

Kennesaw State University

Upcoming Music Events

Tuesday, November 18

Kennesaw State University

Jazz Combos

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Wednesday, November 19

Kennesaw State University

Wind Ensemble and Concert Band

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Thursday, November 20

Kennesaw State University

Gospel Choir

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Saturday, November 22

Kennesaw State University

Opera Gala

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Monday, November 24

Kennesaw State University

Percussion Ensemble

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Tuesday, December 2

Kennesaw State University

Choral Ensembles Holiday Concert

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

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



School of Music

presents

Kennesaw State University Jazz Faculty and Friends

Monday, November 17, 2008

8:00 pm

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center
Concert Hall

Twenty-third Concert of the 2008-2009 season

**Kennesaw State University
School of Music**

Monday, November 17, 2008
8:00 pm

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center
Performance Hall

KSU Faculty and Friends Jazz!

An Evening of Great Music

“Originals, Standards, and Whatnot!”

Sam Skelton: winds
Wes Funderburk: trombone
Trey Wright: guitar
Tyrone Jackson: piano
Robert Dixon: bass
Justin Varnes: drums
John Lawless: percussion

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 (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.

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.

Robert Dixon *bass*

Originally from Montgomery, Alabama, Robert Dickson received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Alabama and a Master of Music from the University of New Orleans where he was a graduate teaching assistant. He performed extensively in the New Orleans area and relocated to Atlanta after hurricane Katrina in the fall of 2005. In addition to his background in jazz, Mr. Dickson also attended the Brevard Music Camp as an orchestral bassist. He has performed with many jazz greats including Terri Lynne Carrington, Jerry Coker, Dizzy Gillespie, Lou Marini, Jason Marsalis, Steve Masakowski, Irvin Mayfield, Davy Mooney, Ed Petersen, Shannon Powell, Lew Soloff, and Johnny Vidacovich.

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 Italy and Austria with the UNO Jazz Band in 1997 and Brazil with Michael Ward in 1996. He has opened for Gerald Albright, Spyro Gyra, The Crusaders, and Chaka Kahn. In 2008 he toured Thule, Greenland and opened for Marcus Miller, St. Lucia, played with Jeff Golub and with Kirk Whalum.

Sam Skelton *wind*

A native of Conyers, Georgia, Sam Skelton has been active on the Atlanta music scene for well over a decade. 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. 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 more than 150 compact discs, Skelton remains very active in the studio and can be heard on recordings by such artists as: Elton John, Howard Tate, Matchbox 20, Train, Edwin McCain, The Gap Band and The Ohio Players. Television and radio jingles include 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. 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 was artist-in-residence at the University Of Georgia for the 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, International Association of Jazz Educators, National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (voting member) and the American Federation of Musicians.

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 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, the 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.

Trey Wright

guitar

Trey Wright began playing guitar at age 15. Initially inspired by the blues, Trey was exposed to jazz early in his development by a private instructor. While studying Sociology at the University of Georgia, Wright furthered his study of jazz improvisation with pianist and composer Steve Dancz. In 1994, he co-founded the Athens/Atlanta

based jazz band Squat. The group is a six-time winner of the Best Jazz Award at the Flagpole Athens Music Awards and has been a featured artist at the Atlanta Jazz Festival, the Twilight Athens Jazz Festival, Harvest Midtown, and has performed with Medeski, Martin, and Wood, the B-52's, Maceo Parker, Maynard Ferguson, the Squirrel Nut Zippers, and the Charlie Hunter Trio. Along with managing Squat and producing six independent CD releases, Trey plays guitar and piano with the group, touring throughout the Southeast.

Trey is also a freelance musician in the Athens and Atlanta area and has performed with Yellowjackets bassist Jimmy Haslip, upright and electric bassist John Patitucci, Grammy winning saxophonist Joe Lovano, and Mel Bay Records recording artist Corey Christiansen. Trey has performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival, Jazz à Vienne, and the World Sacred Music Festival in Bangalore, India. As a solo guitarist and with his trio, Trey has been a featured performer at the Athens Music and Arts Festival, the Lake Oconee Jazz Festival, and the Atlanta Jazz Festival. Trey has also recently performed with the newly formed Cobb Symphony Jazz Orchestra (CSO JAZZ!).

In December of 2002, Trey completed a Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies at Georgia State University, and he currently is on faculty at Kennesaw State University and the Atlanta Institute of Music. Trey has also taught at LaGrange College, Gainesville College, and was a Jazz Artist-in-Residence at the University of Georgia. In 2006, Trey released his first CD *Where I'm Calling From*, receiving rave reviews and airplay throughout the United States, New Zealand, England, Australia, Germany, Italy, Canada, Luxembourg, Scotland, and the Netherlands. Trey began recording his second CD in the spring of 2008.

John Lawless

percussion

John 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