio and pit percussionist.

A founding member of the Atlanta Percussion Trio, Mr. Lawless performs more than 600 school concerts a year for audiences totaling 300,000 annually. In 2004 the Atlanta Percussion Trio performed as concerto soloists with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in "The Glory and the Grandeur" by Russell Peck.

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

## Composer Biographies

CHEN YI (b. 1953)

### KSFNM 2014 Featured Guest Composer

**C**hen Yi, a Distinguished Professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance and prolific composer and recipient of the prestigious Charles Ives Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (2001-04), blends Chinese and Western traditions, transcending cultural and musical boundaries. Through doing so, she serves as an ambassador to the arts, creating music that reaches a wide range of audiences, inspiring people with different cultural backgrounds throughout the world. She holds both a BA and MA in music composition from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, and received her DMA from Columbia University in the City of New York, studying composition with Wu Zuqiang, Chou Wen-chung and Mario Davidovsky. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005.

Chen Yi's music has been commissioned by Yehudi Menuhin, Yo-Yo Ma, Evelyn Glennie, the Cleveland Orchestra, the BBC, the Seattle, Pacific, and Singapore Symphonies, the Brooklyn, New York, and Los Angeles Philharmonic, Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Raschèr Saxophone Quartet and Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and recorded on many labels, including BIS, New Albion, CRI, Teldec, Telarc, Albany, New World, Naxos, Quartz, Delos, Angel, Nimbus, and KIC.

Dr. Chen has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation (1996) and the National Endowment for the Arts (1994), as well as the Lieberson Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1996). Other honors include first prize in the Chinese National Composition Competition (1985), the Lili Boulanger Award from the National Women Composers Resource Center (1993), New York University's Sorel Medal (1996), the CalArts/Alpert Award (1997), a Grammy Award (1999), the University of Texas Eddie Medora King Composition Prize (1999), the Adventurous Programming and Concert Music awards from ASCAP (1999 and 2001, respective-

ly), the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Elise Stoeger Award (2002), the Edgar Snow Memorial Fund's Friendship Ambassador Award (2002), the Kauffman Award in Artistry/Scholarship from the UMKC Conservatory (2006), and honorary doctorates from Lawrence University in WI (2002), Baldwin-Wallace College in OH (2008), the University of Portland in OR (2009), and The New School University in NYC (2010).

Chen Yi was the first woman to receive a master's degree in composition in China (June 1986) when she gave an evening concert of her orchestral works in Beijing, performed by the Central Philharmonic of China. She is also the first woman to give an evening multimedia orchestral concert in the US (for orchestra, choir, Chinese traditional instrumental soloists, dancers, and image projection – the *Chinese Myths Cantata*), which occurred during her 3-year residency with The Women's Philharmonic and Chanticleer (May 1996), supported by Meet The Composer. She has given two more whole evening concerts of her orchestral and choral works presented by the China National Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in 2001 and 2008, and was appointed Changjiang Scholar Visiting Professor at the Beijing Central Conservatory by the China Education Ministry in 2006.

Since 2009, premieres of Ms. Chen's works have included *Septet*, a mixed ensemble piece for Prism Saxophone Quartet and Music From China, *Prelude and Fugue* for the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (MTC/ASOL Music Alive Residency), a duet *From Old Peking Folklore* for the Music Teachers' Association of California Friends of Today, and *Jing Marimba* for the Zeltsman Marimba Festival. New commissions include a wind ensemble work, *Dragon Rhyme*, premiered by the Hartt School of Music Wind Ensemble at Carnegie Hall, a work for the San Francisco Girls Chorus and Cypress String Quartet, and a work for solo violin (in memory of her violin teacher Lin Yaoji) to be premiered at the China National Concert Hall. More recent premieres have included works for eighth blackbird, the Mid-America Competing Band Directors Association, the American Choral Directors Association, Singapore ACJC, Gustavus College Orchestra (MN), Central Bucks High School Choir (PA), and the Seattle Symphony.

Premieres from 2008 include a song cycle *From the Path of Beauty* for Chanticleer and the Shanghai String Quartet, *Suite from China West* for the Metropolitan Wind Symphony, *Tunes from My Home* for the Newstead Trio, a recorder concerto, *Ancient Chinese Beauty*, for Michala Petri, *Concerto for Reeds* for oboe, sheng, and chamber orchestra, *Rhyme of Fire* for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (commissioned by the BBC Proms and conducted by Leonard Slatkin), *Woodwind Quintet No. 3* for the Eastman School of Music, and *Prospect Overture* for the China National Symphony Orchestra, commissioned by and premiered at the China National Center for the Performing Arts to celebrate the 2009 New Year in Beijing, conducted by Daniel Harding.

Important premieres in 2007 include *Three Bagatelles from China West* for flute and piano at Carnegie Hall (for the 21st Century project Meet The Composer flute book, Eight Visions), *Tibetan Tunes* for the New Pacific Trio (Barlow Endowment for Music Composition Commission Award), *Looking at the Sea* for the Peninsula Women's Chorus, and *China West Suite* for Dennis Russell Davies and Maki Namekawa at the Ruhr Piano Festival in Germany. Other world premieres in 2005 and 2006 include *Celebration* for the Maryland Classic Youth Philharmonic, *Spring in Dresden* for Mira Wang and Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden (co-commissioned by the NY Phil, premiered in Germany), the 2006 Pulitzer Prize Finalist *Si Ji* (Four Seasons) for the Cleveland Orchestra (a Roche Commission, premiered at the Lucerne Music

Festival in Switzerland, Severance Hall in Cleveland, and Carnegie Hall), *Ji-Dong-Nuo*, commissioned by Carnegie Hall for Emanuel Ax, *Ancient Dances* for Wu Man, commissioned by the Walton Arts Center in Arkansas, *The Ancient Beauty* for Music From China and the Philadelphia Classical Symphony, and *Han Figurines*, commissioned by Opus 21 and Fontana Chamber Arts.

JENNIFER MITCHELL (b. 1974)

**Jennifer Mitchell** completed her Master's in Music Composition at Georgia State University in 2007 after graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Music degree in Trombone Performance at GSU. She has written for the Georgia Youth Brass Band, the GSU Percussion Ensemble, the GSU Brass Ensemble, and was commissioned by the 2006 International Euphonium Institute for her "Celebration Fanfare", written for antiphonal brass quintet and euphonium quartet. She received a commission from Colin Williams, principal trombone with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, for "Pneuma" (2006), written for trombone, double bass, and marimba. Ms. Mitchell's "Bamboo Blossom" (2005) was chosen to be included on the vanity CD, *In With the New: Vol. 2*, a juried compilation released in 2006 by the GSU Student Chapter Society of Composers, Inc. This followed "In Memory of Jerry" (2002) for trombone quartet and "Subtle Reflection" (2003) for unaccompanied trombone, both chosen to be included on the vanity CD, *In With the New: Vol. 1*, released in late 2005.

In addition to composition, Ms. Mitchell instructs Music Theory and Aural Skills at Kennesaw State University. She currently performs with the award-winning Georgia Brass Band and the Cobb Symphony Orchestra, and can be heard playing trombone on *Traveling Without Memory*, the debut experimental ambient electronica album by Vancouver-based Gunshae.

Jennifer, aka "Little Jen," also has been a DJ since 1994, performing throughout the East Coast with the biggest acts in electronic music. "Lullabye," her first electronic music endeavor, was released by Sonic Soul Recordings in 1997 on *Cloudwatch: a Freeform Gathering*. She was voted DJ of the year in 1998 on the Sonic Soul website and Reader's Choice: Atlanta's Best DJ for 2006 in Atlanta's Creative Loafing newspaper. She has been reviewed in such magazines as Urb, Elemental, and the Jive magazine website. In addition to her busy club schedule, she has performed multimedia pieces with Atlanta-based new music organizations Bent Frequency and Sonic Generator. Having completed numerous electronica remixes of a range of classical composers, Little Jen's electronic excursions can be heard at Fringe, the Atlanta-based classical chamber music series. She can currently be heard DJing locally in numerous lounges, clubs and bistros in the Atlanta area.

Jennifer is a member of the Society of Composers, Inc. (SCI), the American Music Center (AMC) and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

For more information about Jennifer Mitchell, please visit the composer's website at [www.kennesaw.edu/music/jennifer\\_mitchell.shtml](http://www.kennesaw.edu/music/jennifer_mitchell.shtml).

CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS (b. 1967)

**Christopher Theofanidis** has had performances by many leading orchestras from around the world, including the London Symphony, the New York Philhar-



monic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Moscow Soloists, the National, Atlanta, Baltimore, St. Louis, Detroit Symphonies, and many others. He also served as Composer of the Year for the Pittsburgh Symphony during their 2006-2007 Season, for which he wrote a violin concerto for Sarah Chang.

Mr. Theofanidis holds degrees from Yale, the Eastman School of Music, and the University of Houston, and has been the recipient of the International Masterprize (hosted at the Barbican Centre in London), the Rome Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, six ASCAP Gould Prizes, a Fulbright Fellowship to France, a Tanglewood Fellowship, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Charles Ives Fellowship. In 2007 he was nominated for a Grammy for best composition for his chorus and orchestra work, *The Here and Now*, based on the poetry of Rumi. His orchestral concert work, *Rainbow Body*, has been one of the most performed new orchestral works of the last ten years, having been performed by over 100 orchestras internationally.

Mr. Theofanidis' has recently written a ballet for the American Ballet Theatre, a work for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra as part of their 'New Brandenburg' series, and he currently has two opera commissions for the San Francisco and Houston Grand Opera companies. He has a long-standing relationship with the Atlanta Symphony, and has just had his first symphony premiered and recorded with that orchestra. He has served as a delegate to the US-Japan Foundation's Leadership Program and is a former faculty member of the Peabody Conservatory and the Juilliard School. He currently teaches at Yale University.

FELIX HAUSWIRTH (b. 1955)

**Felix Hauswirth** earned his degree in conducting and theory at the Lucerne Conservatory of Music in Switzerland. In 1983, he was guest professor for one semester at the University of Michigan in Flint, USA. In 1985, he was appointed professor of conducting at the Basel Conservatory, Switzerland.

In 1983, Mr. Hauswirth founded the Swiss National Youth Wind Ensemble and conducted this ensemble until 1993. As guest conductor and with his own ensembles, he has performed in several countries in Europe, Asia, South Africa, Japan, Australia, and South America and in several places in the USA and Canada. He has conducted many recordings and broadcasts with different ensembles and has received acclaim from conductors and composers from Europe, United States and Asia for his CD's.

As clinician he is regularly invited all over the world. From 1998 - 2011 Mr. Hauswirth has been head of the wind band conducting course at the Bundes-Academy in Trossingen, Germany and from 2000 - 2009 he taught at the Istituto Superiore Europeo Bandistico (I.S.E.B.) in Trento, Italy.

From 1993 – 2000, Mr. Hauswirth was the Artistic Director for the International Festival for Contemporary Music in Uster, Switzerland. He was President of the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) from 1997 - 2001. He is currently the conductor of the Baden-Württemberg Youth Wind Ensemble, Germany and the Zug Wind Orchestra, Switzerland.

He is the author of several books, mainly on conducting and on wind ensemble literature.

In December 2009 Felix Hauswirth received in Chicago the "Midwest Clinic International Award" in Recognition of Outstanding Contributions and Dedication to Instrumental Music Education.

# Personnel

## **CONDUCTOR**

David Thomas Kehler

## **FLUTE/PICCOLO**

Catherine Flinchum

Madison Hall

Catherine Rothery

## **OBOE / ENGLISH HORN**

Andrew Connard

Alex Sifuentes

## **CLARINET / BASS CLARINET**

Katherine Cook

Jonathan Itkin

Kadie Johnston

Alyssa Jones

Chris Malloy

Mudussir Quraishi

Ryan Tang

Gus Todd

## **BASSOON / CONTRA BASSOON**

Jordan Alfredson

Sarah Fluker

Shelby Jones

Danika Mahon

Dustin Price

## **SAXOPHONE**

Nathan Hollis

Benjamin Humkey

Brittany Jarrard

Steven LaRose

Tommy Kieffer

Michael Opitz

Kwame Paige

Brandon Radaker

## **HORN**

David Anders

Kristen Arvold

Nathan Bedgood

Sarah Jarrett

## **TRUMPET**

Brandon Austin

Jesse Baker

John Thomas Burson

Tyler Elvidge

Kristen Gravlee

Jessica Jarrett

Stacey Novik

Adam Reep

Timothy Rucker

## **TROMBONE**

Michael DeSousa

Mitchell Frey

Michael Lockwood

Joseph Poole

Tony Wolcott

George Blevins

## **EUPHONIUM**

Anthony Pirulis

Stewart Yancey

## **TUBA**

Kadeem Chambers

Melinda Mason

## **DOUBLE BASS**

Nick Tworag

## **PIANO**

Soyoun Sheehan

## **HARP**

Tyler Hartley

## **PERCUSSION**

Cameron Austin

Jake Darnell

Erik Kosman

Levi Lyman

Kyle Pridgen

Selena Sanchez

Kennesaw State University  
Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Singers,  
Men's Ensemble

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014 | 8 P.M.  
Audrey B. and Jack E. Morgan, Sr. Concert Hall  
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*Seventy-first Concert of the 2013-14 Concert Season*

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CHEN YI (b. 1953)

**\*Chinese Rap for Violin and Orchestra** (2014)

Helen Kim, violin

*\*World Premiere*

CHEN YI

**Symphony No. 3** (2003)

- I. The Dragon Culture
- II. The Melting Pot
- III. Dreaming

KSU Symphony Orchestra  
Michael Alexander, conductor

Intermission

A. R. RAHMAN (b. 1967)

***Wedding Qawwali*** from ***Bombay Dreams*** (2012)

arr. Ethan Sperry (b. 1971)

KSU Men's Ensemble

Cameron Austin, Kyle Pridgen, Levi Lyman, and Ian Kennel, percussion

CHEN YI

Selections from ***A Set of Chinese Folk Songs*** (1994)

- Fengyan Song
- The Flowing Stream
- Diu Diu Deng

KSU Chamber Singers

A. R. RAHMAN

***Jai Ho*** from ***Slumdog Millionaire*** (2008)

arr. Ethan Sperry

KSU Chamber Singers

Cameron Austin, Kyle Pridgen, Levi Lyman, and Ian Kennel, percussion

KSU Dance Company: Meghan Roberts, Camille Smith, Alexandra Guobergsdottir,  
Quiana Bello. Choreography: Rifka Mayani

Leslie Blackwell, conductor

# Text and Translations

CHEN YI

## ***A Set of Chinese Folk Songs***

### **Fengyang Song (Anhui Folk Song)**

Gongs and drums are in my hands,  
I am singing a song while playing drums and gongs.  
Other songs I don't know how to sing,  
I can only sing a Fengyang song.

### **The Flowing Stream (Yunnan Love Song)**

The rising moon is bright,  
my sweetheart is in the deep mountain,  
he is like the moon walking in the sky.  
My sweetheart!  
The flowing stream around the mountain is clear aside.  
The moon is shining over the hillside,  
looking at the moon and thinking of my sweetheart,  
the breezes are sweeping past the hillside.  
My sweetheart!  
Don't you hear I cry?

### **Diu Diu Deng (Taiwan Folk Song)**

Going up to the tunnel in the mountain,  
the water in the cave is dropping down.  
Going up to the tea mountain,  
enjoy looking at the tea-picking girls.

*This song is very popular in the Yilan region of Taiwan, where transportation and communication were difficult. When the railway reached this region, the people sang this lively song in celebration while riding the trains through the area's beautiful mountains and valleys. The words "Diu Diu Deng" are nonsense syllables.*

A.R. Rahman

### ***Jai Ho!***

arr. Ethan Sperry

Aaja aaja jind shamiyaane ke tale  
Aaja zari waale neele aasmaane ke tale

Come, come my Life, under the canopy.  
Come under the blue brocade sky!

Ratti ratti sachchi maine jaan gawayi hai  
Nach Nach koylon pe raat bitaayi hai

lota by iota, I have lost my life. In faith  
I've passed this night dancing on coals;

Ankhiyon ki neend maine phoonkon se  
udaa di  
Gin gin taarey maine ungli jalayi hai

I blew away the sleep that was in my  
eyes;  
I counted the stars 'til my finger burned.

Baila! Baila!  
Ahora conmigo, tu baila para hoy  
Por nuestro dia de movidas,  
los problemas los que sean  
Salud! Baila! Baila

Dance! Dance!  
Now with me, you dance for today,  
for our day of movements.  
No matter what problems may be:  
Cheers! Dance! Dance!

Chakh le, haan chakh le, yeh raat  
shehed hai  
Chakh le, haan rakh le, Dil hai, dil  
aakhri hadd hai  
Kaala kaala kaajal tera Koi kaala jaadu  
hai na?

Taste it, taste it. This night is honey!

Taste it, and keep it; it's a heart at its  
final limit.  
You're a dark black, coal-black magic,  
aren't you?

Jai Ho!

Dance With Me!

A.R. RAHMAN  
***Wedding Qawwali***  
arr. Ethan Sperry

Mubaraqa!

Congratulations!

Sohna mera sohna, maahi sohna

My Darling is like gold

Mera rang de lalaariya  
Rang de dupatta mera, rang de la-  
laariya  
Mere hathon me laga de rang mehendi  
lalaariya

Color me red  
Color my veil in red

Apply red henna to my palms

Mil gaya, mujhe mil gaya  
Rahmaton ka rang khil gaya  
Sab gale mile shagun manye e  
Sajna ke geet sunaye e  
Paraji Pera Liya

I have found  
All my prayers are blooming in color  
Let's all embrace and follow the rituals  
Let's sing songs for my beloved  
With our scarves flowing under our legs

# Performer Biographies

## **Michael Alexander, conductor**

**M**ichael Alexander is the Director of Orchestras and Interim Director of the School of Music at Kennesaw State University and serves as the Music Director of the Georgia Symphony Orchestra. Active as a guest conductor, he has conducted in Europe, Australia and at various places in the United States, including performances with the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra, the Maikop Symphony Orchestra and the Novgorod String Orchestra in Russia, the Bacau and Ploiesti Philharmonic in Romania, and the Catania Music Festival in Italy. In the summer of 2004 and 2009, he served as Music Director for the Madison Savoyards Opera Company. He has also appeared as a guest conductor four times with the Summer Music Clinic Orchestra at the University of Wisconsin and with the 2003-2006 Maud-Powell Music Festival Orchestra in LaSalle, IL. In March 2010, he conducted the 11-12 Georgia All-State Orchestra, and in the summer of 2011, was a guest conductor at the Highlands Music Festival.

Under his leadership, the Georgia Symphony has presented critically acclaimed performances and has seen enormous growth. During his eight year tenure, GYSO has added to its core of professional musicians, removed all debt it was under, expanded its budget, and created a comprehensive youth orchestra and chorus program with approximately 400 students from across the region.

In the summer of 2003, Dr. Alexander completed his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in orchestral conducting. Prior to his current appointments, he has served on the faculties at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and Ripon College. Dr. Alexander began the orchestra program at Kennesaw State University and under his direction the KSU Orchestra has performed at the 2009 Georgia Music Educators Association Annual In-Service, hosted and performed at the 2010 College Orchestra Directors Association National Conference, and completed a three concert tour of Beijing and Xian, China in January of 2011. He has conducted several District Honor Orchestras and has also presented workshops and sessions for The Ohio State University String Teacher Workshop and at the Georgia Music Educators Association Annual In-Service.

## **Helen Kim, violin**

**H**elen Kim joined the music faculty in 2006 at Kennesaw State University with a stellar performance background. She made her orchestral debut with the Calgary Philharmonic at the age of six, and has gone on to become a respected and sought-after artist. She has appeared as a soloist with the Boston Pops at Boston's Symphony Hall, as well as with the Milwaukee and Atlanta Symphony Orchestras.

Ms. Kim earned her Master's Degree from the Juilliard School, where her teachers included Cho-Liang Lin and Dorothy DeLay. She is the recipient of more than one hundred national and international awards. In 1992, she won the prestigious Artists International Competition in New York and, as a result, gave debut recitals at Carnegie Weill Hall and the Aspen Summer Music Festival.

A native of Canada, Ms. Kim has been engaged by many of Canada's leading orchestras, including the National Arts Center Orchestra, Montreal Metropolitan Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony, McGill Chamber Orchestra, and the Windsor, Regina, Victoria and Prince George Symphonies. She has also appeared with the Cobb, Georgia Symphony Orchestra, DeKalb, New Orleans, Aspen and Banff Festival Orchestras, and with orchestras in the United Kingdom, Germany and Poland.

Ms. Kim has toured extensively throughout Canada and the United States, including performances at Alice Tully Hall and the Sante Fe and La Jolla International Music Festivals, where she performed with Cho-Liang Lin, Gary Hoffman, Andre Previn, and the Orion String Quartet. She performed Bach's Double violin concerto with Hilary Hahn at the 2002 Amelia Island Chamber music festival.

Ms. Kim has been profiled on national and international television and has appeared on CBC, PBS and CBS networks. Her performances have been aired on NPR and CBC radio networks. Ms. Kim served as assistant and associate concertmaster for the Atlanta Symphony for three seasons. She is currently the assistant concertmaster of the Atlanta Opera Orchestra. Ms. Kim performs with local new music ensembles, Bent Frequency, Sonic Generator, Thamyris and recently joined the Atlanta Chamber Players.

### **Leslie Blackwell, conductor**

**L**eslie J. Blackwell is the Director of Choral Activities and Associate 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 KSU Male Chorus Day at Kennesaw State University, bringing upwards of 200 high school male students to campus. In 2007, the KSU Men's Ensemble was featured at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service 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 In-Service Conference in Savannah, Georgia and was a featured choir

at the American Choral Directors Association State Conference at Spivey Hall in summer, 2013. Most recently, the Kennesaw State University Men's Ensemble was selected to perform at the 2013 American Choral Directors National Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Influential musicians with whom Dr. Blackwell has worked are Robert Shaw, Ann Howard-Jones, Yoel Levi, Norma Raybon, John Habermen, 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.

### **Rifka Mayani, choreographer**

**Rifka Mayani** is a graduate from one of India's premier dance institutions - Sri Rajarajeshwari Bharatha Natyam Kala Mandir, Mumbai. Since her initial training at the tender age of 6, Rifka has studied and performed this Indian classical art form for more than 35 years under the tutelage of Guru Kalyan Sundaram Pillai. Her performances over the years both in India and the USA, have included several original works by her Guruji.

In addition to her intensive study of Bharatha Natyam, Rifka's academic pursuit has led her to earn several degrees - an MBA from Kennesaw State University (KSU) in 1997; a Bachelor's in Law (LLB) in 1994 and a Bachelor's in Arts (BA) with a Political Science concentration in 1991; both from the University of Mumbai, India. Rifka currently serves as the Associate Executive Director for Enterprise Systems and Services at KSU and as an Instructor of Dance in the College of the Arts. She also serves as an affiliated faculty in the Asian Studies Program.

Rifka is the artistic director and choreographer for Tandav Themes Dance Academy, an Indian Classical Dance School of "Bharatha Natyam" in Atlanta, for young aspirants of the chiseled dance discipline. Through this school Rifka imparts knowledge of this ancient art form in the pure Thanjavur style.

## Composer Biographies

CHEN YI (b. 1953)

Biographical information for KSFNM 2014 Featured Guest Composer Chen Yi is available beginning on page 5.

A. R. RAHMAN (b. 1967)

**Allah-Rakha Rahman** is described as the world's most prominent and prolific film composer by *Time*. His works are notable for integrating Eastern classical music with electronic music sounds, world music genres and traditional orchestral arrangements.

He has won two Academy Awards, two Grammy Awards, a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe, four National Film Awards, fifteen Filmfare Awards and thirteen Filmfare Awards South in addition to numerous other awards and nominations.



His extensive body of work for film and the stage earned him the nickname "the Mozart of Madras" and several Tamil commentators and fans have coined him the nickname Isai Puyal (English: Music Storm). In 2009, Time placed Rahman in its list of World's Most Influential People.

The UK based World Music magazine Songlines named him one of 'Tomorrow's World Music Icons' in August 2011. Having set up his own in-house studio called Panchathan Record Inn at Chennai, arguably one of Asia's most sophisticated and high-tech studios, Rahman's film scoring career began in the early 1990s with the Tamil film Roja.

Working in India's various film industries, international cinema and theatre, Rahman is one of the world's all-time top selling recording artists. In a notable career spanning two decades, Rahman has garnered particular acclaim for redefining contemporary Indian film music and thus contributing to the success of several films.

Rahman is currently one of the highest paid composers of the motion picture industry. He is a notable humanitarian and philanthropist, donating and raising money for beneficial causes and supporting charities.

ETHAN SPERRY (b. 1971)

**E**than Sperry, born in New York City, began studying conducting at the age of eight, cello at the age of twelve, and singing at the age of eighteen. He has earned a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Harvard College and Masters and Doctoral degrees in Choral Conducting from the University of Southern California. Ensembles under his direction have toured to Bermuda, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guadeloupe, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Puerto Rico, Russia, and Taiwan, and have performed at major venues in the United States including the Kennedy Center, The Washington National Cathedral, St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, The Nassau Coliseum, Cincinnati's Music Hall, and Boston's Symphony Hall.

Ethan Sperry is currently a Professor of Music at Portland State University.

## Personnel

### KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

#### **CONDUCTOR**

Michael Alexander

#### **FLUTE**

Catherine Flinchum

Charis Hanson

Catherine Rothery

#### **OBOE**

Andrew Connard

Alexander Sifuentes

#### **CLARINET**

Tyler Moore

Mudussir Quraishi

Ryan Tang

#### **BASSOON**

Sarah Fluker

Shelby Jones

Dustin Price

**HORN**

David Anders  
Kristen Arvold  
Nathan Bedgood  
Sarah Jarrett

**TRUMPET**

Brandon Austin  
Jesse Baker  
John Thomas Burson

**TROMBONE**

Michael Lockwood  
Mitchell Frey

**BASS TROMBONE**

Joseph Poole

**TUBA**

Melinda Mason

**HARP**

Tyler Hartley

**PERCUSSION**

Cameron Austin  
Levi Lyman  
Erik Kosman  
Selena Sanchez

**VIOLIN 1**

Jarred Cook  
DuMarkus Davis  
Ryan Gregory  
Sarah Hoefler  
Grace Johnston  
Danielle Moeller

Jonathan Urizar

Anneka Zee

**VIOLIN 2**

Rachel Campbell  
Micah David  
Sara Rose Halverson  
Terry Keeling  
Lauren Miller  
Brittany Thayer  
Kevin Williams

**VIOLA**

Katie Baumgarten  
Justin Brookins  
Audine Crosse  
Hallie Grubb  
Kyle Mayes  
Perry Morris  
Samantha Tang  
Natalie Thompson

**CELLO**

Kathryn Encisco  
Hannah Grussing  
Rachel Halverson  
Avery McCoy  
Michael Roberts  
Dorian Silva  
Michael Thomas

**BASS**

Jarod Boles  
David Metrio  
Matthew Richards  
Nicholas Scholefield  
Nick Twarog

**KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S ENSEMBLE****CONDUCTOR**

Leslie Blackwell

**ACCOMPANIST**

Sherri N. Barrett

**TENOR 1**

Joseph McBrayer  
Kevin Loggins

Terry Pendleton

Travis St. Dic

Forrest Starr

Alexander Trull

Brian Van Buskirk

**TENOR 2**

Jesse Alexander  
Terrell Flemings

Elliott Folds  
Jake Glover  
Thomas Hartwell  
Conner Horton  
Erinn Johnson  
Julian Nole  
Zach Planchet  
Joss Stark  
Alexander Turner

**BARITONE**

Michael Bart  
Micah Davis  
Kristopher Davis  
Dylan Gray  
Cody Hixon  
Daniel Hidalgo  
Timothy Marshall

Matthew Siano  
Andy Tuttle  
Jose Valdez

**BASS**

Nathan Brosy  
Benjamin Cubitt  
Sean Eliason  
Luke Hedrick  
Nicholas Kaye  
Abisai Pena  
Jason Raphael  
Trevor Sands  
Julian Selano  
Ryan Stoyer  
Jacob Wachtel  
Hunter Young

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY CHAMBER SINGERS

**CONDUCTOR**

Leslie Blackwell

Lana Urbina  
Paris Werner

**ACCOMPANIST**

Sherri N. Barrett

**TENOR**

Kris Davis  
Eric Donaldson  
Jake Glover  
Thomas Hartwell  
Kevin Loggins  
Joseph McBrayer  
Terry Pendleton  
Forrest Starr  
Travis St. Dic  
Alex Trull  
Brian Van Buskirk

**SOPRANO**

Vanessa Burnham  
Victoria Caracci  
Emily Crisp  
Megan Gibson  
Amy Hebel  
Ashley Naffziger  
Shannan O'Dowd  
Siobhan Rodriguez  
Brianna Westland

**BASS**

Michael Bart  
Sean Eliason  
Dylan Gray  
Daniel Hidalgo  
Erinn Johnson  
Timothy Marshall  
Julian Nole  
Jason Raphael  
Andy Tuttle

**ALTO**

Naarah Callender  
Camille Hathaway  
Karen Martin  
Julie Mitchell  
Avery Rabbitt  
Susan Reyes  
Delaney Rogers  
Kim Royer  
Madeline Scott

# Kennesaw State University

## Jazz Ensemble I

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014 | 8 P.M.  
Audrey B. and Jack E. Morgan, Sr. Concert Hall  
at the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center  
*Seventy-second Concert of the 2013-14 Concert Season*

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*The Music of Maria Schneider*

**Journey Home**

**The “Pretty” Road**

**Waltz for Toots**

**Last Season**

**Danca Ilusoria**

All compositions by Maria Schneider.



# About Maria Schneider

Maria Schneider's music has been hailed by critics as "evocative, majestic, magical, heart-stoppingly gorgeous, and beyond categorization." She and her orchestra became widely known starting in 1994 when they released their first recording, 'Evanescence.' With that recording, Schneider began to develop her personal way of writing for her 17-member collective, made up of many of the finest musicians in jazz today, tailoring her compositions to distinctly highlight the uniquely creative voices of the group. Subsequently, the Maria Schneider Orchestra has performed at festivals and concert halls worldwide. She herself has received numerous commissions and guest conducting invites, working with over 85 groups from over 30 countries spanning Europe, South America, Australia, Asia and North America.

Schneider's music blurs the lines between genres, and as a result, her long list of commissioners have become quite varied: the Norrbotten Big Band and Danish Radio Orchestra with Toots Thielemans and Ivan Lins, the Metropole Orchestra in the Netherlands, Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestra (El Viento), Monterey Jazz Festival (Scenes from Childhood), The American Dance Festival (for dance company, Pilobolus - Dissolution), University of Miami Concert Jazz Band (Three Romances), Hunter College (Concert in the Garden, Sky Blue), Jazz at Lincoln Center (Buleria, Soleá y Rumba), Los Angeles Philharmonic Association (Aires de Lando), Peter Sellars' New Crowned Hope Festival (Vienna's Mozart Festival-Cerulean Skies), Kronos Quartet (String Quartet No. 1), The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra with soprano, Dawn Upshaw (Carlos Drummond de Andrade Stories) and most recently, the Ojai Festival, the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Cal Performances (Winter Morning Walks), featuring soprano, Dawn Upshaw, and three musicians long associated with Schneider: pianist, Frank Kimbrough, bassist, Jay Anderson, and multi-instrumentalist, Scott Robinson.

Schneider and her orchestra have a distinguished recording career with nine GRAMMY nominations and two GRAMMY awards. Unique funding of projects has become a hallmark for Schneider through the trend-setting company, ArtistShare®. For these projects, she documents her creative process for participating fans, who "fan-fund" her recordings through pre-orders. She's now composed four works for her own orchestra with the participation of commissioners coming directly from her ArtistShare® website fan base. Her album, *Concert in the Garden* (2004) became historic as the first recording to win a GRAMMY with Internet-only sales. Even more significantly, it blazed the "fan-funding" trail as ArtistShare's® first release. Her albums, *Concert in the Garden* and *Sky Blue* were both named "Jazz Album of the Year" by the Jazz Journalists Association and DOWNBEAT Critics Poll, and received wide critical acclaim.

In 2012, her alma mater, the University of Minnesota, awarded Schneider an honorary doctorate.

"Maria Schneider's orchestral jazz is about feeling. Like Wayne Shorter, she somehow expresses compassion through tones." –*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

"To call Schneider the most important woman in jazz is missing the point. She is a major composer-period." –*TIME MAGAZINE*

## Sam Skelton, director

**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.

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 Premiers 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.

## Personnel

### DIRECTOR

Sam Skelton

### REEDS

Chris Ottis  
Kwame Paige  
Chris Malloy  
Jason Kaplan  
Michael Opitz

### TRUMPET

Justin Rowan  
Brandon Austin  
John Thomas Burson  
Eric Donaldson

### TROMBONE

Nick Dixon  
Katie Riess  
Michael Lockwood  
Mitchell Frey

### RHYTHM

Brian Reid, piano  
Brandon Boone, bass  
Andrew Lastrapes, guitar  
Patrick Arthur, guitar  
Nicholas Franz, guitar  
Cameron Austin, drums  
Dominic Brown, drums

Simone Dinnerstein and Tift Merritt

*NIGHT: an evening with Simone Dinnerstein  
and Tift Merritt*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2014 | 8 P.M.

Audrey B. and Jack E. Morgan, Sr. Concert Hall  
at the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center  
*Seventy-third Concert of the 2013-14 Concert Season*

---

**Simone Dinnerstein**, piano

**Tift Merritt**, guitar and vocals



The performers will announce their selections from the stage.

## About *NIGHT*

Pianist Simone Dinnerstein and singer-songwriter Tift Merritt join forces in *NIGHT*, a unique collaboration uniting folk, rock and classical worlds, exploring common terrain and uncovering new musical landscapes. Though Simone (a Juilliard-trained classical pianist from Brooklyn) and Tift (a singer-songwriter from North Carolina whose father taught her to play by ear) could not come from more different musical backgrounds, when the two met they immediately realized that their passion for music was kindred, if not the same. *Night* features new songs by Brad Mehldau and Patty Griffin, Tift's own songs, selections by Bach and Schubert, and The Cohen Variations by Daniel Felsenfeld, based on Leonard Cohen's Suzanne. Tift and Simone's studio recording of *Night* was released on Sony on March 19, 2013.

## Performer Biographies

### Simone Dinnerstein, piano

**S**imone Dinnerstein, American pianist, is a searching and inventive artist motivated by a desire to find the musical core of every work she approaches. The Independent praises the "majestic originality of her vision" and NPR reports, "She compels the listener to follow her in a journey of discovery filled with unscheduled detours." The New York-based pianist gained an international following because of the remarkable success of her recording of Bach's Goldberg Variations, which she raised the funds to record. Released in 2007, it ranked No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Classical Chart in its first week of sales and was named to many "Best of" lists including those of The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, and The New Yorker. The three albums she has released since then – The Berlin Concert, Bach: A Strange Beauty, and Something Almost Being Said – have also topped the classical charts, with Bach: A Strange Beauty making the Billboard Top 200, which compiles the entire music industry's sales of albums in all genres. Dinnerstein was the bestselling instrumentalist of 2011 on the U.S. Billboard Classical Chart.

Her performance schedule has taken her around the world since her triumphant New York recital debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 2005, to major venues including the Kennedy Center, Vienna Konzerthaus, Berlin Philharmonie, Lincoln Center, and London's Wigmore Hall, among many others. She has been a soloist with leading orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, Tokyo Symphony, Vienna Symphony, and more. Dinnerstein has also played concerts throughout the country for the Piatigorsky Foundation, an organization dedicated to bringing classical music to non-traditional venues, and performed at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in a concert organized by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra to coincide with her BSO debut. Dedicated to her community, in 2009 Dinnerstein founded Neighborhood Classics, a concert series that raises funds for and is hosted by New York City public schools.

[www.simonedinnerstein.com](http://www.simonedinnerstein.com)

Ms. Dinnerstein is represented worldwide by IMG Artists  
Tanja Dorn, Associate Director of Conductors & Instrumentalists Division  
Germany & North/South America Carnegie Hall Tower  
152 W 57th Street 5th floor  
New York, NY 10019

Simone Dinnerstein records exclusively for SONY Classical



## Tift Merritt, guitar and vocals

**T**ift Merritt, who *The New Yorker* has called “the bearer of a proud tradition of distaff country soul that reaches back to artists like Dusty Springfield and Bobbie Gentry,” a standard upholding that got underway in earnest with *Bramble Rose*, the 2002 solo debut that put her on the Americana map forever. As her sophomore album, *Tambourine*, was followed by *Another Country and See You on the Moon*, Merritt found acclaim coming not just from critics and awards organizations but her own heroes, like Emmylou Harris, who marveled that Merritt “stood out like a diamond in a coal patch.” Now a leading lady in her own right, Merritt is hardly one to hog the spotlight. She engages in dialogue with fellow artists of all disciplines on her public radio broadcast and podcast “The Spark With Tift Merritt,” bringing in fellow sojourners ranging from Patty Griffin and Rosanne Cash to Rick Moody and Nick Hornby (who devoted a chapter to Merritt in his *31 Songs* book). Of her latest album, *Traveling Alone*, released by Yep Roc in October 2012, USA Today raves, “Steel-laced country-soul only hints at the sublime charms of Merritt’s *Traveling Alone*,” and Paste writes, “*Traveling Alone* . . . not only shows her true lyrical and vocal range, but suggests an adventurous spirit beneath the placid surface.”

[www.tiftmerritt.com](http://www.tiftmerritt.com)

## School of Music Faculty and Staff

### Interim Director

Michael Alexander

### Woodwinds

Cecilia Price, Flute

Todd Skitch, Flute

Christina Smith, Flute

Elizabeth Koch Tiscione, Oboe

Dane Philipsen, Oboe

John Warren, Clarinet

Laura Najarian, Bassoon

Sam Skelton, Saxophone

### Brass and Percussion

Doug Lindsey, Trumpet

Lester Walker, Jazz Trumpet

Jason Eklund, Horn

Thomas Witte, Horn

Tom Gibson, Trombone

Brian Hecht, Bass Trombone

Bernard Flythe, Tuba/Euphonium

Michael Moore, Tuba

Justin Chesarek, Jazz Percussion

John Lawless, Percussion

### Strings

Helen Kim, Violin

Kenn Wagner, Violin

Catherine Lynn, Viola

Alyson Fleck, Viola

Charae Krueger, Cello

Douglas Sommer, Double Bass

Joseph McFadden, Double Bass

Elisabeth Remy Johnson, Harp

Mary Akerman, Classical Guitar

Trey Wright, Jazz Guitar

Marc Miller, Jazz Bass

### Ensembles & Conductors

Leslie J. Blackwell, Choral Activities

Alison Mann, Choral Activities

Oral Moses, Gospel Choir

Eileen Moremen, Opera

Michael Alexander, Orchestras

Charles Laux, Orchestras

John Culvahouse, Wind Ensembles

David T. Kehler, Wind Ensembles

Wes Funderburk, Jazz Ensembles

Sam Skelton, Jazz Ensembles

Justin Chesarek, Jazz Combos

Marc Miller, Jazz Combos

Trey Wright, Jazz Combos

### Voice

Carolyn Dorff

Adam Kirkpatrick

Eileen Moremen

Oral Moses

Leah Partridge

Valerie Walters

Jana Young

### Piano

Judith Cole, Collaborative Piano & Musical

Theatre

Robert Henry

Tyrone Jackson, Jazz Piano

John Marsh, Class Piano

David Watkins

Soohyun Yun

### Music History & Appreciation

Drew Dolan

Edward Eanes

Doug Lindsey

John Marsh

Katherine Morehouse

Harry Price

Trey Wright

### Music Education

Janet Boner

Kathleen Creasy

John Culvahouse

Margaret Grayburn

Charles Jackson

Charles Laux

Alison Mann

Angela McKee

Richard McKee

Harry Price

Terri Talley

Amber Weldon-Stephens

### Music Theory, Composition & Technology

Judith Cole

Kelly Francis

Jennifer Mitchell

Laurence Sherr

Benjamin Wadsworth

Jeff Yunek

### Chamber Music

Alyson Fleck

Bernard Flythe

Charae Krueger

Catherine Lynn

Joseph McFadden

Harry Price

Kenn Wagner

John Warren

Soohyun Yun

### Ensembles in Residence

Atlanta Percussion Trio

Faculty Jazz Parliament

Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra & Chorus

KSU Faculty Chamber Players

KSU Faculty String Trio

### School of Music Staff

Julia Becker

Bob Beckleau

Dominic Bruno

Steve Burton

David Daly

Susan M. Grant Robinson

Joseph Greenway

Dan Hesketh

June Mauser

## 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.

### Connect with the School of Music

For more information about the School of Music, connect with us online at the websites below. Tweet at 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>

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## Upcoming Events

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

Tuesday, February 18  
**KSFNM: Wind Ensemble**

Wednesday, February 19  
**KSFNM: Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Singers**

Thursday, February 20  
**KSFNM: Jazz Ensembles**

Friday, February 21  
**KSFNM: NIGHT: an evening with Simone Dinnerstein and Tift Merritt**

Monday, February 24  
**Faculty Recital: Charae Krueger, cello and Robert Henry, piano**

Tuesday, February 25  
**Choral Ensembles**

Wednesday, February 26  
**The Pianissimo Piano Ensemble**

Thursday, February 27  
**Philharmonic & Concert Band**

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 770-423-6650 to request services.