Faculty Jazz Parliament

"Blue"

SAM SKELETON, Reeds          TYRONE JACKSON, Piano
LUKE WEATHINGTON, Reeds       MARC MILLER, Bass
ROB OPITZ, Trumpet            JUSTIN CHESAREK, Drums
WES FUNDERBURK, Trombone       KARLA HARRIS, Vocals
TREY WRIGHT, Guitar

Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 8 pm
Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall
Twenty-fourth Concert of the 2018-19 Concert Season
Faculty Jazz Parliament presents
"Blue"

Program to be chosen from the following:

**Far More Blue** / Brubeck

**Travellin' Blues** / Brubeck

**West Coast Blues** / Montgomery

**Turned To Blue** / Angelou

**Blue 7** / Rollins

**Blue In Green** / Davis

**Blues For Wood** / Shaw

And More!
FACULTY JAZZ PARLIAMENT

Personnel

SAM SKELTON
Reeds

LUKE WEATHINGTON
Reeds

ROB OPITZ
Trumpet

WES FUNDERBURK
Trombone

TREY WRIGHT
Guitar

TYRONE JACKSON
Piano

MARC MILLER
Bass

JUSTIN CHESAREK
Drums

KARLA HARRIS
Vocals
Biographies

Sam Skelton, reeds, 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.

Luke Weathington, reeds, Alabama native, has been active on the Atlanta music scene for a decade. Mr. Weathington graduated from Kennesaw State University with a degree in Saxophone Performance in 2012; and graduated from Georgia State University with a degree in Jazz Studies in 2015. During his course work at KSU, Luke was a member and composer of the original music group, Sub-list, which was selected to perform at the JEN conference in 2013. His works are featured on the School of Music CD released in 2013. Mr. Weathington’s teachers were Dr. Mitchel Henson, Sam Skelton and Mace Hibbard.

As a woodwind doubler, Weathington’s ability to play saxophone, clarinet, and flute has kept him very busy in musical theaters around Atlanta, most notably, the Fox Theater and the Lyric Theatre.
As a sideman; Luke has had the pleasure of performing with The Temptations, The Glen Miller Orchestra, John Driskell Hopkins, Omid, Johnnie Mathis, Carmen Bradford, Francine Reed, Freddie Cole, Jackie Burnes, Alan Vache, Matt Cattigub, The Macon Pops Orchestra, The Cobb Symphony Orchestra Jazz, Joe Gransden’s Big Band, Atlanta All-Star Big Band, Atlanta Latin Jazz Orchestra, The Douglas Cameron Orchestra, and The Due West Celebration Orchestra.

Weathington is proud to be a member of the Georgia Symphony Orchestra JAZZ! since 2013; as well as a founding member of the original big band music group, Rebel Big Band.

Luke is currently Artist-in-Residence at Kennesaw State University and is a member of the Faculty Jazz Parliament Ensemble as well as the Faculty/Student Combo that has performed at notable jazz clubs in Atlanta.

**Rob Opitz, trumpet** holds the title of Artist-in-Residence in Jazz Trumpet at Kennesaw State University. Originally from Illinois, Mr. Opitz’s career has ranged from elementary music, to middle school, high school, and now at the collegiate level. Mr. Opitz has been the Director of Bands at Marietta High School, Creekview High School, Barber Middle School and Reinhardt University.

Rob is a very active performer. Recently, Rob completed a four week tour with international superstar Noel Gallagher’s High Flying Birds. The tour featured multiple US Cities, Austin City Limits, and the Jimmy Kimmel show. Rob is the founder and director of his own group, the Atlanta Latin Jazz Orchestra, an 18 piece big band featuring the music of some of the greats in Latin Jazz.

Mr. Opitz has also appeared as a sideman with Tito Puente, Louis Bellson, Marian McPartland, Rufus Reid, Hal Crook, Marshal Royal, Jon Faddis, Diane Schuur, Paquito D’Rivera, Cladio Roditi, Bob Mintzer, and many more. Rob has performed in local groups in the metro Atlanta Area, including Orquesta MaCuba, the Georgia Symphony Orchestra Jazz Ensemble, Yacht Rock Revue, Bumpin’ the Mango, Bogey and the Viceroy, the Joe Gransden Big Band, Macon Pops Orchestra, and numerous others.

Rob has been married to a terrific woman and Pre-K teacher, Stacie, for over 20 years and has two wonderful sons, Michael and Zach – both of whom are musicians.
Wes Funderburk, trombone has performed across the United States and Europe and is currently one of the most sought after trombonists and arrangers in the Southeast. He has written, performed and recorded with a wide array of national and internationally-renowned artists including: Arrested Development, John Driskell Hopkins, Jennifer Holliday, Natalie Cole, Jermaine Dupri, Cee Lo, the Boston Brass, Dallas Austin, Joe Gransden, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Pops Orchestra, the Macon Pops Orchestra as well as the Cartoon Network and the Weather Channel.

Wes' arranging credits include music for the Joe Gransden Big Band, Russell Gunn's Krunk Jazz Orchestra, Jennifer Holliday, John Driskell Hopkins, the Atlanta Pops, Natalie Cole, the Georgia Brass Band, Kennesaw State University Jazz Ensemble, Georgia State University Jazz Ensemble and the Piedmont Trombone Society.

Wes earned his Bachelor's degree in Trombone Performance from the University of North Florida and his Masters' degree in Trombone Performance with a concentration in Jazz Studies from Georgia State University. He is a former governor for the Atlanta chapter of the Recording Academy and is a performing artist for Rath trombones.

Trey Wright, guitar is a jazz guitarist and composer based in Roswell, Georgia. 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.

**Tyrone Jackson, piano** - the name is quickly becoming synonymous with the quintessential jazz piano player. Born in the New Orleans cradle of jazz, Jackson embodies the spirit of the Crescent City.

As a composer, Jackson has composed original music for the Alliance theater's productions of *Native Guard, Tell Me My Dream* and *Ethel*. Additionally, Jackson has composed and recorded 4 CD's and performed on countless others. His newest CD, *From The Mind Of* is a testament of his ability to crossover genre lines. Jackson has performed with Steve Turre, Larry Carlton, Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Wycliffe Gordon, Vincent Gardner, Joe Lovano, Jennifer Holliday, Russell Malone, and Marcus Miller.

Currently, Tyrone Jackson is a professor at Kennesaw State University where he is Lecturer of Jazz Piano and teaches a myriad of classes.

**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.

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, drums** 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.

Justin 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 DC’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.

At KSU, Chesarek holds the title of Artist-in-Residence in Jazz Percussion and Jazz Combos and teaches Jazz Percussion. 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.

**Karla Harris, vocals**, known for nuanced jazz vocals that bring a sophisticated ease and dynamic delivery, has made a career within the art form she loves for more than three decades performing for audiences from Portland to Provence. She displays an instinctive ability to share the story, emotion and musical substance of the songs she sings, spanning genres and styles, blending boundaries with subtlety.

A St. Louis native, Karla began singing jazz during college as a member of the St. Louis Jazz Quartet. In 2004, she moved to Portland, OR, and was
quickly embraced by that city’s vibrant jazz scene, performing regularly with the area’s celebrated artists at top venues and events such as the Portland Jazz Festival, Cathedral Park Jazz Festival and Newport Jazz Party.

In 2012, she relocated to Atlanta. She has sung at jazz events and venues throughout the region including the Sarasota Jazz Festival, the Callanwolde Arts Festival, the Jazz Corner, the Palladium, Churchill Grounds, and more, and headlined numerous shows at Downbeat magazine top-rated Velvet Note Acoustic Living Room.

In 2015, Karla released “Karla Harris Sings the Dave and Iola Brubeck Songbook” on Summit Records. Of the project, critics write: “A work of sheer elegance and distinction.” - Jazz da Gama; “The Brubecks would have been pleased.” - Jazziz Magazine. “A vocal artist with impeccable phrasing and the innate gift to have the band play with and not around her.” - Critical Jazz. Karla’s contemporary versions of Brubeck classics such as “Take Five” are played on jazz stations internationally.
### Music Education
- Judith Beale
- Janet Boner
- Nancy Conley
- Kathleen Creasy
- McKenzi Fenn
- Kimberly Inks
- Charles Jackson
- Alison Mann
- Angela McKee
- Richard McKee
- Terri Talley
- Paula Thomas-Lee
- Charles Tighe
- Amber Weldon-Stephens

### Music History & Appreciation
- Drew Dolan
- Edward Eanes
- Heather Hart
- Kayleen Justus
- Harry Price
- Sean Thrower

### Music Theory, Composition, Technology
- Judith Cole
- Steve Dancz
- Kelly Francis
- Jennifer Mitchell
- Laurence Sherr
- Matt Still
- Benjamin Wadsworth
- 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
- Anthony Georgeson, 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
- Hollie Pritchard, 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
- David Coucheron, Orchestral Studies
- Catherine Lynn, Viola
- Paul Murphy, Viola
- Charae Krueger, Cello
- James Barket, Double Bass
- Joseph McFadden, Double Bass
- Elisabeth Remy Johnson, Harp
- Sean Thrower, Classical Guitar

### Voice
- Eileen Moremen
- Oral Moses
- Nathan Munson
- Valerie Walters
- Todd Wedge
- Heather Witt
- Jana Young

### Piano
- Judith Cole, Collaborative Piano
- Eric Jenkins, Collaborative Piano
- Erika Tazawa, Collaborative Piano
- Julie Coucheron
- Robert Henry
- Huu Mai
- John Marsh

### Jazz
- Justin Chesarek, Jazz Percussion
- Wes Funderburk, Jazz Trombone, Jazz Ensembles
- 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

### Ensembles & Conductors
- Leslie J. Blackwell, Choral Activities
- Nancy Conley, Philharmonic Orchestra
- 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 Kehler, Wind Ensemble

### School of Music Staff
- Julia Becker, Administrative Associate
- Susan M. Grant Robinson, Associate Director for Administration
- Joseph Greenway, Assistant Director for Production & Technology
- Dan Hesketh, Assistant Director for Marketing and Outreach
- 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
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 accomplish together!

Stephen W. Plate, Director, KSU School of Music

Visit the Live Streaming page on musicKSU.com to watch live broadcasts of many of our concerts and to view the full schedule of upcoming live streamed events.

http://community.kennesaw.edu/GiveToMusic