



Department of Music

presents

Kennesaw State University

Jazz Faculty
and
Percussion Ensemble

“A Joint Venture”

Monday, November 12, 2007

8:00 pm

Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center
Concert Hall

Fourteenth concert of the 2007-2008 season

Kennesaw State University

Sam Skelton, Director, Jazz Faculty
John Lawless, Director, Percussion Ensemble

November 12, 2007
8:00 pm

Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center
Concert Hall

PROGRAM

Jazz Faculty

My Shining Hour	Arlen/Mercer
Out of This World	Arlen/Mercer
Might As Well Be Spring (waltz)	Rodgers/Hammerstein
Blues	Randy Hoexter
This Guy's In Love With You	Bacharach/David
Control	Trey Wright
Rhythm A Ning	Thelonious Monk

INTERMISSION

Kennesaw State University

Upcoming Music Events

Tuesday, November 13

Kennesaw State University

Mixed Student Chamber Music Concert

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Concert Hall

Wednesday, November 14

Kennesaw State University

Wind Ensemble

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Concert Hall

Thursday, November 15

Kennesaw State University

Jazz Combos

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Concert Hall

Saturday, November 17

Kennesaw State University

Opera Gala

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Concert Hall

Sunday, November 18

Kennesaw State University

Guitar Ensemble

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Concert Hall

Tuesday, November 20

Kennesaw State University

Jazz Ensemble

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Concert Hall

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

Gordon Vernick

Dr. Gordon Vernick is associate professor of music and coordinator of Jazz Studies at Georgia State University. He holds a Bachelor of Music from Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY; a Master of Music in Education from the University of Miami, and a Doctor of Arts in Trumpet Performance and Jazz Pedagogy from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley.

As a professional trumpet player, he has performed in all musical mediums from symphony orchestra to jazz quartet and has freelanced in Miami, New York, Denver, Kansas City and the Caribbean Islands. He is currently active in the southeastern United States as a clinician, adjudicator and freelance trumpet player.

As a jazz educator he is the past president of the Georgia Association of Jazz Educators, past chair of the International Association of Jazz Educators Curriculum Committee, and was recently appointed as the Southeast Coordinator of that organization. He was the Director of the NARAS Georgia Grammy High School Jazz Band from 1994 to 1999. He is the co-editor of the book Teaching Jazz: A Course Of Study, published by MENC. He recently co-wrote the college textbook, Jazz History Overview, published by Kendall-Hunt, which has been adopted by numerous universities around the country.

He is director of the GSU Faculty Jazztet which performs regularly in Atlanta area schools and has appeared at the Atlanta Jazz Festival, the Brasstown Music Festival, Oxford University Music Series and many other venues in the southeast. He has performed with such world renown jazz artists as Kenny Werner, Clare Fischer, John Hart, Kevin Hays, Conrad Herwig, Marc Copland, Randy Brecker, Paul McCandless and many others. The Jazztet was twice invited to perform in San Jose, Costa Rica by the Centro Cultural Costarricense-Norteamericano. During the summer of 2001 the Jazztet performed in Moscow, Russia at the Tribute to Willis Conover Jazz Festival and in March 2003 performed at Capitol University in Beijing, China. The group was invited to perform in November 2004 in Florianopolis, Brazil at the Curso e Colegio Bardal.

Percussion Ensemble

African Introduction	Traditional
It Came From The Garage	James Armstrong
D. L. A. G.	Ensemble
Metamorphosis	Kevin Lepper

Kennesaw State University Jazz Faculty

Sam Skelton
John Lawless
Trey Wright
Wes Funderburk

and Friends

Gordon Vernick - Georgia State University
Justin Varnes - Georgia State University
Randy Hoexter - LaGrange College
Marc Miller - LaGrange College

Kennesaw State University Percussion Ensemble

Jeremy Black
Pershaud Bolt
Ryan Goodwin
Jonathon Kitchel
Brian Palat
Zac Poore
Kristen Riddick
Greg Roman
Michael Wentworth
John Lawless, director

Sam Skelton

A native of Conyers, Georgia, Sam Skelton has been active on the Atlanta music scene for well over a decade. 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, he 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.

Mr. 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). He also played the premier recording of Ora Pro Mi and Seaside Symphony with the London Symphony Orchestra.

As a sideman on over 150 compact discs, Mr. Skelton remains very active in the studio and can be heard on recordings by such artists as: Elton John, Grammy nominee 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.

Mr. Skelton is currently Director of Jazz Studies and Lecturer in Saxophone at Kennesaw State University. He 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. Mr. Skelton served as Visiting Professor of Saxophone at Furman University for the 2001-02 academic year. 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.

Randy Hoexter

Pianist/composer Randy Hoexter has been at the top of Atlanta's jazz scene for more than fifteen years. Randy's distinctive work can be heard on countless records and commercials; his talents have been sought by artists as diverse as guitarists Jimmy Herring, Bill Hart and Shane Theriot, drummers Rod Morgenstein, Sonny Emory and Jeff Sipe, bassist Adam Nitti, saxophonist George Howard, gospel group "NewSong," and others.

Randy's critically acclaimed debut CD "Radiant," features new and original jazz compositions for piano, rhythm section and horns, and includes performances by such talents as Mike Stern, Dave Weckl, Sam Skelton, Tom Knight and Adam Nitti. Hailed by Modern Drummer as "...outstanding...a welcome breath of fresh air," "Radiant" was recently chosen to be featured on the internationally syndicated "Jazzsouth" radio program in November 2001.

As a commercial composer, Randy writes and produces music for Bank of America, IBM, PBS Television, 615 Music, The Sunshine Network and many others, and produces records for many local and regional artists.

Also an educator, Randy has taught Theory, Jazz Improvisation and Composition at the Atlanta Institute of Music since 1988. In that capacity, he has worked with many notable artists, including Peter Erskine, John Scofield, Robben Ford, Victor Wooten and Scott Henderson.

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 (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.

John Lawless

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 concerto soloists with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in "The Glory and the Grandeur" by Russell Peck.

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

Trey Wright

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

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.