

Faculty Recital

"A Tribute to Joni Mitchell"

TREY WRIGHT, Guitar

LAURA COYLE, Vocals

SAM SKELTON, Saxophones

MARC MILLER, Bass

JUSTIN CHESAREK, Drums



Monday, September 10, 2018 at 8:00 pm

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall

Sixth Concert of the 2018-19 Concert Season



"A Tribute to Joni Mitchell"

featuring Trey Wright and Laura Coyle

In France They Kiss on Main Street | Joni Mitchell (b. 1943)

Amelia | Joni Mitchell

The Hissing of Summer Lawns | Joni Mitchell

Blue Motel Room | Joni Mitchell

Joni | Trey Wright

Both Sides Now | Joni Mitchell, arr. Marc Miller

Hejira | Joni Mitchell

Woodstock | Joni Mitchell

Program Notes

Discovering Joni Mitchell

For a brief period while I was attending the University of Georgia, I became obsessed with Charles Mingus. I read his autobiography *Beneath the Underdog* and tried to get my hands on every Mingus album I could find (which was a lot more challenging in the pre-YouTube and Spotify days - you had to work for it). I was very curious to hear of his collaboration with the Canadian born singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell simply entitled *Mingus*. Upon first listen, I wasn't sure what to think of the floating songs featuring fretless electric bassist virtuoso, Jaco Pastorius. I knew I was "supposed" to like the album but I couldn't seem to find my way into the record at that moment.

In 2004, I was asked to teach American Popular Music at LaGrange College. As part of my research for the course, I sought out every record mentioned in the texts (particularly the albums I was not familiar with). Many of the books I read mentioned Joni Mitchell's 1971 album *Blue*. Other than my experience with *Mingus*, I knew Joni's radio hits such as "Big Yellow Taxi" and "Woodstock" but had never delved into any of her albums. The first song on *Blue*, "All I Want," was unlike anything I had heard before. Her unorthodox dulcimer playing (similar to her unique guitar playing) immediately set the song apart from the work of other singer-songwriters. Her stream of consciousness confessional lyrics and wide vocal range added a unique sense of urgency to the conflicted raw sentiments of the song.

This new discovery of her music led to an exploration of all periods of her constantly evolving work. Each period warranted new discoveries, from her use of unique open acoustic guitar tunings in her early music to electric synth guitars in the early 1980's. Through the course of listening, I became particularly enthralled with her mid-1970's albums *The Hissing of Summer Lawns* and *Hejira* (we will play several selections from each of these albums tonight). A couple of years back I stumbled upon a chord progression that reminded me of the vast openness of songs like "Amelia" and "Hejira." This chord progression eventually evolved into "Joni," a song we recorded on my 2015 Blue Canoe Records release *Songs From Oak Avenue*.

In 2017, a new biography of Joni Mitchell entitled *Reckless Daughter* was released based on hours of interviews the normally reclusive Joni granted author, David Yaffe. At the time, vocalist Laura Coyle and I were starting to perform as a duo and were incorporating songs by singer-songwriters such

as Paul Simon and Joni Mitchell into our sets of jazz and bossa nova. After finishing the new biography, I loaned it to Laura and every load in and set break evolved into trading stories and songs we had discovered through reading the book. It was only a matter of time before we began planning a concert of her music. For tonight's concert, we are excited to be joined by KSU faculty members Sam Skelton, Marc Miller and Justin Chesarek, and we hope that this concert encourages you to rediscover and explore the music of Joni Mitchell!

– *Trey Wright*

Biographies



Trey Wright, guitar is a jazz guitarist and composer based in Roswell, Ga. At KSU, Trey currently teaches Applied Jazz Guitar, Jazz Theory and Composition, Jazz Guitar Ensemble, Jazz History, Jazz Improvisation and The History of Rock. Trey has also taught at LaGrange College, Gainesville College, the Atlanta Institute of Music and the University of Georgia.

Trey leads or co-leads several jazz groups including the Laura Coyle and

Trey Wright duo, the Trey Wright Trio and the Hibbard/Wright Project. In addition, Trey also performs freelance in the Atlanta area and has performed with Yellowjackets bassist Jimmy Haslip, John Patitucci, Joe Lovano, Corey Christiansen and Darmon Meader of the New York Voices. Trey has performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival; Jazz A Vienne; the International Festival of University Theatre of Casablanca Morocco; the World Sacred Music Festival in Bangalore, India; and in Montepulciano, Italy. In early 2008, Trey began playing with the Georgia Symphony Jazz Orchestra.

In 2006, Trey released his first CD, *Where I'm Calling From*, receiving rave reviews and airplay throughout the United States and abroad. The Trey Wright Trio released *Thinking Out Loud* in the summer of 2009 on Blue Canoe Records. In the Fall of 2012, the Trey Wright Trio's version of Thom Yorke's "Analyze" was included on the compilation Head Radio

Retransmissions: *A Tribute to Radiohead* on the German label ESC records. Other recent CD projects include *The Hibbard/Wright Project* (2013) and *Songs From Oak Avenue* (2015). Over the past two years, Trey's Blue Canoe releases were included as part of Delta Airlines In Flight Entertainment on domestic and international routes.



Laura Coyle, vocals, has been a featured performer twice at the Atlanta Jazz Festival, her quintet launched the Larry Rosen Jazz Roots series at the Cobb Energy Centre, and she's a guest vocalist with Joe Gransden's Big Band. Laura has shared the stage with Johnny O'Neal and Audrey Shakir and she's played venues from the High Museum to the Velvet Note, Eddies Attic, The Savannah Music Festival and The Jazz Corner in Hilton Head. Laura began her study of music privately while pursuing her career as an illustrator for Papyrus, Hallmark, Target, and many other

brands. In her 10 years as a musician, she's released two CDs under her name, received international airplay and become a favorite among musicians and jazz fans near and far. Peter Merrett, of PBS Melbourne Australia remarked, "A stunning voice, wonderful phrasing on these classic standards breathing new life into every word."



Sam Skelton, saxophones, a native of Conyers, Georgia, has been active on the Atlanta music scene for well over three decades. Mr. Skelton graduated *summa cum laude* from Georgia State University 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, focusing on classical

saxophone and music education. Other teachers include David and James "Dub" Hudson and Jeff Benedict.

Sam is currently Director of Jazz Studies and Senior Lecturer in Saxophone at Kennesaw State University. He is also Artistic Director of GSO Jazz and GYSO Jazz. Sam served as Professor of Saxophone at Georgia State University from 1991 to 2004, 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 2001-02. Professional associations include: The Jazz Educators Network, Georgia Music Educators Association, Georgia Association of Jazz Educators, National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (voting member) and the American Federation of Musicians. For his contributions to the city's cultural life, Atlanta Public Broadcasting named him a "Lexus Leader in the Arts" in 2003. Sam is proud to be a Conn-Selmer and D'Addario Artist.



Marc Miller, bass joined Kennesaw State University in 2010. Starting on tuba in elementary school, he picked up electric bass in middle school and double bass in college. Studying under Melanie Punter and Bill Peterson, Marc completed his bachelor's degree at Florida State University in jazz studies. He then went on to study under John Fremgen and David Neubert at the University of Texas at Austin, completing his master's degree in performance in 2002.

Comfortable in any musical style, Marc has performed and recorded with many jazz artists, rock groups, tango, hip-hop, flamenco, salsa, and folk ensembles. While in Austin he was a member of pioneering jazz group Blaze, winner of the Austin Music Awards Best Jazz Group for several years running. He has performed regularly with Bob Reynolds, Jason Marsalis, and Lizz Wright. He has also shared the stage with Tim Hagans, Bob Brookmeyer, Wynton Marsalis, Marcus Printup, and Mike Stern.

Prior to teaching at Kennesaw State, Marc taught at Jacksonville State University and LaGrange College. In addition to his bass studios at these universities, he led big bands and combos, and taught academic courses including music appreciation and music theory.

Marc can be heard performing around town in a variety of ensembles, encompassing many genres of music. He is a regular member of the Trey Wright Trio and the Mace Hibbard Group, appearing on their most recent albums, as well as many other local jazz ensembles. Additionally, he performs with salsa groups Orquesta Macuba and Vecinos Del Mundo, pit orchestras at the Fox, The Atlanta Pops Orchestra, and many other local artists.



Justin Chesarek, percussionist,

began gigging at the age of twelve with Pittsburgh jazz legend Harold Betters and spent time listening to Roger Humphries live, well-known for his work with Horace Silver.

After earning a Bachelors of Music in Music Education from Slippery Rock University, Justin pursued a Masters of Music and Jazz Studies at Georgia State University. Along the way, Chesarek filled his gig-calendar, making a name for himself as an exceptional musician.

He performs regularly with Joe Alterman, Trey Wright, Gary Motley, The Joe Gransden Big Band, the ATL Collective, and he is a regular at the Atlanta Jazz Festival. He has performed at The Iridium and The Blue Note in New York, Washington D.C's Kennedy Center, a TED Talk, the Juneau Jazz and Classics Festival in Alaska, The North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland, and the Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland.

Chesarek teaches Jazz Percussion at Kennesaw State University, he is the Artist Affiliate of Jazz Percussion at Emory University, and he runs a private studio of his own working with students of all ages. His students have gone on to become professional touring musicians, off-broadway theater pit players, and top call Atlanta drummers. He is a board member of the Atlanta Lovers of Music Association, and a proud endorser of Regal Tip drum sticks, mallets, and brushes.

Justin lives in Decatur, with his wife and daughter.

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



Welcome to the Bailey Performance Center! Thank you for making time in your busy schedules to support the performances of the Kennesaw State University School of Music. We are excited that you are here and we appreciate your love of music and support of our faculty and students and musical guests!

The School of Music at Kennesaw State University continues to be an exciting place! This year's *Signature Series* features four wonderful performances that we know will be memorable and well worth your investment. The 27-time Grammy Award winning Atlanta

Symphony is with us again. We so value our professional relationship with this orchestra and we love having them here on our Morgan stage. If you have not yet purchased your season tickets, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible.


Having just completed our 10th Anniversary Season, the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center is poised to begin the next decade of bringing you outstanding musical performances and artists from around the world. The Bailey Center continues to be transformational in the life of our School and for you, our patrons!


We are continuing our *Name a Seat* campaign this year. If you have a friend, loved one, child, student, teacher, or significant other that you would like to honor or memorialize, we welcome your support. Your \$1,000 gift to the *Name a Seat* endowment helps us to ensure that we can continue to bring you amazing musical performances well into the future.


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 we will accomplish together!


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

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