

SCHOOL of MUSIC

where PASSION is *heard*

FALL REC-EYE-TAL

Robert Henry, piano

featuring

John Lawless, percussion



Wednesday, October 30, 2019 | 8:00 PM

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall

FALL REC-EYE-TAL

Robert Henry, Piano

Program

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF (1873-1943)

SEVEN ÉTUDES-TABLEAUX

C-SHARP MINOR, OP. 33, NO. 6

G MINOR, OP. 33, NO. 5

C MAJOR, OP. 33, NO. 2

E-FLAT MINOR, OP. 39, NO. 5

A MINOR, OP. 39, NO. 2

D MINOR, OP. 39, NO. 8

D MAJOR, OP. 39, NO. 9

–BRIEF INTERMISSION–

ROBERT HENRY (1973-)

“CYMBALLY EYEMAZING” FOR EYEBALLS AND PERCUSSION

(ORIGINALLY COMPOSED 2014;

NEWLY REV-EYE-SED AND EXPANDED VERSION 2019)

I. *EYELLEGRO E SERIOUSO*

II. *EYEDAGIO VISINO*

III. *SCHERZO BINOCULARO*

IV. *PRESTO ASSEYE*

with John Lawless, Percussion

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1865-1750)

PRELUDE IN C MINOR, BWV 847

KRIS LENNOX (1983-)

THE INESCAPABLE LIGHT (2013)

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

PRELUDE IN G MINOR, BWV 861

JÓHANN JÓHANNSSON

A MODEL OF THE UNIVERSE (2014)

ARAM KHACHATURIAN (1903-1978)

TOCCATA IN E-FLAT MINOR (1932)

Program Notes

“Cymbally Eyemazing” for Eyeballs and Percussion (originally composed 2014; newly rev-eye-sed and expanded version 2019)

- I. *Eyellegro e seriouso*
- II. *Eyedagio visino*
- III. *Scherzo binocularo*
- IV. *Presto asseye*

Cymbally Eyemazing (2014, 2019) is comprised of four movements. The percussionist and I proceed to the stage, whereupon I sit in a chair, facing the audience, the percussionist standing to my right. I close my eyes. After a moment of reflection, I open them again, and in doing so the piece begins. During the first movement, *Eyellegro e seriouso*, I will keep my eyes open as long as I am able. When I am finally forced to blink, the first movement will end.

The second movement, entitled *Eyedagio visino*, is the slow movement of this aleatoric composition. Again, I will attempt to keep my eyes open as long as possible, but in order to achieve the requisite length and gravitas of the slow movement, I am allowed one “pit stop” during which I will allow myself a few drops of Visine in each eye, to be administered by the percussionist at my signal. Once again, the movement will conclude upon my blinking.

Since the 19th century, many major works have included a Scherzo, which is the Italian word for “joke.” It may seem odd to include a joke in a work of such profundity, but having laid bare my every hidden vulnerability in the second movement, I felt it necessary to counterbalance the immense weight of human emotions heretofore experienced by the performers and those in attendance. Additionally, the burden of performing such a work is too much for two eyeballs to bear. Indeed, a minimum of four eyeballs are required.

Therefore, in 2019, I have included a third movement, *Scherzo Binocularo*. After consulting with the oracle, I will enlist the aid of a random audience member.

The instructions for the chosen audience member:

1. Once called upon, I will look at you through binoculars.
2. Center yourself, and close your eyes.
3. When you hear the signal, open your eyes. Keep them open for as long as possible.
4. When you blink, the movement is over.

For the final *Presto asseye*, the percussionist will turn on the table fan in front of me, aimed directly at my face, thereby drying my eyes out in record time and ensuring the brevity of this movement. Upon my blinking, the ensuing cymbal crash will conclude this masterwork.

Audio/video recording and flash photography is prohibited at School of Music concerts.

We welcome all guests with special needs and offer the following services: easy access, companion seating locations, accessible restrooms, and assisted listening devices. Please contact a patron services representative at 470-578-6650 to request services.

Biographies

Robert Henry, Piano



Hailed as a “consummate artist -- brilliant, formidable, effortless, and the epitome of control and poise,” Robert Henry is an internationally distinguished pianist, performing throughout the world as orchestral soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. Since winning first prize in four international piano competitions, he has presented solo debuts at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Wigmore Hall. In

2016, he released his third critically acclaimed recording, *As the Songbird Sings: Music of Schubert and Brahms*.

Mr. Henry earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Maryland, with additional studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Glinka Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia. He is an MTNA Nationally Certified educator and has lectured and performed at universities, conservatories, and festivals worldwide. He has served as recitalist, clinician, and juror for state, regional, and national MTNA conventions and competitions. He has been featured in *American Music Teacher*, *Clavier*, and *Gramophone*. He is a founding member of the Summit Piano Trio. He is Interim Director of the Atlanta Boy Choir, and Music Director and Organist/Choirmaster of the Saint George’s Episcopal Church in Griffin, GA. An International Steinway Artist, he maintains his web-presence at www.roberthentry.org.

In 2019, Mr. Henry will present his lecture, “Practicing Like a Pro” at the MTNA National Convention.

Mr. Henry is Coordinator of the Piano Department at Kennesaw State University. Mr. Henry is represented by Parker Artists, New York.

John Lawless, Percussion



John Lawless, conductor joined the music faculty of Kennesaw State University in 1998 and became the Director of Percussion Studies in 2004. Principal Timpanist of the Atlanta Opera orchestra since 1979, John held the same position with the Chattanooga Symphony for 21 years. Since 1978, Mr. Lawless has performed, toured and recorded with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra while

maintaining a thriving freelance career as a studio and pit percussionist. A founding member of the Atlanta Percussion Trio, Mr. Lawless performs hundreds of school concerts a year for thousands of children throughout the Southeastern United States. Along with Scott Douglas and Karen Hunt, the trio has been a performing group for 32 years, bringing educational programs to children of all ages.

As a soloist, Mr. Lawless played several concertos with the Chattanooga Symphony, including: *The Olympian* for 8 Timpani and Orchestra as well as *The Messenger* for Multiple Percussion and Orchestra, both written by James Oliverio. In 2009, Mr. Lawless performed Joseph Schwantner's Concerto for Percussion with the Cobb Symphony Orchestra. In 2014, he performed the Southeastern premier of Christopher Theofinidis' Marimba Concerto with the KSU Wind Ensemble for the Festival of New Music. A graduate of Georgia State University, Mr. Lawless' teachers include Tom Float, Jack Bell, Cloyd Duff, Paul Yancich, Bill Wilder and Mark Yancich. Previous faculty appointments include those at Georgia State University, Clark Atlanta University and West Georgia State University.

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Upcoming Events

Jazz Ensembles II & III

Thursday, 10/31/2019 at 8 pm

Jazz Combos

Monday, 11/4/2019 at 5:30 pm & 8 pm in Scott Hall

Choral Ensembles

Tuesday, 11/5/2019 at 8 pm

Philharmonic

Wednesday, 11/13/2019 at 8 pm

Wind Ensemble

Thursday, 11/14/2019 at 8 pm

Trumpet Festival of the Southeast

January 31 - February 2, 2020

Register at musicKSU.com under Clinics and Workshops.

Our two featured trumpet artists this year are Jose Sibaja, Paul Merkelo, Brian Shaw, Melvin Jones. Our evening concert artists include the KSU Jazz Parliament, Georgia Brass Band, and KSU Wind Ensemble.

KSU String Day

Saturday, 1/11/2020 | 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Register at musicKSU.com under Clinics and Workshops.

KSU School of Music invites string instrumentalists of all ages to join us for String Day—a day of learning, performance, and fun at KSU! Participants will receive technical instruction, attend a recital, and conclude their experience with a performance in KSU's renowned Morgan Concert Hall. In order to ensure a positive experience, participants should have 1-4 years of experience on their string instrument and be comfortable sight-reading music at GMEA Level 1.



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