

# SCHOOL of MUSIC

Where PASSION is *heard*

## Kennesaw State University Jazz Combos

Justin Chesarek, *Jazz Combo Instructor*

Tyrone Jackson, *Jazz Combo Instructor*

Marc Miller, *Jazz Combo Instructor*

Trey Wright, *Jazz Combos Director*

Luke Weathington, *Jazz Combo Instructor*

Thursday, November 12, 2020 | 7:30 PM

Presented virtually from Morgan Concert Hall of the Bailey Performance Center

### PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY COMBO I:

*East of the Sun (and West of the Moon)*

BROOKS BOWMAN

Auriyan Tillman, *vocals*

Raphael DeJesus, *alto saxophone*

Kevin Worley, *tenor saxophone*

Andy Ezell, *drums*

Marc Miller, *bass*

Trey Wright, *guitar / director*

THURSDAY COMBO I:

*Stella by Starlight*

VICTOR YOUNG

Nate Pearson, *trumpet*

Noah Pirkle, *tenor saxophone*

Daniel Ashraf, *piano*

Andrew Howrey, *drums*

Marc Miller, *bass / director*



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THURSDAY COMBO II:

*I Didn't Know What Time It Was*

LORENZ HART / RICHARD ROGERS

Sadie Llop, *vocals*

Piper Johnson, *bass*

Bryce Hunter, *drums*

Tyrone Jackson, *piano / director*

WEDNESDAY COMBO II:

*Shining Star*

L. BONILLA

Victoria Sigur, *vocals*

Marco Hernandez, *tenor saxophone*

Noah Minch, *piano*

Bill Pritchard, *bass*

Alex Sotka, *drums*

Luke Weathington, *director*

WEDNESDAY COMBO III:

*Concussion*

DELVON DUMAS LAMARR

*Dolphin Dance*

HERBIE HANCOCK

Isaac Turner, *tenor saxophone*

Zack Opitz, *trombone*

Melodie Fort, *vocals*

Rodrigo Suarez, *guitar*

Tyrone Jackson, *organ / director*



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THURSDAY COMBO III:

*You Better Mind*

SPIRITUAL

*New Girl*

COLUMBUS CALVIN "DUKE" PEARSON, arr. Justin Chesarek

Alan Scott, *alto saxophone*

Jimmy Snyder, *tenor saxophone*

Grady Housworth, *trombone*

Chris Marks, *guitar / mixing / track organizer*

Brad Cannata, *bass*

Justin Chesarek, *drum set / director*

## BIOGRAPHIES

Justin Chesarek

Justin Chesarek is all about swing. It's what drives him, it's what makes him strike drum heads with well-composed intensity, and it's why some of the best jazz musicians in Atlanta keep him on call. Since arriving in Atlanta in August, 2008, Justin Chesarek, a transplant from rural Pennsylvania, has made quite a name for himself.

He isn't your average session drummer. While regularly playing gigs with Gary Motley, Laura Coyle, and Gordon Vernick, Justin also flexes his composing muscles with his group The Tree-O of Love, who maintain a regular Wednesday night gig at Churchill Grounds, Atlanta's premier jazz club. Pulling diverse influences from jazz, classical, rock, world music, Justin writes and plays music with emotion, putting his artistry and talent in every note and beat he comes across. The end product is jazz -- the virtuosity of Bebop, the soul and funkiness of the early days of Fusion, and a retro-modern mindset oozing with musicality and a beat that gets the inner ear thumpin'!

"Composing as a drummer] allows me to supply more of a concept of drums in melody. It gives me the opportunity to inject different rhythms and colors," Justin said. Consorting with members of jazz royalty including Houston Person, Jerry Bergonzi, and Johnny O'Neal, just to name a few, Justin is regularly asked to perform with some of the biggest names around. A graduate of Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, Pa., Justin holds a Bachelors of Music in Education. Under the direction of Dr. Stephen Hawk, Justin completed a two-week European tour, making appearances at the Montreaux Jazz Festival and the North Sea Jazz Festival. Justin finished his Masters of Music in Jazz Studies program in May, 2010 at Georgia State University and currently teaches at Emory University and Kennesaw State University.



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## Tyrone Jackson

The name Tyrone Jackson is quickly becoming synonymous with the quintessential jazz piano player. His boundless creativity coupled with subtle accompaniments, has Tyrone poised for national recognition.

Born in the New Orleans cradle of jazz, Jackson embodies the spirit of the Crescent City. The blends of jazz, funk and afro-carribean melodies are ever present in his work. But of course, musicians are never solely influenced by themselves. Jackson's teachers are a virtual Who's Who of great jazz piano players ranging from Ellis Marsalis, Mary Ann Bulla to gospel/classical legend Moses Hogan.

As a composer, Jackson has composed original music for Pulitzer Prize winning author Natasha Tretheway's book of poems "Native Guard" turned theatrical play at the Alliance Theater. Jackson has also composed for Pearl Clege's play, "Tell Me My Dream" and this past seasons success story, "Ethel".

In addition to his composition skills, the jazz wonder is most known for his compelling solos. Jackson's improvisational skills allow him to become a part of the song whether he softly highlights ballads or tears through fast-paced standards.

Jackson has performed with Steve Turre, Larry Carlton, Carmen Bradford, Earl Klugh, Melba Moore, Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Wycliffe Gordon, Vincent Gardner, Joe Lovano, Dave Douglas, Wes Anderson, Greg Dawson, Jennifer Holliday, Karen Briggs, Clay Jenkins, Russell Gunn, David Sanchez, Damaris Carbough, Russell Malone, Marcus Miller along with opening for Esperanza Spaulding, Gerald Albright, Spyro Gyra and the Crusaders, and Chaka Kahn. He also toured Italy and Austria with the UNO Jazz Band; toured Brazil with Michael Ward; Toured Thule, Greenland and performed with FutureMan (Roy Wooton) in Mableton, Ga.

His latest CD "Melody in Nede" is his third solo release. He has also recorded "Dedicated" and second CD, "Another Voyage" with label Hot Shoe Records. His songs are currently played with much acclaim to worldwide audiences on XM 70 Satellite radio. Jackson was also featured in Jazziz Magazine and selected articles in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Currently Tyrone Jackson is a professor at Kennesaw State University where he is Lecturer of Jazz Piano and teaches a myriad of classes including: Jazz Improvisation I, II & III, Jazz Combo, Applied Jazz Piano, Group Jazz Piano and History of the Blues.



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## Marc Miller

Marc Miller 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.

Prior to teaching at Kennesaw State, Marc has taught at Jacksonville State University and LaGrange College. In addition to his bass studios at these universities, he led big bands and combos, and taught academic courses including music appreciation and music theory.

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.



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## Trey Wright

Trey Wright is a jazz guitarist, composer, and recording artist based in Roswell, Ga. Trey spent his formative years as a musician in Athens performing with the jazz quartet Squat; a six-time winner of Best Jazz Band at the Flagpole Athens Music Awards and a featured artist at the Atlanta Jazz Festival, Bel Chere, the Twilight Athens Jazz Festival, the Cherry Blossom Festival, Harvest Midtown, and Athfest. Several of Trey's compositions with the group have received international airplay and have been featured on Sirius radio and NPR's All Things Considered.

Trey also performs freelance in the Athens and 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. As a solo guitarist and with his trio, Trey has been a featured performer at the Athens Music and Arts Festival, the Athens Jazz Festival, the Lake Oconee Jazz Festival, and the Atlanta Jazz Festival. In early 2008, Trey began playing with the Georgia Symphony Jazz Orchestra.

In December of 2002, Trey completed a Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies at Georgia State University and he currently teaches Applied Jazz Guitar, Jazz Theory and Composition, Jazz Guitar Ensemble, Jazz History, Jazz Improvisation and The History of Rock at Kennesaw State University. Trey has also taught at LaGrange College, Gainesville College, the Atlanta Institute of Music and Media and was a Jazz Artist in Residence at the University of Georgia. From 2011-2016 Trey wrote a column on Jazz Harmony for the Guitar for the quarterly print magazine Just Jazz Guitar.

In 2006, Trey released his first CD *Where I'm Calling From*, receiving rave reviews and airplay throughout the United States, New Zealand, England, Australia, Germany, Italy, Canada, Luxembourg, Scotland, and the Netherlands. The Trey Wright Trio released *Thinking Out Loud* in the summer of 2009 on Blue Canoe Records. In 2010, The CD was included in the first round Grammy Nominations for Best Jazz Instrumental Album. 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. Trey's long awaited collaboration with Grammy winning saxophonist Mace Hibbard *The Hibbard/Wright Project* was released to rave reviews in May 2013 and Trey's most recent release *Songs From Oak Avenue* was released on Blue Canoe Records in Spring 2015. In the Summer of 2016, Trey's album *Thinking Out Loud* was included as part of Delta Airlines In Flight Entertainment on domestic and international routes.



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## Luke Weathington

Alabama native Luke Weathington 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. He was also selected to be a member of the Alumni Combo that played for the 10th anniversary of the Bailey Performing Arts Center in 2017. While at GSU, Luke held a teaching assistantship position and was in charge of combos as well as teaching co-teaching improv classes. Mr. Weathington’s teachers were Dr. Mitchel Henson, Sam Skelton, and Mace Hibbard.

As a woodwind doubler, Weathington is well versed in many genres of music. His 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 Cattingub, 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 KSU and is a member of the Parliament Faculty Jazz Ensemble as well as the Faculty/Student combo that has performed at notable jazz clubs in Atlanta. He also served as Professor of Woodwinds at Miles College 2016 to 2017. Luke is also a proud member of the Atlanta Federation of Musicians.

