“Duke Ellington: Beyond Category”

KSU Symphony Orchestra  
Nathaniel F. Parker, Music Director and Conductor

KSU Jazz Ensemble I  
Sam Skelton, Director

featuring

Jacob Sustaita, Guest Conductor  
Amy Smithwick, Soprano

Thursday, November 21, 2019 | 8:00 PM

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall
Program

EDVARD GRIEG (1843-1907)
SELECTIONS FROM INCIDENTAL MUSIC FOR THE PLAY PEER GYNT, OP. 23

EDWARD KENNEDY “DUKE” ELLINGTON (1899-1974)
& BILLY STRAYHORN (1915-1967)
ARRANGEMENTS OF SELECTIONS FROM
GRIEG’S INCIDENTAL MUSIC FOR THE PLAY PEER GYNT, OP. 23 (1960)

Each movement will be performed by the Symphony in
Grieg’s original version followed by the Ellington-Strayhorn
arrangement performed by Jazz Ensemble I.

I. Morning Mood
II. Solveig’s Song
III. Åse’s Death
IV. Anitra’s Dance
V. In the Hall of the Mountain King

Amy Smithwick, soprano

Kennesaw State University Symphony Orchestra
Jacob Sustaita, conductor

Kennesaw State University Jazz Ensemble I
Sam Skelton, director

–BRIEF PAUSE–

EDWARD KENNEDY “DUKE” ELLINGTON (1899-1974)
ORCHESTRATED BY LUTHER HENDERSON AND MAURICE PERESS
HARLEM (1950)

Kennesaw State University Jazz Ensemble I
Sam Skelton, director

Kennesaw State University Symphony Orchestra
Nathaniel F. Parker, conductor

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.
Personnel listed alphabetically to emphasize the importance of each part. Rotational seating is used in all woodwind, brass, and percussion sections.

**Flute**
- Ruth Bearden
- Don Cofrancesco
- Lorin Green
- Rachel Reaves

**Piccolo**
- Ruth Bearden
- Rachel Reaves

**Oboe**
- Naomi Israel
- Robert Simon

**English Horn**
- English Horn

**Clarinet**
- Brenden Ayestaran
- Natalie Klein

**Bass Clarinet**
- Jessica Bell

**Bassoon**
- Meghan O’Harra
- Mia Rodriguez
- Grayson Saylor

**Horn**
- Benjamin Farrow
- Heather Leach-Trickel
- CJ Markow
- Johnny Stewart

**Trumpet**
- Michael Brown
- Andrew Wynn

**Tenor Trombone**
- Victoria Shrote
- Kirill Wood

**Bass Trombone**
- Michael Karantonis

**Tuba**
- Nick Collins
- Kobe Greene

**Timpani**
- Jared Cook
- Jason Frey

**Percussion**
- Jared Cook
- Andrew Creech
- Jason Frey
- Andrew Yi

**Harp**
- Laurel Buchanan

**Violin**
- Melissa Ake
- Jayna Burton
- Abigail Carpenter
- Sarah Chang
- Robert Cox, associate concertmaster
- Mary Catherine Davis
- Jeavanie Desarmes
- Ryan Finlayson
- MK Guthrie, concertmaster
- Bethany Johnston
- Esther Kim
- Andrew Lim
- Scott Lozier, principal
- Matt Marcacci
- William Merritt
- Charles Page
- Michael Parrish, associate principal
- Javier Schirmer
- Sydney Sims
- Heesuk Son
- Gamela Zaki

**Viola**
- Dajon Carter
- Nathan Gay, principal
- Isabella Giordano
- Tyler Lovelace, associate principal
- Megan McMichen

**Cello**
- Garrett Clay, associate principal
- Laci Divine
- Colin Gregoire
- Jair Griffin
- Joseph Grunkmeyer, principal
- Lacee Link
- Gabriella Paul
- Aidan Thompson
- Noah Zenn

**Bass**
- Daniel Barket
- Stephanie Nazaire, associate principal
- Nolan Rodack
- Clay Rogers, principal
- Daniela Schirmer

**Symphony Assistants**
- Jeavanie Desarmes
- Gabriella Paul

**Symphony Student Advisory Council**
- Melissa Ake
- Michael Brown
- Lorin Green
- Charles Page
- Andrew Yi

^ John and Linda Cooke

**String Quartet Scholar**
Biographies

Amy Smithwick

Amy Smithwick is a soprano who studies in the studio of Jana Young and graduated from Kennesaw State University with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. She won the Georgia District for the 2018 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Amy is currently touring as Gretel in Hansel and Gretel with the Atlanta Opera Studio, sings with the Atlanta Opera Chorus, and was the featured soprano soloist in Rutter’s Magnificat with the Georgia Symphony Orchestra. Before studying at KSU, Amy spent time studying voice with Dr. Rowena Cowley in Australia at the Sydney Conservatorium, as well as performing as a young artist in the Pacific Opera Company. Some of her other classical credits include Norina in Don Pasquale, Queen of the Night in the Magic Flute, Sister Angelica in Suor Angelica, Veronique in Hotel Casablanca, Barbarina in Le nozze Di Figaro, and scene selections from L’elisir d’amore, Beatrice et Benedict, and La Sonnambula. Amy and her husband Brody founded Lion Life, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization which offers educational services to incarcerated individuals, where she has pioneered an innovative music program on the inside of the jail. She would like to thank the Lord for the gift of her voice, husband & family for unconditional love, and friends for constant support.
Jacob Sustaita

Jacob Sustaita is currently the Music Director of the Conroe Symphony and Director of Orchestral Studies at Sam Houston State University. Now in his fifth year at Sam Houston, he is responsible for conducting the symphony, chamber, ballet, and opera orchestras. Since Dr. Sustaita began his tenure at Sam Houston State in 2015, he has grown the orchestra and taken it to new artistic heights. In 2016, Dr. Sustaita and the orchestra performed the American premiere of Anton Bruckner’s Symphony No. 1 (original Linz version), and the American and European Bruckner Societies recognized their performance. In 2019, the Texas Music Educators Association selected the Sam Houston State Symphony Orchestra to perform as a featured ensemble at the TMEA Convention in San Antonio, TX.

A respected collaborator with orchestras and artists alike, in 2018 Jacob was named Associate Conductor of the Conroe Symphony Orchestra, and in May 2019, he became the orchestra’s Music Director. He is a frequent guest conductor and clinician across the country, and he recently made his debut conducting the Juilliard Orchestra. During the 2016-2017 season, Jacob made his debut with the BlueWater Chamber Orchestra in Cleveland, Ohio, and made his debut as cover conductor with the Houston Symphony, assisting David Zinman. In 2015, Dr. Sustaita was selected by Carnegie Hall’s Weill Institute to serve as assistant conductor for Charles Dutoit and the National Youth Orchestra of America. Jacob regularly conducted and coached the orchestra during its New York residency and on their seven-city tour of China and Hong Kong.

A native of Texas, Jacob Sustaita completed his doctorate degree at the University of Houston, where he served as an assistant conductor and guest music director for the Moores Opera Center for three seasons. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Houston and a Master of Music degree from both Penn State and Rice University. His honors include: Schissler Conducting Fellowship, Rice University Prize and Provost Fellowship, and American Prize semi-finalist and finalist. His teachers and mentors include Charles Dutoit, Franz Krager, Brett Mitchell, Gerardo Edelstein, and Paavo Järvi.

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https://community.kennesaw.edu/GiveToMusic
Sam Skelton

A native of Conyers, Georgia, Sam Skelton 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 and 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.

School of Music Holiday Concert

Friday, December 6, 2019 at 8pm

Bailey Performance Center | Morgan Hall

Kick off your holidays with the School of Music as we celebrate the season and present a festive and exciting program full of holiday favorites performed by the KSU Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and choirs. Tickets for this performance are $15-20. Watch live online at musicKSU.com.
Nathaniel F. Parker

Nathaniel F. Parker has conducted orchestras in the United States, Peru, Russia, Poland, England, and the Czech Republic. Equally at home working with professionals and training future generations of musicians, Dr. Parker is Director of Orchestral Studies at the Kennesaw State University School of Music, Music Director and Conductor of the Kennesaw State University Symphony Orchestra, Associate Conductor of the Georgia Symphony Orchestra, and Music Director and Conductor of the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Parker’s conducting accolades include being named a finalist for a Conducting Fellowship with the New World Symphony, a semi-finalist for a Conducting Fellowship at Tanglewood, 3rd Place Winner in the London Classical Soloists Conducting Competition, and a Candidate for the Respighi Prize in Conducting; he also received a Citation of Excellence in Teaching from the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. An active scholar, Dr. Parker’s writings have been published by the Conductors Guild and the College Orchestra Directors Association (CODA). He has presented research at the College Orchestra Directors Association’s international conference and served as Editor of the Journal of the Conductors Guild.

Parker earned graduate degrees in orchestral conducting from Michigan State University (DMA) and Bowling Green State University (MM). His primary conducting instructors are Leon Gregorian, Raphael Jiménez, and Emily Freeman Brown; other important mentors include Stephen Osmond, Gary W. Hill, and Timothy Russell. Parker also earned a BM in Bassoon Performance from Arizona State University, where he studied with Jeffrey G. Lyman and graduated magna cum laude.

For more information, please visit www.nathanielfparker.com.

Connect with the Kennesaw State University 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.
An emerging flagbearer among the vanguard of female Cuban musicians, Afro-Cuban singer, songwriter, and percussionist Brenda Navarrete combines a foundation of Latin jazz and Afro-Cuban influences with elements of contemporary world music, originality, and relentless energy to form her unique sound. Touring internationally and frequently collaborating with Cuba’s notable music elite, the award-winning jazzista is perhaps best known for her skill on the batá, a drum traditionally used in Yoruban spiritual practices that women were once forbidden to play. Presented as part of Kennesaw State University’s 2019-20 Year of Cuba.

“A bright new Cuban star has emerged on the world music scene, and she is a young singer/percussionist named Brenda Navarrete.”
– Rhythm Planet
Name A Seat
in Morgan Concert Hall

The School of Music is offering the opportunity for friends and patrons to dedicate a seat in Morgan Concert Hall. Each dedicated seat will be permanently affixed with a plaque bearing your name, business name, or the name of someone you wish to honor.

Your contribution of $1000 per seat will immediately impact the programs of the School of Music and help to sustain the exceptional quality of music and live performance at KSU for years to come.

To make a donation or for more info, contact:

Leslie Blackwell
lblackwe@kennesaw.edu
470-578-6151

musicKSU.com
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Jason Casanova, Tuba/Euphonium
Paul Dickinson, Tuba/Euphonium
Tom Gibson, Trombone
Brian Hecht, Bass Trombone
John Lawless, Percussion,
    Area Coordinator
Doug Lindsey, Trumpet,
    Area Coordinator
Ryan Moser, Trumpet
Hollie Pritchard, Trombone
Michael Stubbart, Percussion
Mike Tiscione, Trumpet
Richard Williams, Horn

Strings
James Barket, Double Bass
Elisabeth Remy Johnson, Harp
Helen Kim, Violin, Area Coordinator
Yinzi Kong, Viola
Charae Krueger, Cello
Joseph McFadden, Double Bass
Sean Thrower, Classical Guitar
Kenn Wagner, Violin

Woodwinds
Andrew Brady, Bassoon
Kelly Bryant, Flute
Barbara Cook, Oboe
Robert Cronin, Flute
Anthony Georgeson, Bassoon
Cecilia Price, Flute
Sam Skelton, Saxophone
Andrew Brady, Jazz Percussion & Combos
Wes Funderburk, Jazz Ensembles and Jazz Trombone
Karla Harris, Vocal Jazz & Combo
Tyrone Jackson, Jazz Piano & Combos
Marc Miller, Jazz Bass & Combos
Andrew Brady, Jazz Percussion & Combos
Wes Funderburk, Jazz Ensembles and Jazz Trombone
Karla Harris, Vocal Jazz & Combo
Tyrone Jackson, Jazz Piano & Combos
Marc Miller, Jazz Bass & Combos

Jazz
Justin Chesarek,
    Jazz Percussion & Combos
Rob Opitz, Jazz Ensembles and Jazz Trumpet
Sam Skelton, Jazz Ensembles and Jazz Saxophone, Area Coordinator
Luke Weathington,
    Jazz Saxophone & Combos
Trey Wright, Jazz Guitar & Combos,
    Area Coordinator

Voice
Eileen Moremen
Oral Moses
Nathan Munson
Valerie Walters
Todd Wedge
Heather Witt
Jana Young, Area Coordinator

Piano
Judy Cole, Collaborative Piano
Huu Mai
Julie Coucheron
John Marsh
Robert Henry, Area Coordinator
Erika Tazawa, Collaborative Piano
Eric Jenkins,
    Collaborative Piano Coordinator
Ensembles in Residence
Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus
KSU Community & Alumni Choir
KSU Faculty Chamber Players
KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament
Summit Piano Trio

Ensembles & Conductors
Leslie Blackwell, Director of Choral Activities
Nancy Conley, Philharmonic Orchestra
David Kehler, Director of Bands
Alison Mann, Women’s Choir
Reid Masters, Assistant Director of Choral Activities
Eileen Moremen, Opera Theater
Oral Moses, Gospel Choir
Nathaniel F. Parker, Director of Orchestral Studies
Joseph Scheivert, Assistant Director of Bands
Sam Skelton, Director of Jazz Studies
Debra Traficante, Director of Athletic Bands and “The Marching Owls”

Chamber Music
Julie Coucheron, Piano Ensemble
Charae Krueger, String Chamber Music
Doug Lindsey, Brass Chamber Music
John Warren, Woodwind Chamber Music
Trey Wright, Jazz Combos

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Janet Boner
Nancy Conley
Kathleen D. Creasy
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Alison Mann, Area Coordinator
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Kayleen Justus
John Marsh
Jennifer Mitchell
Harry E. Price
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Steve Dancz, Composition, Technology
Kelly Francis, Music Theory
Tyrone Jackson, Music Theory
Jennifer Mitchell, Composition
Laurence Sherr, Composition, Technology, Bachelor of Arts Area Coordinator
Benjamin Wadsworth, Music Theory Area Coordinator
Jeff Yunek, Music Theory, Aural Skills Area Coordinator

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Upcoming Events

Gospel Choir
Saturday, 11/23/19 at 8 pm

Mixed Chamber Ensembles
Monday, 11/2/2019 at 5:30 pm & 8 pm

Percussion Ensemble
Monday, 12/9/2019 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 Faculty Jazz Parliament, Georgia Brass Band, and KSU Wind Ensemble.

GMEA All-State Band Clinic
Saturday, December 7, 2019 | 8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Register at musicKSU.com under Clinics and Workshops.

The GMEA All-State Band Clinic at Kennesaw State University is open to high school brass and woodwind instrumentalists interested in improving their audition skills in preparation for 2019-20 All-State Band auditions. During the clinic, students will receive instruction on fundamental playing essentials, strategies for learning and playing the audition études, and tips to ensure a successful audition. If you want to have a great audition, then you won’t want to miss this clinic! All sessions are run by our outstanding KSU faculty.