



School of Music

presents

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Choral Ensembles

Dr. Leslie J. Blackwell, conductor

Dr. Alison Mann, conductor

Sherri Barrett, accompanist

Julie Cross, accompanist

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

8:00 pm

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center

Performance Hall

Forty-ninth Concert of the 2008-2009 season

**Kennesaw State University
School of Music**

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PROGRAM

KSU Women's Chorus

Dr. Alison Mann, conductor

Halleluya

Music by Bill Derksen

(b. 1941)

Swahili lyrics by Jane Nolunda

Megan Otte, solo

Pershaud Bolt, percussion

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

David N. Childs

(b. 1969)

Niska Banja

Traditional Serbian Gypsy Dance

Arr. Nick Page

(b. 1952)

Lindsey Ingle, Lindsay Swann, soprano soloists

Maggie Goodhart, Jessica Stewart, mezzo soloists

Julie Cross, Matthew Sorenson, piano

How Can I Keep From Singing

Traditional Quaker Hymn

Arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

This is the Day (Rejoice!)

Gerald T. Smith

Brooke Eastlick, solo

Kennesaw State University

Upcoming Music Events

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Kennesaw State University

Wind Ensemble

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Thursday-Sunday, March 26-29, 2009

Kennesaw State University Opera

The Merry Wives of Windsor

by Otto Nicolai

Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Kennesaw State University Faculty Artist Recital

Oral Moses, bass-baritone

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Sunday, April 5, 2009

Kennesaw State University Faculty Artist Recital

Mary Akerman, classical guitar

3:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Thursday, April 9, 2009

Kennesaw State University

Jazz Combos

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

Friday, April 10, 2009

Kennesaw State University

Guitar Ensemble

8:00 pm • Bailey Performance Center Performance Hall

KSU Chamber Singers Dr. Leslie J. Blackwell, conductor

A Litany for Courage and the Seasons

David Maslanka

b. 1943

*Six Songs for Chorus, Clarinet and Vibraphone
on poems of Richard Beale*

Ted Gurch, clarinet John Lawless, vibraphone

I. The Sleep of Poets

II. Servis Road: A Hymn to St. Francis

Megan Otte, Lindsay Swann, sopranos

Clay Mooney, tenor

Shawn Keswani, bass

III. The Soundless Sound

IV. On Chestnut Hill

V. Little Dance: For Barbara Mason

VI. A Litany for Courage and the Seasons

Luke Lovett, tenor

Nick Morrett, baritone

Rachel Alexander, alto

For the most current information, please visit
<http://www.kennesaw.edu/arts/events/>

Translations and Poetry

Halleluya

Halleluya! We sing your praises,
All our hearts are filled with gladness

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace;
Where there is hate, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, let me pardon;
Where there is despair, let there be hope.

Where there is doubt, let there be faith;
Where there is sadness, let there be joy;
Where there is darkness, let there be light;
And all for Thy mercies sake.

O divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying, that we are born to eternal life.

Niska Banja

Translation:

Let's go the baths of Nis where we shall kiss, kiss, kiss.

Niska Banja is a folk song/dance popular throughout Yugoslavia. To Central Europeans the 9/8 rhythm of 2 + 2 + 2 + 3 is as natural as a 4/4 rock beat in North America.

The vocal parts are arranged exactly as they would be sung in Yugoslavia. The piano parts are, however, quite different from the traditional accordion, bouzouke, mandolin and tambourine instrumentals one would hear in Yugoslavia.

~Program note by Doreen Rao.

Methods, Foundations of Music Education, Choral Conducting, and Vocal Pedagogy for Ensemble Singing. Dr. Mann also supervises student teachers and serves as Conductor of the K.S.U. Women's Chorus.

A native of Florida, Dr. Mann taught in the Orlando public schools as director of choral activities at William R. Boone High School and was also the assistant conductor of the Orlando Chorale. While in Orlando, choirs and soloists under her direction received top honors at the district and state levels.

Dr. Mann received her Ph.D. in Music Education and Choral Conducting from the University of Oregon, and a Masters of Choral Music Education and Bachelors of Choral Music Education from Florida State University. Dr. Mann has studied conducting and music education with Andre Thomas, Kevin Fenton, Sharon J. Paul, Judy Bowers, and Harry Price. While in Oregon, Dr. Mann served as the Oregon state ACDA Multicultural Repertoire and Standards Chair. Her professional affiliations include the American Choral Directors Association, Music Educators National Conference, Georgia Music Educators Association, National Collegiate Choral Organization, and the International Society for Music Education. Her research has been presented at the state, regional, and international levels. Dr. Mann is an active conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and researcher.

Sherri N. Barrett

accompanist

Sherri N. Barrett received her bachelor's degree in piano performance from the University of Michigan and her master's degree in piano performance from the University of Tennessee. She studied with Eugene Mancini of the Cleveland Institute of Music and Arthur Rivituso from the Juilliard School of Music. Ms. Barrett has recorded two solo piano CD's entitled *From His Hand* and *At Peace*. She has been an active soloist, accompanist and adjudicator in Atlanta for over 20 years. She has performed in both the United States and Europe as a soloist, in various chamber ensembles and accompanist for various choral groups. She maintains a large teaching studio out of which several students have won international piano competitions. She is presently serving as pianist for two local Atlanta churches, the Kennesaw State University Chamber Singers and Chorale and the newly founded Kennesaw State University Community Alumni Choir under the baton of Dr. Leslie J. Blackwell. Ms. Barrett is a member of the National Music Teachers Association and the International Music Fraternity Delta Omicron.

Blackwell 's baton, her choirs have performed master works including the requiems of Fauré, Duruflé and Mozart, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Rome Symphony Orchestra, Brahm's Requiem, Rutter's Gloria, and Handel's Messiah with the Cobb Symphony Orchestra. The Kennesaw State University Chamber Singers performed at the 2002, 2006, and 2008 Georgia Music Educators Association State Convention. Also, Dr. Blackwell lectured at the annual GMEA In-Service in Savannah, Georgia in January 2007 along with the KSU Men's Ensemble. The lecture was entitled "Men: Can't live with them, Can't sing without them!"

Dr. Blackwell received a Chancellor's Award in May 2007 to study Latin American Choral music in Salta, Argentina. Dr. Blackwell studied with Luis Benavidez and Julio Cesar Reynaga, director *del Coro Gaudium* and renowned arranger of Latin American Choral music in Argentina.

Dr. Blackwell earned her A.D. from Gordon College and her B.M. in music education from West Georgia College. She also holds a M.M. from Georgia State University and a D.M.A. from the University of Kentucky. Influential musicians with whom she has worked are Robert Shaw, Ann Howard Jones, Yoel Levi, David Maslanka, Rodney Eichenberger, and Jefferson Johnson.

During her twenty years as a music educator in Georgia, Dr. Blackwell taught seven years at McIntosh High School in Peachtree City, where her Chamber and Women's choirs performed, respectively, at the 1992 and 1994 Georgia Music Educators Association State Conventions. McIntosh Chamber Choir was selected to sing at the American Choral Director's Association Southern Division Convention in 1996.

In 2007 Dr. Blackwell founded the Kennesaw State University Community Alumni Choir, which began its inaugural season with membership reaching nearly 100 voices. In addition to her commitments at Kennesaw State University, Dr. Blackwell is currently Minister of Music at Haygood Memorial United Methodist Church. She is also active as a conductor, clinician and adjudicator in the southeast, and holds memberships in MENC, GMEA, and ACDA.

Alison Mann ***Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education***

Alison Mann is Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at Kennesaw State University, where she teaches coursework in Choral

How Can I Keep from Singing

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation;
I hear the real though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest loudly roars,
I know the truth; it liveth.
What though the darkness round me close,
songs in the night it giveth.

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul;
How can I keep from singing?

This is the Day

This is the day that the Lord has made;
I will rejoice and be glad in it.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
into His courts with praise.
I will rejoice and be glad in it.

From the rising of the sun,
till the going down of the same,
He's worthy of the glory,
He's worthy of the honor,
This is the day that the Lord has made.

A Litany for Courage and the Seasons

David Maslanka
Poetry by Richard Beale

I. The Sleep of Poets

The sleep of poets is but a travelogue of dream,
Mars tonight and the crab nebulae tomorrow.
Hear dit-dit-dit—
The voice of God.
The colorless silences are his paragraphs,
Dark holes the dimples of his mind.

O come, morning, with your vivid dawn
And your rain and winds
To see if you can rival
The augury and majesty of dream!

II. Servis Road: A Hymn to St.. Francis

After a hard winter of work spring comes at last,
With warming winds which find even the deepest culverts.
In my heart St. Francis is stirring. His blindness
And the remedy of hot irons disrupts me as I walk along
this country road.

I wonder what God could have done to prepare a man for that,
Both the pain and the disfiguration. I ask St. Francis to pray for me
Because I need the recommendation of a good man

The sky is blue with no clouds.
The freshets gurgle pleasantly beneath the sounds
of countless peepers and new birds.
I walk along briskly, remembering my body,
Trying to awaken it from a long chill,
As though it had been asleep under the snow.
The sun surrounds me with a flowing light
And shows me the configurations and colors
Of things I have come to know and love.

I wonder why my own blindness was not healed
by this transfiguration.
Blessed Francis, guide me through my awakening
While my spirit is still heavy with sleep
And while I have trouble focusing my eyes.

contemporary music ensemble *Thamyris*, with which he has performed and recorded numerous world and regional premieres, including a current release featuring music from the National Black Arts Festival. He also performs with *Bent Frequency*, an Atlanta-based multi-media new music group, and is a member of *Luna Nova*, the contemporary music ensemble of the NITLE college association.

In addition to his duties at KSU, Mr. Gurch coaches the clarinet section of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra.

John Lawless

vibraphone

John Lawless is the Principal timpanist with both the Atlanta Opera Orchestra and the Cobb Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Lawless held the same position with the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera Orchestra for 21 years. Since 1978 Mr. Lawless has performed, toured, and recorded with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, while maintaining a thriving freelance career as both a studio and pit percussionist. Mr. Lawless became Director of Percussion Studies at Kennesaw State University in 2004. Previous faculty appointments include those at Georgia State University, Clark Atlanta University, and the University of West Georgia. A founding member of the Atlanta Percussion Trio, Mr. Lawless performs hundreds of school concert each year, and has done so for nearly 30 years. In 2004 the Atlanta Percussion Trio performed as concerto soloists with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in “The glory and the Grandeur” by Russell Peck and repeated this performance with the Cobb Symphony Orchestra in 2006. A graduate of Georgia State University, Mr. Lawless’ teachers include Jack Bell, Paul Yancich, Mark Yancich, Bill Wilder, Tom Float and the late Cloyd Duff. Mr. Lawless lives in Marietta with his violinist wife, Angele, and their two children, Hannah and Bryden. When not performing music, Mr. Lawless enjoys the sport of triathlon and has competed all over the southeast and beyond since 1982.

Leslie J. Blackwell

Director of Choral Activities

Dr. Blackwell is the director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music and Music Education at Kennesaw State University where she has taught since 1998. Dr. Blackwell's duties include conducting the choral ensembles; KSU Chorale, KSU Men’s Ensemble, and KSU Chamber Singers; teaching choral conducting, choral literature, and supervising student teachers. Under Dr.

David Maslanka

composer

David Maslanka was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1943. He attended the Oberlin College Conservatory where he studied composition with Joseph Wood. He spent a year at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, and did graduate work in composition at Michigan State University with H. Owen Reed.

Maslanka's works for winds and percussion have become especially well known. They include among others, "A Child's Garden of Dreams" for Symphonic Wind Ensemble, "Concerto for Piano, Winds and Percussion," the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th symphonies, "Mass" for soloists, chorus, boys chorus, wind orchestra and organ, and the two Wind Quintets. Percussion works include, "Variations of 'Lost Love'" and "My Lady White: for solo marimba, and three ensemble works: "Arcadia II: Concerto for Marimba and Percussion Ensemble," "Crown of Thorns," and "Montana Music: Three Dances for Percussion." In addition, he has written a wide variety of chamber, orchestral, and choral pieces.

David Maslanka's compositions are published by Carl Fischer, Inc., Kjos Music Company, Marimba Productions, Inc., the North American Saxophone Alliance, and OU Percussion Press, and have been recorded on Albany, Cambria, CRI, Mark, Novisse, and Klavier labels. He has served on the faculties of the State University of New York at Geneseo, Sarah Lawrence College, New York University, and Kingsborough College of the City University of New York. He now lives in Missoula, Montana. David Maslanka is a member of ASCAP.

Ted Gurch

clarinet

Ted Gurch, Associate Principal/E-flat Clarinetist with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra since 1989, joined the faculty at Kennesaw State University in 2006. Prior to coming to Atlanta, he served for three seasons as Principal Clarinetist with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. He attended the Eastman School of Music where he studied with Stanley Hasty and Charles Neidich, earning a Bachelor's Degree and the Performer's Certificate. While at Eastman he was active as a saxophonist in the school's jazz program, and was a member of the award-winning Eastman Jazz Ensemble. He continues to play saxophone on jazz, pop and classical programs, and has appeared as a concerto soloist with the ASO on saxophone as well as clarinet. An active chamber musician, Mr. Gurch is a member of the

Speaking is a way of knowing Psalms from a lover's soul,
On the heart's hearth newly glowing
Like ignited coal.

The fire's brand along the temples
And the smell of burning hair--
The love of God impeached the troubles
Brother Ass imprisoned there.

Scarred and blistered and blinded still
With ulcers on both feet and hands--
Blessed Francis, share your loving
With another blinded man.

III. The Soundless Sound

The soft crackling of the rain
On dry leaves
And the echo of the birdsong
Against the woods--
Are these all one hears
Between breathing in
And breathing out?

One hears nothing if not
The soundless sound.

IV. On Chestnut Hill

On Chestnut Hill I lean against the wind.
I walk among the grass and the Solomon's Seal
And watch the yellow moon begin its rise.
I lie where the deer have lain, and ask the skies
Impossible questions: is this phantom real
Who made both night and day?

Is it wise to wish the night away?

V. Little Dance: For Barbara Mason

Pushing back the walls,
Stretching for freedom,
Time and Space were the fringes

Of my limitation.
With only my skin
For a costume, and no script
At all, I offer. A careful bow
To the beings beyond the dark.

Perhaps this little dance
Will please the dead and the unseen,
And then the boundaries will cave in,
And then my spirit will fly.

In this moment and no other,
In this way and no other,
I am.

VI. A Litany For Courage and the Seasons

May the apple blossoms flower on my birthday
May my heart be calmed if it snows on the jonquils.
May the hot days of summer be made tolerable by a little rain.
May I get wisdom if the flowers die.
May the maples splash enough color to seem warm, not cold.
May I be thankful on Thanksgiving, even though I might not
remember what for,
And joyful at Christmas, for the same reason.
I am not sure that by myself I would pray for all these things.
But if I did not pray, not even knowing what I pray to, I would
lose my reason.
May God come and stay in my heart through the round of seasons.
May God make me love each season more, though
none are new.
And if I should die before the birds come back from the South
May my spirit be waiting for them in the trees.

Women's Chorus

Soprano

Rachel Becker
Tracy Bloomer
Caitlin Eicholtz Dolenc
Brooke Eastlick
Newt Fisk
Morgan Gentry
Jessi Hicks
Lindsey Ingle
Natasha Larivee
Morgan O'Kelley
Megan Otte
Teonickia Pitts
Lindsay Swann

Alto

Kelsey Rose Allen
Liz Garnsey
Maggie Goodhart
Jenni Korhonen
Christy Rogers
Jessica Stewart
Jasmine Thompson

Chamber Singers

Soprano

Kristen Brent
Rachel Espenshied
Anna Gerlach
Amanda Newton
Megan Otte
Micheale Postell
Lindsay Swann

Alto

Rachael Alexander
Amanda Branwer
Brooke Eastlick
Sarah Harville
Rachel Mercer
Kati Stewart

Tenor

Michael Alcorn
Jon Brown
Connor Horton
Luke Lovell
Cody Nichols

Bass

Jeffery David Gibb
Shawn Keswani
John McClure
Clay Mooney
Nick Morrett