

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Atlanta Pops Orchestra

with JOHN DRISKELL HOPKINS

JASON ALTIERI, Conductor

"In The Spirit"

A Celebration of the Holidays



Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 8 pm

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall

Seventieth Concert of the 2017-18 Concert Season

program



Illustration: Leighanne Schneider

SKATER'S OVERTURE / J. Tyzik

ATLANTA POPS

SILENT NIGHT / H. Gruber / arr. W. Funderburk

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER / J. Marks / arr. W. Funderburk

SILVER BELLS / J. Livingston, R. Evans / arr. W. Funderburk

JOHN DRISKELL HOPKINS

FANTASIA ON GREENSLEEVES / R. Vaughn-Williams

SLEIGH RIDE IN VIENNA / arr. J. Head

ATLANTA POPS

MELE KALIKIMAKA / R. A. Anderson / arr. W. Funderburk

O HOLY NIGHT / A. Adam / arr. J. Head

JOHN DRISKELL HOPKINS

Intermission

LORD OF THE DANCE / R. Hardiman

ATLANTA POPS

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH / J. Chadwick / arr. W. Funderburk

YOU'RE A MEAN ONE, MR. GRINCH / A. Hague / arr. W. Funderburk

GRANDMA GOT RUN OVER BY A REINDEER / R. Brooks / arr. W. Funderburk

JOHN DRISKELL HOPKINS

CHRISTMAS FAVORITES / arr. B. Chase

ATLANTA POPS

THE CHRISTMAS SONG / M. Torme / arr. W. Funderburk

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN / J. Coots / H. Gillespie /
arr. W. Funderburk

JOHN DRISKELL HOPKINS

SLEIGH RIDE / L. Anderson

ATLANTA POPS

**Order & program subject to change*

personnel



Atlanta Pops photos: Jolie Loren Photography

VIOLIN I

Mary Burndrett
Jonathan Urizar
Tami Hughes
David Edwards
Patrick Ryan

VIOLIN II

Kirsten Browning
Jim Campbell
Chris Burndrett
Dena Gaddie

VIOLA

Katerina Lewis
Patrick Shelc

CELLO

Nan Kemberling
Mary Beth Bryant

BASS

Marc Miller

PIANO

Brent Runnels

FLUTE

Jeanne Carere

OBOE

Mandy Dunaway

CLARINET

Bora Moon

BASSOON

Eva Lewis

HORN

Alan Brown
Eric Hawkins

TRUMPET

Lee King
John Bryant

TROMBONE

Tom Gibson
Hollie Pritchard

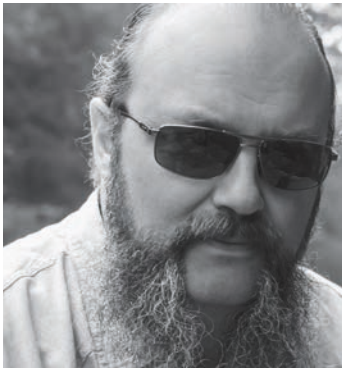
PERCUSSION

Kevin Leahy
Brian Palat

guest artist

"Howdy, folks. John Driskell Hopkins here. I was born in San Antonio, Texas on May 3, 1971, at Lackland AFB and I was raised in Gainesville, GA. (Go Big Red!)

John Driskell Hopkins. I have been singing since I could talk. Like a lot of us who grew up in the South, my earliest musical experiences were in the church choir. Choir was a great place to gain a real understanding of vocal harmony and musical structure. In fifth grade, I started piano lessons and began to learn about music theory in it's simplest forms. Later, I applied



what I had learned to my Dad's old Martin guitar knock off that I found under the bed. I started playing guitar and bass in high school and formed my first band with my buddies. We were called 'Only For Tomorrow' and we played mostly U2 and REM covers. Poorly...

Having always been heavily involved in the theatre throughout high school, I went on to graduate Florida State University with a degree in General Theatre in 1993. My band

at FSU was called 'The Woodpeckers.' We played every bar in Tallahassee, I think, and later released a CD under the name *Distant Relatives*. I was the lead singer. I will always treasure that experience and the guys I played with. Being in that band showed me that a life in music was not only possible, but attainable and sustainable.

After college, I moved home to Atlanta and formed the band 'Brighter Shade' with great guys that I still play with today. We have released two independent albums and played countless gigs. When Brighter Shade's gig schedule slowed down in the early 2000s, I began to focus more on producing and writing in my studio which I named after the band. I recorded, produced and performed on many different records with many different artists during those years. One of them was named Zac Brown.

I met Zac at CJ's Landing in Buckhead in 1998. I was hosting their Tuesday night open mic night and Zac came to perform. I met Sonia Leigh there as well, coincidentally. It was a fabulous platform for new talent. Borrowing from Eddie's Attic, we made the open mic a small competition and I awarded winners a small cash prize and a song in my studio. Sonia actually won one of them...

Zac and I remained friends over the years and in 2001 we began recording together on what would eventually become his *Home Grown* album in 2003. We chipped away at it piece by piece as he was already very busy with gigs both in the Atlanta area and regionally. It was in the studio with Zac and Shawn Mullins in February of 2005 that I heard the beginnings of "Toes." Zac had come in to demo the song and work through some of the kinks. I'm a pretty good kink straightener. It was then that I learned that Zac was in need of a bass player. I volunteered to sit in until he found a permanent player.

I truly believe that my intentions at the time were merely to get out and have some fun with my buddy and step aside when he found someone to play bass. I have always known that singing harmony comes very naturally to me and I'm a very meat and potatoes bass player that loves following the kick drum. What I didn't really expect is that we would all play together so effortlessly. After a few weeks, I said to Zac, "If you're not still looking, then I'm staying." The crowds were becoming rabid. One time, this huge guy got so into our performance, he repeatedly smashed his hand into an already broken glass on the front of our stage. We played six nights a week and packed the bar every night. Jimmy and I exchanged glances while opening for Angie Aparo and I remember thinking, "Damn. We've really got something here."

The next three years were sometimes brutal, sometimes hysterical, sometimes glorious, but always magical. We were going to call it 'Zac Brown and The Grit', but instead we named it 'Zac Brown Band.' We played over 260 shows in 2006. We recorded half of *The Foundation* at my studio and half in Nashville. Some weeks we made negative money and other weeks we made up for it. We rode in an airport shuttle death trap up into the Rockies and back down to Miami. Guys got divorced. Guys got married. Babies got born. Families got built. Dreams got realized. When *Chicken Fried* made it to the radio in 2008, the sky opened up.

Being in this band has taught me so much about myself. It has made me realize a lot about who I am and who I want to be. It is a band where anything is possible and there are no limits to what can be achieved. The music that we write and perform has a Southern identity, but is in many ways without genre. We never come to the table with a preconceived notion of what the music should or shouldn't be. We debate. We disagree. We celebrate. We rejoice. In the end, we stand together and we often marvel at what has come to pass this far. It's an incredible journey filled with incredible people, and it has only just begun."

the conductor

Jason Altieri is the current Music Director of the Atlanta Pops Orchestra and Associate Conductor for the Reno Philharmonic. Dr. Altieri is also a strong advocate for young musicians through his position as Director of Orchestras at the University of Nevada and with guest conducting engagements with youth orchestras all over the United States. In addition,



Jason enjoys regular conducting engagements with the Hollywood Film Orchestra, an ensemble which he has led on several tours throughout the United States, China, and Japan since 2006. His extensive touring has seen him conducting in most of the major performance venues in the United States and Asia including The People's Hall in Beijing, China, and Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Japan. In addition to his extensive touring and as a result of his tireless work

with young musicians, Dr. Altieri was invited as a guest conductor for the Los Angeles Orchestra Festival held in Walt Disney Hall on June 24th, 2011. He also served as the orchestra director for the International Double Reed Society Conference in July of 2012, as well as guest conductor for the Santa Fe Symphony and the New Mexico Philharmonic.

In addition to his orchestral work, Jason is also an accomplished conductor of opera as well. He was engaged by London's Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company to lead them on three North American tours. He was also the Associate Music Director for the Ohio Light Opera Company in the summer of 2006 where he conducted six productions and over 40 performances during their 29th season. As a result of his work with the OLO, Jason Altieri has released two recordings on Albany Records. In 2002 Dr. Altieri was chosen to study with Valery Vatchev of the National Bulgarian Opera, which led to guest conducting engagements of *La Traviata*, *Il Trovatore* and

Rigoletto in the Czech Republic. He has also worked on the faculties of the Interlochen Center for the Arts and the Sewanee Summer Music Center.

A native of Georgia, Jason Altieri grew up in a musical family with both parents being members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. High School was completed at the Dekalb Center for the Performing Arts and his education continued at the University of Georgia where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. While pursuing advanced degrees in conducting from Michigan State University, Jason not only served as Assistant Conductor for the Orchestra Program but was also the conductor of the Opera Theatre Program and was fortunate to have additional studies with Neeme Jarvi of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Gustav Meier of the Peabody Conservatory. Dr. Altieri currently resides in Reno, Nevada.





The orchestra and its musicians play concerts throughout the southeast each year for special events, Community Concert Series and schools and universities. The Pops also accompanies many other performances for celebrity artists on tour, seasonal concerts and National and International business conventions such as L'Oreal and Cessna Aircraft. Orchestra members also play as pit musicians for the Atlanta Broadway Series (including *Celtic Woman*, *Trans Siberian Railroad* and *Mannheim Steamroller*), for Theatre of The Stars, the Atlanta Ballet and the Atlanta Opera as well as many independent groups and regional orchestras.

The current Conductor and Music Director is Dr. Jason Altieri who also serves as Associate Conductor of the Reno, NV Philharmonic and Director of the Orchestra Program at The University of Nevada, Reno.

The Atlanta Pops Orchestra has made recordings, some of which are available on this web site. They have traveled to Taiwan twice, China twice and Japan to perform more than 60 concerts in the past 10 years. The main repertoire is mostly pops music arrangements from movies, Broadway shows, popular tunes and other special arrangements. The Atlanta Pops is a 501(c)3 non-profit Georgia Corporation.

www.atlantapops.com

SCHOOL OF MUSIC FACULTY AND STAFF

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Judith Beale Harry Price
Janet Boner Terri Talley
Nancy Conley Paula Thomas-Lee
Kathleen Creasy Charles Tighe
Charles Jackson Amber Weldon-
Alison Mann Stephens
Angela McKee
Richard McKee

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Edward Eanes Kayleen Justus

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Steve Dancz Benjamin
Kelly Francis Wadsworth
Jennifer Mitchell Jeff Yunek

Woodwinds

Kelly Bryant, *Flute, Chamber Music*
Robert Cronin, *Flute*
Todd Skitch, *Flute*
Christina Smith, *Flute*
Cecilia Price, *Flute, Chamber Music*
Barbara Cook, *Oboe*
Elizabeth Koch Tiscione, *Oboe*
John Warren, *Clarinet, Chamber Music*
Andrew Brady, *Bassoon*
Sam Skelton, *Saxophone*
Luke Weathington, *Saxophone*

Brass & Percussion

Doug Lindsey, *Trumpet, Chamber Music*
Ryan Moser, *Trumpet*
Mike Tiscione, *Trumpet*
Jason Eklund, *Horn*
Richard Williams, *Horn*
Tom Gibson, *Trombone*
Nathan Zgonc, *Trombone*
Brian Hecht, *Bass Trombone*
Jason Casanova, *Tuba / Euphonium*
Paul Dickinson, *Tuba / Euphonium*
Marja Kerney, *Percussion*
John Lawless, *Percussion*

Strings

Helen Kim, *Violin*
Kenn Wagner, *Violin, Chamber Music*
Stephen Majeske, *Orchestral Studies*
Catherine Lynn, *Viola*
Paul Murphy, *Viola*
Charae Krueger, *Cello*
James Barket, *Double Bass*
Joseph McFadden, *Double Bass*
Elisabeth Remy Johnson, *Harp*
Mary Akerman, *Classical Guitar*

Voice

Jessica Jones Valerie Walters
Eileen Moremen Todd Wedge
Oral Moses Jana Young
Nathan Munson

Piano

Judith Cole, *Collaborative Piano*
Erika Tazawa, *Collaborative Piano*
Julie Coucheron
Robert Henry
Huu Mai
John Marsh

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Wes Funderburk, *Jazz Trombone, Jazz
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Karla Harris, *Vocal Jazz*
Tyrone Jackson, *Jazz Piano*
Marc Miller, *Jazz Bass*
Sam Skelton, *Jazz Ensembles*
Rob Opitz, *Jazz Trumpet*
Trey Wright, *Jazz Guitar, Jazz Combos*

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Leslie J. Blackwell, *Choral Activities*
Nancy Conley, *Philharmonic
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Trey Harris, *University Band,
Marching Band*
Alison Mann, *Choral Activities*
Oral Moses, *Gospel Choir*
Eileen Moremen, *Opera*
Nathaniel F. Parker, *Symphony Orchestra*
Debra Traficante, *Wind Symphony,
Marching Band*
David T. Kehler, *Wind Ensemble*

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Joseph Greenway, *Assistant Director for
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Dan Hesketh, *Assistant Director for
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June Mauser, *Administrative Associate*
Daniel Pattillo, *Technical Manager*
Richard Peluso, *Coordinator of Band
Operations and Outreach*
Shawn Rieschl Johnson, *Associate
Director for Operations & Programming*

Ensembles in Residence

KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament
Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra
and Chorus
KSU Faculty Chamber Players
Summit Piano Trio
KSU Community and Alumni Choir

about the school of music



Welcome to the Bailey Performance Center!

The School of Music at Kennesaw State University is an exciting place! We have a wonderful slate of performances planned for this year's *Signature Series*, and if you have not yet purchased your season tickets, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. The Atlanta Symphony returns again this year as well as a wonderful slate of other performances.

The Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center is celebrating its 10th Anniversary Season this year. When this building opened in October of 2007, it was transformational for the School of Music and for KSU! It continues to be a jewel in our crown and musicians from around the world love to perform here because of the wonderful acoustic properties of Morgan Hall.


We would love to have you join us the weekend of October 7th-8th. We will have an alumni recital on the 7th and a grand celebration Sunday afternoon October 8th, with full choir and orchestra to celebrate all this Center has meant to us these past 10 years! In honor of the Bailey 10th Anniversary, we will officially launch our *Name a Seat Campaign* during our celebration in October. What a wonderful way to honor a loved one or to provide for future programming for Morgan Hall.


I look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with you. With your continued support of music and the arts, I look forward to all that we will accomplish together!


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen W. Plate".


Stephen W. Plate, DMA
Director, KSU School of Music

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<http://community.kennesaw.edu/GiveToMusic>