

Kennesaw State University
School of Music



Senior Recital

Devin Okey, saxophone

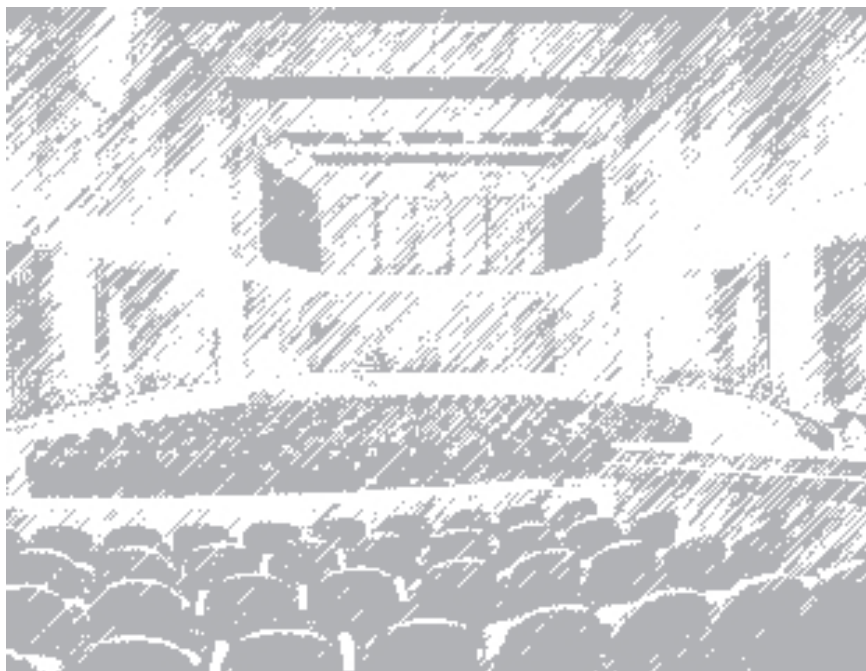
Michael Opitz, saxophone

Tyrone Jackson, piano

Patrick Arthur, guitar

Brandon Boone, bass

Janna Graham, drums



Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Brooker Hall
One Hundred and Thirty-fifth Concert of the 2015-16 Concert Season

program

All Compositions by

DEVIN OKEY (1992)

The Clouds Part

Sincerity Is For The Surreal

Shift Change

A Song For Those Anxious Things

Jive Lullaby

Interrupter

Goodbye Red

Self Worth

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree
Bachelor of Music in Performance.

Mr. Okey studies saxophone with Sam Skelton.

program notes

The Clouds Part

When I wrote *The Clouds Part*, I was getting over a break up. It was also at this time that my musical growth renewed. It's a tune about new chapters of your life and trying your best to not be scared of them. Around this time, I also started becoming fascinated with Robert Glasper's approach to harmony and tried to incorporate this influence into my composition.

Sincerity Is For The Surreal

Sincerity Is For The Surreal is inspired by how awkward it can be to be too legitimate or genuine in today's culture. I've noticed that the most sincere people are seen as really weird and can be socially excluded. This was one of the very first tunes I'd ever composed and what really drew me into composition. The encouragement I received after playing this tune publicly is one of the things that encouraged me to keep writing. This tune is heavily inspired by J. Dilla's instrumental works.

Shift Change

Shift Change is a composition inspired by my compositional study with Tyrone Jackson. I was challenged to write a tune involving a synthetic scale. While a creative box can seem stifling, I was very happy with the result. I feel Kenny Garrett's writing style also influenced me in this work.

A Song for Those Anxious Things

While working on *A Song for Those Anxious Things*, I was dealing with a tumultuous relationship. I had never felt so much uncertainty and anxiety in my life over someone I cared about. This composition drew a lot of influence from Ahmad Jamal's works as well as Robert Glasper's.

Jive Lullaby

Jive Lullaby came from me messing around with reharmonizing a lot of familiar melodies. In particular, *Zelda's Lullaby* from the *Legend of Zelda* video game series really inspired this work. This song incorporates influences from Robert Glasper and the new styles of a lot of different neo-soul/jazz groups.

Interrupter

Interrupter is another tune inspired by change in one's life. Something that can happen instantly and completely change your direction, for better or worse. This borrows tremendously from the compositional styles of Kenny Garrett and Wynton Marsalis.

Goodbye Red

Goodbye Red was a melody written initially only for myself to hear. It helped me cope with a break up that I initially regretted. As I felt better in my decision, I rewrote the harmony around the melody and tried to give myself a good way to let go of something in my life that wouldn't have been best for me.

Self Worth

Self Worth is about the constant struggle that many of us feel when trying to find purpose or value within ourselves.

about the school of music

Welcome to our campus! The School of Music is an exciting place to live, learn and work. Housed in the College of the Arts, the School is infused with masterfully skilled and dedicated performing teachers who care deeply about their profession, our programs, our community and every student involved in music and the arts. Our facilities are aesthetically functional and well equipped, our professional staff first-class, and our motivation perfect; to prepare students to be accomplished, creative arts leaders - diversely trained, acutely challenged and well-practiced to ensure employability and empowerment to take the 21st-century music world by storm.

Our students come to us from the leading musical arts and honors organizations from across the southeast, and as a School of Music, we are dedicated to the purpose of furthering the arts and cultural offerings of our region and beyond.

Please take the time to meet our faculty, students and staff. Interact with them, talk shop with them - their enthusiasm is contagious whether on or off the stage. I look forward to a long and rewarding relationship, and with your involvement as an audience member and patron, there are no limits to what we can become. If we can be of assistance to you, simply ask.