

# SCHOOL of MUSIC

Where PASSION is *heard*

## Kennesaw State University Jazz Ensembles III & I

Rob Opitz, *director*  
Sam Skelton, *director*

Thursday, October 15, 2020 | 7:30 PM

Presented virtually from Morgan Concert Hall of the Bailey Performance Center

### PROGRAM

KSU Jazz Ensemble III

*Cute* - Neil Hefti

*But Not for Me* - George and Ira Gershwin / arr. Vaughn

KSU Jazz Ensemble I

*Body and Soul* - Green / Heyman / Sour / Eyton / arr. Florence

*I Just Found Out About Love* - Adamson / McHugh

*Nice Work If You Can Get It* - Gershwin / Wolpe

*That Old Black Magic* - Mercer / Arlen / Mantooth

### PERSONNEL

Jazz Ensemble III

Rob Opitz, *director*

Slater Carpenter, *alto saxophone 1*

Stan Kiklica, *alto saxophone 2*

Tyler White, *baritone saxophone*

Alex Jaeger, *trumpet 1*

Nathan Patterson, *trumpet 2*

Cade Sexton, *trombone 1*

Zachary Opitz, *trombone 2*

Chris Sarzen, *guitar*

Louis Reyes III, *guitar*

Piper Johnson, *bass, vocals*

Jimmy Durkin, *bass*

Lucas Williams, *drums*



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## Jazz Ensemble I

Sam Skelton, *director*

Raphael DeJesus, *reed 1*

Alan Scott, *reed 2*

Jimmy Snyder, *reed 3*

Kevin Worley, *reed 4*

Marco Hernandez, *reed 5*

Grady Housworth,

*trombone 1/2*

Zachary Opitz,

*trombone 1/2*

Noah Minch, *trombone 3*

Tyler Quick, *trombone 4*

Jason Dokes, *trumpet 1*

Cierra Weldin, *trumpet 2*

Andrew Olsen, *trumpet 3*

Ezra Trotman, *vocals*

Melodie Fort, *vocals*

Alexander Deen, *piano*

Chris Marks, *guitar*

Rodrigo Suarez, *guitar*

Brad Cannata, *bass*

Asuria Austin, *bass*

Carlos Diaz Hernandez,  
*drums*

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Jazz Ensemble III

The Kennesaw State University Jazz Ensemble III is in its second year of existence. Under the direction of Rob Opitz, this ensemble features both music majors, and non-majors working together to understand jazz style, performance, and literature. This group strives to take students from all different backgrounds and create a cohesive sound that audiences and performers alike can enjoy.

### Rob Opitz

Mr. Rob Opitz 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 has been a four-time clinician for the Georgia Association of Jazz Educators Clinic Band Festival. He has been an adjudicator for both the District 7 and District 12 GMEA Jazz Festivals. Rob currently serves as the Director of Jazz at Milton High School, Jazz trumpet instructor for the Lovett School, in addition to his duties at Kennesaw State University.

Rob is a very active performer. Rob completed a 4 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



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Orchestra – an 18 piece big band featuring the music of some of the greats in Latin Jazz. This group employs the top call players in the southeast.

He 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 is a proud Schilke Trumpet artist, and is proud to have an affiliation with a company that has such dedication to excellence in brass!

## 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 JazzEducators 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.

