

SCHOOL of MUSIC

Where PASSION is *heard*

Kennesaw State University Holiday Concert

Saturday, November 14, 2020 | 8:00 PM

Presented virtually from Morgan Concert Hall of the Bailey Performance Center

PROGRAM

OVERTURE TO *MESSIAH*, HWV 56

George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)

Kennesaw State University Symphony Orchestra

Nathaniel F. Parker, *conductor*

CHRISTMAS COMES ANEW

Mark Riese (1953-1989)

Kennesaw State University Men's Ensemble

Reid Masters, *conductor*

Sherri Barrett, *piano*

WHAT SWEETER MUSIC

Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

Kennesaw State University Women's Choir

Brenda Brent, *piano*

Melissa Arasi, *conductor*

JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING from **Cantata 147**

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), arr. Myra Hess

Robert Henry, *piano*

FANTASIA ON *GREENSLEEVES*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

arr. Ralph Greaves

Kennesaw State University Symphony Orchestra

Nathaniel F. Parker, *conductor*



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O HOLY NIGHT

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

arr. Reid Masters

Kennesaw State University Chamber Singers

Brianna Powers, *soloist*

Reid Masters, *conductor*

Sherri Barrett, *piano*

SLEIGH RIDE

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

Kennesaw State University Wind Ensemble

David Kehler, *conductor*

(Pre-recorded from KSU Holiday Concert 2019)

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER

Paul Simon (b. 1955)

arr. Kirby Shaw

Kennesaw State University Chorale

Christian Kilgore, *drums*

Reid Masters, *conductor*

Sherri Barrett, *piano*

PREPARE THYSELF, ZION

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Kennesaw State University Women's Choir

Melissa Arasi, *conductor*

Brenda Brent, *piano*

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU

Mariah Carey (b. 1970)

arr. Riley Hodges

Kennesaw State University Percussion Ensemble

John Lawless, *director*



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ADESTE FIDELIS (O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL)

Traditional, arr. CARMEN DRAGON (1914-1984)

Kennesaw State University Symphony Orchestra

Nathaniel F. Parker, *conductor*

CHRISTMAS BELLS ARE RINGING

Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

Kennesaw State University Chamber Singers

Reid Masters, *conductor*

RUDOLPH, THE RED NOSED REINDEER

Johnny Marks (1909-1985), arr. James Stephenson

Kennesaw State University Symphony Orchestra and Combined Choirs

Nathaniel F. Parker, *conductor*

(Pre-recorded from KSU Holiday Concert 2019)



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BIOGRAPHIES

Melissa Arasi

As founding conductor and Artistic Director of the Atlanta Women's Chorus, Melissa Arasi has benefitted from a deeply meaningful musical experience. Through engaging musical endeavors with diverse women, her life has been informed and improved.

In addition to her work with the AWC, Dr. Arasi recently served as Assistant Professor of Music Education and Coordinator of Music Education Programs at Reinhardt University.

Dr. Arasi previously served as the Supervisor of Performing Arts: General/Choral Music, Theatre, and Dance for the Cobb County School District in Marietta, Georgia. Prior to this supervisory role, she was the Choral Director and Fine Arts Department Chair at Walton High School in Cobb County for fourteen years. Additionally, Dr. Arasi previously served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at the Georgia Institute of Technology Choral Program, where she founded and conducted the Women's Choir. Dr. Arasi has taught private voice, elementary general music, and conducted children's choirs in several Atlanta area churches.

Dr. Arasi received a Bachelor of Music Education from Shorter College in Rome, Georgia; a Master of Music Education and a Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning in Music Education with a concentration in choral music and a cognate in leadership from Georgia State University. Dr. Arasi was a member of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, primarily under the direction of Robert Shaw, for five seasons. She maintains active memberships in National Association of Music Education, Georgia Music Educators Association, and American Choral Directors Association and has held leadership roles in both the state of Georgia and the Southern Region of ACDA.

Robert Henry

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. Robert has been featured in *American Music Teacher*, *Clavier*, and *Gramophone*.



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Mr. Henry is a founding member of the Summit Piano Trio. He is Artistic Director of the Great Performances Concert Series in Highlands, NC, Interim Director of the Atlanta Boy Choir, and Music Director and Organist/ Choirmaster of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Highlands, NC. An International Steinway Artist, Mr. Henry maintains his web-presence at www.roberthenry.org.

In 2019, Mr. Henry presented his lecture, “Practicing Like a Pro” at the MTNA National Convention. Mr. Henry is Assistant Professor of Piano and Coordinator of the Piano Department at Kennesaw State University. Mr. Henry is represented by Parker Artists, New York.

David Kehler

Since 2009, David Kehler has served as Music Director and Conductor of the KSU Wind Ensemble. In addition, Dr. Kehler teaches courses in instrumental conducting, symphonic repertoire, and twentieth century music. Along with his university responsibilities, professor Kehler currently serves as Music Director and Conductor of the Atlanta Wind Symphony, and as President-Elect for the College Band Directors National Association-Southern Division.

An advocate of new music, Professor Kehler has commissioned more than two- dozen leading composers, including several Pulitzer Prize winners to write new compositions for wind ensemble. Performing music beyond the KSU campus, the KSU Wind Ensemble can also be heard frequently on 90.1, Atlanta Public Radio, along with being featured at the College Band Director's National Association Convention (two times), and most recently at the 2016 GMEA State Conference, in Athens, Georgia. In 2013, the KSU Wind Ensemble won the American Prize for best university wind ensemble/concert band recording in the United States.

Previously, Dr. Kehler served as Associate Conductor of America's Premiere Windband; The Dallas Winds, and served as Founder and Conductor of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Wind Symphony. Previous academic appointments were at Southern Methodist University, the University of Rhode Island, and Bay City Western High School, in Bay City, Michigan. Growing up in Michigan, Dr. Kehler received his Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music in Conducting degrees from Michigan State University, followed by his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in instrumental conducting from the University of Texas at Austin.



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John Lawless

John Lawless, Senior Lecturer, 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.

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.

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.



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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.

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.

