

Kennesaw State University

Upcoming Music Events

Thursday-Sunday, November 5-8
Kennesaw State University Opera Theatre
The Medium
The Stoned Guest
Howard Logan Stillwell Theatre

Tuesday, November 10
Kennesaw State University
Student Mixed Chamber Ensembles
8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Wednesday, November 11
Kennesaw State University
Jazz Combos
8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Thursday, November 12
Kennesaw State University
Jazz Ensembles
8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Tuesday, November 17
Kennesaw State University
Women's Choral Day concert
7:30 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Wednesday, November 18
Kennesaw State University
Jazz Guitar Ensemble
8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

For the most current information, please visit
<http://www.kennesaw.edu/arts/events/>

We welcome all guests with special needs and offer the following services: accessible seating, easy access, companion restroom locations, assisted listening devices. Please contact an audience services representative to request services



Dean Joseph D. Meeks

School of Music

presents

Kennesaw State University Jazz Faculty and Friends

Sam Skelton, woodwinds
Trey Wright, guitar
Wes Funderburk, trombone
Tyrone Jackson, piano
Marc Miller, bass
Justin Varnes, drums

Wednesday, November 4, 2009
8:00 pm

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center

Twentieth Concert of the 2009-2010 season

**Kennesaw State University
School of Music**

Performance Hall

Jazz Faculty and Friends

(Harry Connick, Jr.), Aaron Goldberg (Joshua Redman), Wessell Anderson, Wycliffe Gordon, Marcus Printup, Steve Kirby (Cyrus Chestnut), Peter Bernstein, and Eric Lewis (Wynton Marsalis).

Currently residing in Atlanta, Mr. Varnes performs regularly with the Christian Tamburr Quartet, as well as Bob Reynolds, Kevin Bales, Joe Gransden and Gary Motley. Justin is also a top call sideman for touring artists through Atlanta. He has performed with Vincent Herring, Kevin Hays, Victor Goines and recently has been tapped for some work with Earl Klugh.

Bolivia	Cedar Walton
Granted	Joe Henderson
You Should Know By Now	Trey Wright
Free Wheelin’	Lee Morgan
Wee Small Hours of the Morning/Lover Man	Mann/Ramiriz
Passion Dance	McCoy Tyner

KSU FACULTY JAZZ

Sam Skelton, woodwinds
Trey Wright, guitar
Wes Funderburk, trombone
Tyrone Jackson, piano
Marc Miller, bass

Special guest:
Justin Varnes, drums

player, later turned him on to Rush, Genesis, Yes and other prog-rock heavies. After a while, this manifested as an interest in electric bass guitar, and after a particular night of listening to a Clifford Brown album, jazz. Outside of high school, Marc began performing in swing, blues, and rock bands.

At Florida State University, he began his studies on double bass with Pam Andrews, and later, Melanie Punter, and his jazz training under Bill Peterson. After graduating, Marc found his way to The University of Texas at Austin where he continued his studies with John Fremgen and David Neubert. He counts amongst his biggest influences legendary players like Paul Chambers, Scott LaFaro, Charlie Mingus, and Jimmy Garrison, and he continues to draw inspiration from modern straight ahead players such as Avishai Cohen, Larry Grenadier, Drew Gress, and Robert Hurst. During his stays in Florida, Texas, and a subsequent stint in Seattle, he expanded his musical language by working with groups whose focuses included salsa and latin jazz, tango, gypsy jazz, flamenco and some Brazilian styles.

All of this has led to what Marc is today: an exceptionally well-rounded player with an uncanny ability to feel at home in almost any musical situation. Amidst the standard club gigs, weddings, and corporate gigs, Marc has performed and recorded with a number of groups spanning straight ahead jazz, classical, rock, funk, jam, hip-hop, modern, the aforementioned world music groups, and quite literally, everything in between. Since returning to Atlanta in 2005, he has quickly found a niche in the metro music scene, performing regularly at metro area jazz venues, with ensembles such as the Atlanta Pops Orchestra, and doing freelance performing and recording work. In 2006 he was honored to perform on singer Lizz Wright's summer festival tour through the states and Europe, and he regularly performs with up-and-coming jazz artists such as Bob Reynolds when they come through Georgia. Currently, he can be found playing regularly with two jazz groups locally, the Mace Hibbard Group and the Trey Wright trio. He appears on both groups' most recent and upcoming albums, respectively.

Justin Varnes

drums

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Justin Varnes studied music at the University of North Florida. After a brief stint with the Noel Freidline Quintet, Mr. Varnes relocated to New York City to pursue a master's degree in jazz studies at the New School. In New York, Justin toured for six years with vocalist Phoebe Snow, with whom he performed on the Roseanne Barr Show, as well as National Public Radio's "World Cafe" (he would later perform on "World Cafe" with pop group "Five for Fighting"). He also performed with Phoebe at Madison Square Garden, where he played alongside singers Jewel and Paula Cole. Mr. Varnes has performed with several jazz greats in New York, including: Ben Wolfe

Sam Skelton

woodwinds

A native of Conyers, Georgia, Sam Skelton has been active on the Atlanta music scene for well over two decades. Mr. 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, Sam 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.

Sam 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). Sam 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, Sam 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.

Sam 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. Sam served as Professor of Saxophone at Georgia State University from 1991 to 2004 and was Jazz Ensemble Director at Georgia Tech from 2002-2004 and Artist-in-Residence at The University of Georgia Jazz Department. He served as Visiting Professor of Saxophone at Furman University 2001-2002. Professional associations include: Georgia Music Educators Association, Georgia Association of Jazz Educators, National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (voting member) and the American Federation of Musicians. Sam is a Conn-Selmer Artist. He resides in Buford, GA with his wife, flutist Jeanne Carere, and their 4 children.

Trey Wright

guitar

Trey Wright joined the faculty at Kennesaw State University in 2005. Mr. Wright is cofounder of the Athens/Atlanta based jazz band Squat, a four-time winner of the Best Jazz Award at the Flagpole Athens Music Awards, and featured artists at the Atlanta Jazz Festival, the Twilight Athens Jazz Festival, and Harvest Midtown. Squat has performed with Medeski, Martin, and Wood, the B-52's, Maceo Parker, Maynard Ferguson, the Squirrel Nut Zippers, the Derek Trucks Band, the Sting Cheese Incident, Sector 9, and the Charlie Hunter Trio. Along with managing Squat and producing five independent CD releases, Mr. Wright plays guitar and piano with the group touring throughout the southeast.

Mr. Wright has also performed with upright and electric bassist John Patitucci, Jimmy Haslip, Grammy winning saxophonist Joe Lovano, Tim Armacost, Tim Hagens and Mel Bay Records artist Corey Christiansen. With the Steve Dancz Quartet and the University of Georgia Jazz Band, Mr. Wright has performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival, Jazz A Vienne, and the World Sacred Music Festival in Bangalore, India. As a solo guitarist and with his trio, Mr. Wright has been a featured performer at the Athens Music and Arts Festival, the Lake Oconee Jazz Festival, and the Atlanta Jazz Festival.

Wes Funderburk

trombone

Wes Funderburk joined the faculty at Kennesaw State University in 2007. He has performed across the United States and Europe and is an active trombonist in Atlanta and the Southeast. He is the author of Funderbone.com and the inventor of Blog Songs!—an award-winning music blog and podcast. Mr. Funderburk has performed and recorded with a wide array of internationally renowned artists including Natalie Cole, Co-Ed, Gloria Lynne, Peter Noone, Freda Payne, India Arie, Slide Hampton, Herbie Hancock, Kenny Garrett, Rich Matteson, Toshiko Akyoshi and Cecil Welch. He has performed throughout Atlanta at venues such as Churchill Grounds, Symphony Hall, Spivey Hall, The Georgia Dome, the Variety Playhouse and The Fox Theater as well as at the famous Apollo Theater in New York. He has also been a featured performer at The Atlanta Dogwood Festival, Atlanta Jazz Festival, Atlanta Black Arts Festival, Jacksonville Jazz Festival, Montreux-Atlanta Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival and the North Sea Jazz Festival.

Mr. Funderburk's recording credits include Verve Records, Universal Records, Arista Records, Cartoon Network and the Weather Channel. His arranging credits include music for Natalie Cole, The Georgia Brass Band, Georgia State University, Joe Gransden and The Piedmont Trombone Society. Mr. Funderburk is also the leader of the Funderbone Jazz Quintet

and the Funderhorns—a freelance commercial horn section working closely with Dallas Austin's DARP studio among others.

As an educator Mr. Funderburk has given clinics and master classes at the University of North Florida, Georgia State University, Columbus State University, the Mars Hill Low Brass Retreat, Tanglewood Music Center and numerous high schools across the Southeast. He maintains an active private studio for students of all ages and was a director of the 2005 Atlanta Youth Jazz Orchestra and assistant director of the 2005 University of North Florida Music Camp. He earned degrees in trombone performance from the University of North Florida and Georgia State University.

Tyrone Jackson

piano

Tyrone Jackson performs an eclectic blend of classic and contemporary jazz to soothe the aural palette. The new jazz CD, "Dedicated," is Tyrone at his finest—creative composition, wonderful collaborations and technical mastery. Tyrone was born in the birthplace of jazz, New Orleans where he honed his skills learning traditional, Latin, and fusion jazz. An accomplished composer as well, Tyrone utilizes a counterpoint of harmonic balance with melodic lyricism and rhythmic ostinato. He has played with Earl Klugh, Melba Moore, Wynton Marsalis, Wes Anderson, and Greg Dawson. Jackson toured Brazil with the Michael Ward in 1996 and Italy and Austira with the UNO Jazz Band in 1997. He has opened for Gerald Albright, Spyro Gyra, The Crusaders, and Chaka Kahn. In 2008 he toured Thule, Greenland and opened for Marcus Miller in St. Lucia. He has played with Jeff Golub and with Kirk Whalum.

Marc Miller

bass

From the beginning, Marc Miller has always been drawn to the low notes. Raised on a steady diet of Mahler, Wagner, Holst, various requiems, and 80's Miles Davis albums, it was only natural that he would choose the tuba as his instrument of choice in elementary school. His band director laughed openly at him, his parents cringed at the thought of hauling the thing around, but tuba it was, and it set him on a path that would rarely venture above middle C.

Marc was born into a musical family in Atlanta, Georgia. Both his parents were music educators and performers around the city, his mother having sung under Robert Shaw in the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, and his father being the long-time conductor of the Atlanta Concert Band. Throughout his childhood, all sorts of music had surrounded him: orchestral, choral, wind ensemble, and jazz. Somehow, amidst all this, he adopted both Kiss and Prince as his pop music of choice. His sister, a professional horn