

SCHOOL of MUSIC

Where PASSION is *heard*

Fall Concert

KSU Women's Choir

KSU Chamber Singers

Dr. Melissa Arasi, conductor

Dr. Reid Masters, conductor

Sherri Barrett, organ

Brenda Brent, piano

Charae Krueger, cello

Friday, September 18, 2020

Presented virtually from Morgan Concert Hall of the Bailey Performance Center

PROGRAM

KSU Women's Choir

LENNON / MCCARTNEY, arr. Deke Sharon

Blackbird

CRAIG HELLA JOHNSON (b.1962)

Will There Really Be A Morning?

KSU Chamber Singers

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

Lobet den Herrn, BWV 230

PROGRAM NOTE

In these trying times, both selections of the Women's Chorus speak to hope in our lives.

Blackbird was written during the Civil Rights movement representing a Black woman in Little Rock Arkansas experiencing racial desegregation. This summer with the Black Lives Matter movement and issues of racism in our country, this song feels appropriate and especially moving.

Will There Really Be A Morning? speaks to our need to have hope for our future in dark times. With the insecurities and unknown that we currently face, music provides the opportunity to suggest that there will be a morning and a beautiful sunrise!

-Melissa Arasi



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
School of Music

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TRANSLATIONS

Lobet den Herrn - Bach

Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden, und preiset ihn, alle Völker;	Praise the Lord, all nations, and celebrate him, all peoples;
Denn seine Gnade und Wahrheit waltet über uns in Ewigkeit.	For his grace and truth rule over us for eternity.
Alleluja.	Alleluja.

PERSONNEL

KSU Women's Choir

Dr. Melissa Arasi, *conductor*

Soprano I

Destiny Avery
Rebekah Lecesne
Camille Roty
Auriyan Tillman

Soprano II

Bailey Day
Hope Englert
Emily France
Emily Graffiu

Alto

Lb Huisman
Melissa Lopez
Kate Newman
Rebecca Smith
Mahlet Worku

KSU Chamber Singers

Dr. Reid Masters, *conductor*

Group 1

Sarah Hayes, *soprano*
Molly Jennings, *soprano*
Morgan Potts, *soprano*
Chloe Roney, *soprano*
Lauryn Davis, *alto*
Regan Romuno, *alto*
Abby Snyder, *alto*
Brandon Cali, *tenor*
Ryan Valley, *tenor*
Noah Whitaker, *tenor*
Kaelan Harris-Patrick, *bass*
Morgan Kenney, *bass*

Group 2

Destiny Avery, *soprano*
Rylee Barkley, *soprano*
Allie Eller, *soprano*
Brianna Powers, *soprano*
Camille Core, *alto*
Sammy Fodroczi, *alto*
Jamie Lynn Sparkman, *alto*
Jenna Wagner, *alto*
Asa Bradley, *tenor*
Brandon Cali, *tenor*
Sam Wilder, *tenor*
Ryan Kingsley, *bass*
Chris Nguyen, *bass*

Group 3

Elaine Brown, *soprano*
Katie Kosowski, *soprano*
Tobia Nosiri, *soprano*
Lindsey Sanders, *soprano*
Morgan Blacksmith, *alto*
Sydnee Goode, *alto*
Hannah Norton, *alto*
Emily Patterson, *alto*
Jonathan Boyett, *tenor*
Coleman Hand, *tenor*
Alek Hansen, *tenor*
Peter Ho, *bass*
Trevor Walker, *bass*



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BIOGRAPHIES

KSU Women's Choir

The KSU Women's Choir returned to campus in the Fall of 2008, and is currently under the direction of Dr. Melissa Arasi. The chorus is made of women from across the university featuring many music majors and non-major and performs a wide variety of literature from all time periods and styles. The KSU Women's Choir participates in the KSU Women's Choral Day, a one-day singing event that brings nearly 300 high school singers to campus and the Georgia Collegiate Women's Choral Festival. The chorus' goals are to create high quality music in a collaborative and enjoyable environment.

KSU Chamber Singers

KSU Chamber Singers is the premiere auditioned choral ensemble at Kennesaw State University comprised of all undergraduate students, primarily music majors. The KSU Chamber Singers have performed at National, Regional, and State Conferences of NCCO, ACDA, and GMEA. The choir sang at the ACDA Southern Division Conference, presenting music of South America, 2010. In 2013, the KSU Chamber Singers were selected to perform at the NCCO 5th National Conference performing David Maslanka's masterwork *A Litany for Courage and the Seasons*. Recently, they performed their fifth invitation to the GMEA State Conference in January, 2018 and were honored to be selected to perform at the ACDA Southern Division Conference, March 2020.

Sherri Barrett

Sherri Barrett received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Michigan and her Master's Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Tennessee. She studied with Eugene Mancini from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Arthur Rivituso from the Juilliard School and Paris Conservatory. Ms. Barrett has recorded two solo piano CD's and has been an active soloist, accompanist and adjudicator in the Atlanta area for over 25 years. She has performed in the United States and Europe as soloist, in chamber ensembles and accompanist for various choral groups. She maintains a teaching studio out of which several students have won international piano competitions.

She is presently serving as pianist for two Atlanta area churches, and under the batons of Dr. Leslie J. Blackwell and Dr. Reid Masters, the Kennesaw State University Chamber Singers, Men's Ensemble, and KSU Community and Alumni Choir. Ms. Barrett is a member of the National Music Teachers Association and the International Music Fraternity Delta Omicron.



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Brenda Brent

Brenda Brent, collaborative pianist, currently works with the Kennesaw State University Women's Choir, the Georgia Symphony Orchestra Chorus, and First United Methodist Church, Marietta. She graduated from the University of South Carolina where she earned a Masters degree in Piano Pedagogy. She is also a proud Kennesaw State University alumni, where she earned a degree in Piano Performance.

Charae Krueger

Charae Krueger is principal cellist for the Atlanta Opera Orchestra and the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra. She is the cello artist-in-residence at Kennesaw State University and performs with the Summit Piano Trio and KSU Faculty String Trio as well as the Peachtree String Quartet. Ms. Krueger enjoys chamber music and solo recital work and plays throughout the Southeastern U.S. She is a regular featured artist at The Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival in North Carolina, the Grand Teton Music Festival in Wyoming, and the North Georgia Chamber Music Festival. Her solo and chamber music recitals have often been featured on WABE radio Atlanta. Ms. Krueger received her early cello training in Canada at the Regina Conservatory of Music. She went on to study at Brandon University and received her Bachelor of Music performance degree from New England Conservatory in Boston. She also holds an artist diploma from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA.

Dr. Melissa Arasi

Dr. Melissa Arasi is part-time Assistant Professor of Music at Kennesaw State University, where she is currently teaching Choral Methods, Vocal Pedagogy for Ensemble Singing, and Women's Choir. Dr. Arasi is the Artistic Director of the Atlanta Women's Chorus who recently performed at the 2020 Southern Regional Conference of the American Choral Director's Association.

Dr. Reid Masters

Acclaimed for his “infectious passion”, Dr. Reid Masters is proud to join the faculty at Kennesaw State University as Assistant Director of Choral Activities. For the past 11 years, he was the Artistic Director of the New Jersey Chamber Singers, which recently released a commercial album of Mozart's Requiem with Affetto Records, distributed internationally by Naxos. Dr. Masters is also the Co-founder and Assistant Director of the professional chamber choir Kinnara Ensemble, working alongside JD Burnett. He studied choral conducting with Joseph Flummerfelt, Andrew Megill, Joe Miller, and Patrick Gardner in addition to working with Helmuth Rilling.



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As a professional countertenor, Masters is also active as a soloist and choral singer. He has made solo appearances around NY & NJ and has performed with some of the Northeast's finest baroque ensembles such as the Brandywine Baroque Band and The Sebastians. In choral settings, he has sung with the New York Philharmonic under the direction of conductors such as Maestros Lorin Maazel, Kurt Mazur, Alan Gilbert, Nicholas McGegan, and Jaap van Zweden.

Dr. Masters was named a Rider scholar and graduated Summa cum Laude from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ with Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Sacred Music. Most recently, he was awarded a Mortensen Fellowship and earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from Mason Gross School of the Arts where he also directed the Rutgers University Choir and taught undergraduate conducting.

