Students in the College of the Arts and The Black Musicians Coalition present

THE BLUEPRINT:

#BlackInTheArts

Friday, February 12, 2021 | 8:00 PM

SCHOOL of MUSIC

where PASSION is heard

musicKSU.com
Welcome to the School of Music at Kennesaw State University

We offer a world class undergraduate education…training future performers, music educators, and leaders in the field of music. More than 285 majors and minors pursue degrees in performance, music education, composition, applied studies, theory, musicology, and ethnomusicology. Our programs and students stand out as the forerunners for the next generation of inspired musical scholars.

We pride ourselves on our students’ accomplishments from successfully acing their first theory exams, perfecting their collective sounds in performances, to signing contracts for their first real jobs!

KSU School of Music has a long-standing tradition of student ensemble performances at state, regional, and national music conferences. Our student ensembles are regularly featured at prestigious conferences throughout the country including the Georgia Music Educators, National Collegiate Choral Organization, National Band Association, Southern Division College Band Directors National Association, and the American Choral Directors Association Southern Division and National Conferences.

Our faculty are dynamic artists-performers-scholars who are conductors, teachers, composers, researchers, and artists who regularly perform with the Georgia Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Opera, Atlanta Chamber Players, and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, to highlight just a few. KSU School of Music is a leader in music training regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Start your journey … where talent is cultivated, creativity is nurtured, performers are inspired, and where passion is heard.

Leslie J. Blackwell, DMA
Interim Director, School of Music
For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf
NTOZAKE SHANGE (1948-2018)
I. “Dark Phrases”
Brooklyn Norrington, actress

Lift Every Voice and Sing
JOHN ROSAMOND JOHNSON (1873-1954)
arr. Lauryn Davis
Poem by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)
Asa Bradley, vocals
Kaelan Harris-Patrick, vocals
Tyrone Jackson, piano
Auriyan Tillman, vocals
Ezra Trotman, vocals

America’s Worst Nightmare
Eileen Moyo, poet

Tawawa House Suite
ZENOBIA POWELL PERRY (1908-2004)
arr. J. Gandolfi
I. Overture
Tyrone Jackson, piano
Christopher Nguyen, piano

Who Do I Turn To?
JOY OLADOKUN
Kenadee Knight, dancer
Jada Thomas, dancer

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf
NTOZAKE SHANGE (1948-2018)
II. “No More Love Poems #4”
Ra’Mya Aikens, actress
Amani Clanton, actress
Amaris Johnson, actress
Alexis Martin, actress
Brooklyn Norrington, actress
#blackinthearts Video
LAURYN DAVIS
Asa Bradley, sophomore
Elaine Brown, senior
Kaelan Harris-Patrick, junior
Auriyan Tillman, sophomore
Ezra Trotman, junior

String Quartet No. 5, Rosa Parks, Mvt. II.
“*I made up my mind not to move*”
DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN
Melody Bearden, violin
Dajon Carter, viola
Colin Gregoire, cello
Scott Lozier, violin

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enough
NTOZAKE SHANGE (1948-2018)
III. “*Sorry*”
Ra’Mya Aikens, actress
Amaris Johnson, actress
Alexis Martin, actress

Black Rage Timelapse
PAIGE EALY

My Skin is Black
VARIOUS ARTISTS
Ra’Mya Aikens, actress
David Burroughs, poet
Tyrone Jackson, piano
Piper Johnson, bass guitar
Nakia Lambert, poet
Justice Michael, drums
Brooklyn Norrington, actress
Auriyan Tillman, vocals
Ezra Trotman, vocals
Tyler VanDuvall, poet
For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf  
NTOZAKE SHANGE (1948-2018)
 IV. “No More Love Poems #2”
    Amani Clanton, actress

    Pretty Wings
    MAXWELL
    Jada Thomas, dancer

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf  
NTOZAKE SHANGE (1948-2018)  
V. “A Layin’ On Of Hands”
    Ra’Mya Aikens, actress
    Amani Clanton, actress
    Amaris Johnson, actress
    Alexis Martin, actress
    Brooklyn Norrington, actress

    Ascension (Don’t Ever Wonder)
    MAXWELL
    Kaelan Harris-Patrick, lead vocals
    Tyrone Jackson, piano
    Piper Johnson, bass guitar
    Justice Michael, drummer
    Auriyan Tillman, vocals
    Ezra Trotman, vocals
Lift Every Voice and Sing
John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)
Poem Written By: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

Lift ev’ry voice and sing, ’Til earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise High as the list’ning skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on ’til victory is won. Let us march on ’til victory is won.

Who Do I Turn To?
Joy Oladokun

I’m scared of getting pulled over ’cause of someone else I look like.
I’m scared of raising my voice ’cause everyone will think that I’m gonna fight. This world was made for them. This world is made for me. How am I supposed to exist when a friend is an enemy?

If I can’t save myself, If it’s all black and white, If I can’t call for help in the middle of the night, If I can’t turn to God and I can’t turn to you-
Who do I turn to?

I’m tired of watching my kind be accused while they’re young and they’re innocent. I’m tired of turning on the news and wondering why it happened again.

No one’s putting out the fire. They only fan the flame. Tell me, who’s gonna make it right when the good ones are to blame?

Who’s gonna watch over me? Who do I turn to?
**Black Rage**
*Lauryn Hill*

Black rage is founded on two-thirds a person, Rapings and beatings and suffering that worsens, Black human packages tied up in strings- Black rage can come from all these kinds of things.

Black rage is founded on blatant denial, Squeezed economics, subsistence survival, Deafening silence and social control. Black rage is founded on wounds in the soul!

When the dogs bite, when the beatings- When I’m feeling sad, I simply remember all these kinds of things and then I don’t fear so bad!

Black rage is founded: who fed us self hatred, Lies and abuse, while we waited and waited? Spiritual treason, this grid and its cages, Black rage is founded on these kinds of things.

Black rage is founded on draining and draining, Threatening your freedom to stop your complaining, Poisoning your water while they say it’s raining, Then call you mad for complaining, complaining.

Old time bureaucracy drugging the youth Black rage is founded on blocking the truth! Murder and crime, compromise and distortion, Sacrifice, sacrifice- who makes this fortune?

Greed falsely called progress Such human contortion. Black rage is founded on these kinds of things…

**Pretty Wings**
*Maxwell*

Time will bring the real end of our trial; One day there’ll be no remnants, no trace, no residual feelings within ya. One day you won’t remember me.

Your face will be the reason I smile, but I will not see what I cannot have forever. I’ll always love ya; I hope you feel the same.

I came wrong. You were right. Transformed your love into light Baby, believe me: I’m sorry I told you lies.

I turned day into night, sleep ‘til I died a thousand times. I should’ve showed you better nights, better times, better days, and I miss you more and more.

If I can’t have you, let love set you free to fly your pretty wings around.

**Ascension**
*Maxwell*

… Shouldn’t I realize You’re the highest of the high? If you don’t know then I’ll say it, So don’t ever wonder. …
Lift Every Voice and Sing, or, “The Black National Anthem”  
James Weldon Johnson

Lift Every Voice and Sing – often called “The Black National Anthem” – was written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), and then set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954) in 1899. It was first performed in public in the Johnsons’ hometown of Jacksonville, Florida, as part of a celebration of President Lincoln’s birthday on February 12, 1900, by a choir of 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School, where James Weldon Johnson was principal. –NAACP

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf  
Ntozake Shange

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf is a choreopoem written by playwright, poet, and novelist Ntozake Shange. For Colored Girls... was Shange’s first work and also happened to be her most popular. Shange considered this work to be a choreopoem rather than a play. In her own words, “A choreopoem is a combination of all forms of theatre storytelling.” The original work consists of seven characters: Lady In Brown, Lady In Orange, Lady In Purple, Lady In Yellow, Lady In Green, Lady In Blue, and Lady In Red. Throughout the work, there are 20-22 poems performed by the seven women through speech, music, and dance. Each poem captures the emotions and experiences of living in the world as a Black woman and much of the content was based off of Shange’s own experience with life and battling suicide. With honesty of this work, the way it speaks life and death, pleasure and pain, and the way it all gets translated into a beautiful story, it is no surprise that For Colored Girls... found success on stages, screens, and many adaptations.” –Alexis Martin
String Quartet No. 5, Rosa Parks, Mvt. II.
“I made up my mind not to move.”
Daniel Bernard Roumain

“As a Haitian-American composer, I was raised by immigrant parents from Haiti, who experienced American life both before, and after, the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Their views were informed by life on a free Island nation in Port-au-Prince, Haiti; life in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois; and life in the complex diversity of Pompano Beach, Florida. They identified with Malcolm and Martin, Maya and Rosa, and the great Haitian warriors, Makandal and Toussaint. Civil rights, for our household, was global, local, and part of the very fabric of our lives and culture. I created [this work] as a musical portrait of Rosa Parks’ struggle, survival, and legacy. The music is a direct reflection of a dignified resistance. It’s telling that this work may, in fact, be performed on stages that didn’t allow the presence of so many, so often. I often refer to the stage as the last bastion of democracy, where all voices can and should be heard, where we are all equal, important, and necessary.”
– Daniel Bernard Roumain for Music Academy West

The … movement was inspired by Parks’ statement, “I made up my mind not to move.” It is the longest of the three movements and is characterized by a driving, insistent rhythm throughout, which evokes the dignified persistence of Parks herself. –Henry Michaels, Music Academy West

Tawawa House Suite
Zenobia Powell Perry

“[Josephine] Gandolfi and [Deanne] Tucker join forces on a duet arrangement (by Gandolfi) of music from Perry’s 1987 opera Tawawa House that is handily the most appealing and immediate music in the collection. Tawawa House tells the story of a mixed-race resort in Tawawa Springs, Ohio that served as the predecessor to Wilberforce College, the first historically black institution of higher learning in the United States. The dramatic potential of this little known subject, combined with Perry’s interest in the folk idiom of the era around the Civil War, moved her to write some especially exciting and engaging music for it.” –David N. Lewis, Black Grooves
Music
Melody Bearden, BM in Performance
Asa Bradley, BM in Music Education
Dajon Carter, BM in Performance
Colin Gregoire, BM in Performance
Kaelan Harris-Patrick, BM in Music Education
Scott Lozier, BM in Performance
Justice Michael, Guest Performer
Christopher Nguyen, BA in Music
Auriyan Tillman, BA in Jazz Performance
Ezra Trotman, BA in Jazz Performance
Tyrone Jackson, Faculty Performer
Piper Johnson, BM in Music and Entertainment

Visual Arts
Paige Ealy, BFA in Digital Animation

Crew
Camille Core, BM in Music Education
Mikaela Fraser, BA in Theatre
Nicholas Gillomen, BA in Theatre

Coordinators
Jaden Akins, BM in Music Education
Jessica Bell, BM in Performance
Lauryn Davis, BM in Performance
Sydnee Goode, BM in Music Education

Dance
Kenadee Knight, Minor in Dance
Jada Thomas, BA in Dance

Theatre
Ra’Mya Aikens, BA in Theatre
David Burroughs, BBA in Entrepreneurship
Amani Clanton, BA in Theatre
Amaris Johnson, BA in Theatre
Nakia Lambert, BA in Theatre
Alexis Martin, BA in Theatre
Eileen Moyo, BA in Theatre
Brooklyn Norrington, BA in Theatre
Tyler VanDuvall, BA in Theatre
Ra’Mya Aikens (She/Her) is a Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Her artistic aspirations are broad, encompassing success in music, writing, and performance. As a liaison for the Theatre and Performance Studies Majors, Ra’Mya was overjoyed to have aided in the fruition of a work that not only honors the Black creators of the past, the present, and the future, but a work that was also entirely devised by the students across Kennesaw State University’s College of the Arts.

Jaden Akins (She/Her | They/Them) is a third year Choral Music Education major at Kennesaw State University as well as the founder and president of the Black Musicians Coalition. She has a passion for making music, uplifting minority communities, and all things artistic. Jaden aspires to teach music to children in under-funded schools so that she may inspire and guide a generation that will continue the motion for positive change in our society.

Melody Bearden (She/Her) is a violinist pursuing a performance degree at the Kennesaw State University School of Music. She is a member of the Cooke Scholarship Quartet as well as a winner of the Fall 2020 Concerto Competition. Playing violin has been a large part of her life and education. During middle and high school, she qualified for and participated in the GMEA All State Orchestra for five years. In high school she played for the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra. Through the ASYO and the Franklin Pond Chamber Music Program, she was able to study under members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Melody currently teaches private lessons and enjoys arranging music and organizing recitals for her students.

Jessica Bell (She/Her) is a senior Clarinet Performance major. Her career aspirations include performing, teaching, instrument making, and ethnography. Her main research goals are rooted in finding the links between African culture and Western classical music. She has done previous work in Tanzania studying the tree used for Clarinet making, Mpingo. She is excited to be a part of this production because celebrating Black art is a part of her core values. She is also proud to be a founding member of the Black Musicians Coalition and to be able to provide Black students a space where they can continue to flourish in their studies at KSU.
Asa Bradley (He/Him) is a junior Music Education major. He is currently the Music Education Representative for the School of Music Student Advisory Council. Asa hopes to foster bright young minds in a high school and one day be a minister of music in a church. Asa was inspired to be a part of this program because he wishes to participate in an exposition of Black Talent.

David Burroughs (He/Him) is a Business major with a concentration in Entrepreneurship. David wants to establish himself as an artist and own his own record label. He is pleased to have the opportunity to express his view of being a Black man in America as part of this program.

Dajon Carter (He/Him) is a Viola Performance major currently in his sophomore year at Kennesaw State University. In addition to viola, which he has played since the age of 11, he plays the violin and guitar and composes music. A member of the Cooke Scholarship Quartet, Dajon has ambitions to pursue a career performing in solo and ensemble roles, as well as making violin family instruments and classical guitars. Dajon is participating in the Black History month celebration because he believes it to be not only important that the Black community make a place in established industries and spaces, but create their own spaces to celebrate Black excellence as well.

Amani Clanton (She/Her) is a junior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Musical Theatre concentration. She is currently president of a diversity and individuality-focused creative organization at KSU known as KSU Colors. Her career aspiration is to find a place in which her loves for music, poetry, movement, photography and theatre can coexist to express stories of the queer-Black-female experience. Amani is extremely proud to be a part of this process and to be able to shed a light on the beauty of Black artistry.

Camille Core (She/Her) is a sophomore Music Education major with a Choral concentration. She hopes to become an example of representation in the arts for her future students, just as her fellow performers will be for generations to come. She is stage-crew for this production and is so excited to be part of this groundbreaking event. She feels privileged knowing that she is surrounded by such talented Black artists and cannot wait for audiences to witness this as well. She hopes that this performance is just the beginning of a bright, informative, and well-deserved tradition of celebrating the beauty that is Black art here at KSU.

Lauryn Davis (She/Her) is a founding member of the Black Musicians Coalition. She is a senior in her final semester here at Kennesaw State University. With her exemplary technique and musicality, she has performed in many operatic and theatrical roles during her time at KSU. With this being her first program as a creative director, she plans to nurture these skills and implement them in her performance study to curate many more programs of this stature. She plans to attend graduate school to pursue a career in opera.
Paige Ealy (She/Her) is a junior at Kennesaw State University majoring in Digital Animation. She chose to be in this program because she likes to see young black artists’ work and involvement celebrated throughout the school. She wants to show people that being Black does not make you the stereotypes that others may try to place upon you. Paige would like to create movies or television shows that inspire others to dive into their creativity and make amazing things. She believes that if you put in the time and have patience, you will find yourself successful in more ways than one.

Mikaela Fraser (She/Her) is a Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Design/Tech, currently in her final semester at KSU. She aspires to be a Sound Designer. Mikaela was excited to participate in this production because of the beauty that is created by the students of KSU in all aspects of the arts, as well as to highlight the significance of Black art.

Colin Gregoire (He/Him) is a cello performance student at Kennesaw State University School of Music, and the principal cellist of the Alpharetta Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he has served as principal cellist of the Kennesaw State University Symphony, the Roswell High school chamber orchestra, and the Fulton County youth orchestra. He has also held section positions in the Ludwig Symphony Orchestra, the Kennesaw State University Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Beethoven Chamber Orchestra.

Nicholas Gillomen (He/Him) is a junior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Musical Theatre. While he would love to perform going forward, he also wants to pursue writing and directing in theatre, film, as well as video game design. Nicholas is excited to assist backstage on this production because he loves helping his friends and peers to tell their stories. He also sees this production as a great way for people to see thought-provoking pieces that can bring people together.

Sydnee Goode (She/Her) is a sophomore Choral Music Education major. She plans to teach high school choir and to continue her education to become a Collegiate Choral Director. She is proud to be the first Secretary of the Black Musicians Coalition and to have put forth her efforts in coordinating this program.

Kaelan Harris-Patrick (He/Him) is a Music Education major with a concentration in Choral Education. His primary career aspiration is to be a chorus teacher. Second to that, he hopes to write music and resume his involvement in musical theatre. Kaelan’s inspiration for participating in this program was the determination and support of the Black Musicians Coalition to showcase such an important acknowledgement and celebration of Black history.
Tyrone Jackson (He/Him) - the name- is quickly becoming synonymous with the quintessential jazz piano player. Born in the New Orleans cradle of jazz, Jackson embodies the spirit of the Crescent City. As a composer, Jackson has composed original music for the Alliance theater’s productions of Native Guard, Tell Me My Dream, Ethel, Nick’s Flamingo Grill, and A Very Terry Christmas. Additionally, Jackson has composed and recorded 4 CD’s and performed on countless others. Jackson has performed with Steve Turre, Larry Carlton, Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Wycliffe Gordon, Vincent Gardner, Joe Lovano, Jennifer Holliday, Russell Malone, and Marcus Miller. Currently Jackson is a professor at Kennesaw State University where he is Lecturer of Jazz Piano and teaches a myriad of classes. “I was inspired by the energy and efforts of the organizing students of BMC and their willingness to provide a concert of American history, not just African-American history.”

Amaris Johnson (They/Them) is a junior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Musical Theatre. They have many artistic ambitions that include writing, music, and performance. Amaris is also pursuing a minor in Gender and Women studies, and hopes to use this knowledge to more accurately incorporate BIPOC and LGBTQ stories within their art. Amaris is honored to be able to take part in this performance because the intersectional struggles of Black women are the focus of their art.

Piper Johnson (She/Her) is an Atlanta-based singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who began playing the guitar at the age of seven. As a teen, she took up the electric and upright bass and played both instruments for her high school’s orchestral band, marching band and percussion ensemble. In 2017, she was nominated for the Musicianship Award in her orchestral band. In 2019, Piper finished as first honoree in the Distinguished Women of Bartow County competition and won first place in three categories: talent, self-expression and fitness. Piper is currently a Music and Entertainment major at Kennesaw State University, with a minor in Music Performance. Her focus is jazz vocals and jazz bass.

Kenadee Knight (She/Her) is a junior English major with a minor in Dance. Her aspiration is to teach English-language learners, work on copyediting, and to teach and choreograph for multiple dance studios. She is excited to be part of this production because Black creators are beautiful, they matter, and they contribute so much to the world. She is excited and thankful to participate in a meaningful production with talented and like-minded people.

Nakia Lambert (She/Her) is a Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Acting. Her aspirations as an artist include working in TV/film and stage plays, writing, and directing. Nakia was honored to be a part of this amazing program to showcase many Black artists of all kinds in such a celebratory event. The work she has created along with these artists is special and she is very excited to share it with an audience.
Scott Lozier (He/Him) is a violin performance major in his junior year at KSU. He is a member of the Cooke Scholarship Quartet and has been playing the violin since age 5. He was a member of the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra in high school and was a finalist in the 2020 KSU Concerto Competition. He has also played piano since around age 3. He is pursuing a minor in Business Management as well. His aspirations include playing violin for a major symphony orchestra, playing chamber music professionally, and teaching others the violin. He is involved in the Black History Month celebration because of the unique and wonderful music being played at this event.

Justice Michael (He/Him) blows audiences away with the rhythmic sounds that emit from his drum set, which seems to be a natural extension of his limbs. When Justice Michael takes the stage, you can see that he feels at home behind the drum kit. Justin, 22-years-old, is currently a senior at University of Miami’s Frost School of Music. He will graduate in May with a BA Degree in Musicianship, Artistry Development and Entrepreneurship (MADE) and a minor in Music Business. He has been playing drums since he was 3. As a youngster, Justice was privileged to perform on the stage of the world famous Apollo Theater in Harlem, NY. He won Amateur Night at the Apollo on three separate occasions.

Alexis Martin (She/Her) is a Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Acting. Her primary aspirations include professional acting in TV and film. Additionally, Alexis hopes to work in theatre and performance education, particularly for youth. She also plans to find success in creative direction, writing, and performing within other artistic realms, and strives to draw attention to the importance of Black artists, their art, and their representation within much of her work. As a TPS liaison, Alexis was overjoyed with the opportunity to use her leadership position to aid in the creation of a show that highlights the entire experience of Black artists of all forms, in a beautiful, honest, and entertaining way.

Eileen Moyo (She/Her) is a freshman Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Acting. Her primary aspirations are working professionally in TV and film and to become a theatre educator. She is excited to be a part of this production because it was an opportunity to be surrounded by exceptionally creative and talented Black artists who are not only teaching the viewers, but herself what it means to be Black in America.

Christopher Nguyen (He/Him) is a Music BA major with a concentration in Music Composition. He is a pianist, vocalist, and organist as well as an aspiring composer. His aspirations include composing for video games, film, tv, and contemporary styles of music. His involvement in the Black Musicians Coalition stems from a desire to be more involved and active within communities of all kinds at KSU.
Brooklyn Norrington (She/Her) is a third year Theatre and Performance Studies major, currently working towards graduating this upcoming December. She hopes to further her education by attending graduate school and aspires to be a successful onscreen and stage performer and writer. She is honored to not only represent TPS majors and student liaisons, but the blueprint of Black performers that came before her as well as artists yet to come.

Jada Thomas (She/Her) is a junior Dance major with a concentration in Modern Dance. She plans to become a dance educator and achieve her goal of creating a dance convention and competition that aids in sending lower-income artists to college through scholarship opportunities. Jada is excited to be able to represent dancers in this production and share her art in a way that honors the Black artists who came before her.

Auriyan Tillman (She/Her) is a sophomore at Kennesaw State University majoring in Vocal Jazz Performance. She is from Augusta, GA where she attended John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School. Auriyan found her love for music at a very early age. She made her first appearance as a performer in the second grade at a talent show in which she performed “Wind Beneath My Wings” with her mother. Singing in local churches all around the city and in state-wide events helped her to develop her vocal and performance skills to the level they have reached today. Auriyan has performed with local jazz bands in Augusta and has also had the opportunity to perform at the historic Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York City. She will also be the featured vocalist for KSU’s Black History Program.

Ezra Trotman (They/Them) started singing in their high school choir when they were 15 years old. At age 16, they began to take an interest in vocal jazz. In 2016, Trotman studied at Middle Tennessee State University for three semesters, where they studied vocal jazz under Dr. Cedric Dent, former member of the 10 time Grammy award-winning group Take 6. After studying in Murfreesboro, Trotman decided to transfer to Kennesaw State University to further their studies in vocal jazz, where they currently study under artist-in-residence, Karla Harris. Trotman’s main influences are Eartha Kitt and Mabel mercer because of their original sound. In Atlanta, Trotman sings in Sam Skelton’s jazz ensemble and studies under pianist Tyrone Jackson and guitarist Trey Wright.

Tyler VanDuvall (He/Him) is a sophomore Theatre and Performance Studies major with a concentration in Musical Theatre. He aspires to be a well known performer and comedian. Tyler was inspired to take part in this program due to the fact that it is completely student-led, and is the first Black history performance to include all units in the College of the Arts. He finds it very important to lift up Black voices and believed this would be an amazing opportunity to do so.
Sylvia Carey-Butler  
Chief Diversity Officer, Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Ivan Pulinkala  
Dean of the College of the Arts

Harrison Long  
Senior Associate Dean of College of the Arts and Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies

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Interim Director of the School of Music

Joseph Greenway  
Assistant Director for Production and Technology

Mark Fucito  
Technical Manager Crew of the Bailey Performance Center

Brandon Bagwell  
Assistant Professor of Theatrical Design and Technology

Pamela Rodriguez  
Assistant Professor of Costume Design and Chair of the COTA DEI Committee

The COTA DEI Committee
For Elijah McClain, whose birthday we will celebrate on the 25th of this month. May he rest in peace.

For Breonna Taylor, whose life we celebrate and who was taken from us nearly a year ago. May she rest in peace.

For all other victims of racism and police brutality in America. May we do your lives justice. May you all rest in power.

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.” –Langston Hughes