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
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.
Kennesaw State University  
School of Music  
Performance Hall  

Jazz Faculty and Friends  

Bolivia  
Granted  
You Should Know By Now  
Free Wheelin’  
Wee Small Hours of the Morning/Lover Man  
Passion Dance  

Cedar Walton  
Joe Henderson  
Trey Wright  
Lee Morgan  
Mann/Ramiriz  
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  

(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.
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 Frengen 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

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, Jeff Coffin, Avishai Cohen, Larry Grenadier, Drew Gress, and Robert Hurst.

Sam Skelton

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.
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