

Kennesaw State University  
School of Music



Senior Capstone Lecture Recital

***The "Rushian" Sound***

**J. Jakari Rush, composer and pianist**



Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 7 pm  
Music Building Recital Hall

One-hundred Forty-seventh Concert of the 2016-17 Concert Season

# program

## ***The "Rushian" Sound***

A Capstone Lecture Recital

Compositions by J. Jakari Rush

*Featuring performances by*

Kristen Harding, soprano

Shawn Keshwani, bass

Megan Deason, cello

Brenda Brent, piano

J. Jakari Rush, piano

## **Six Songs for Soprano, Op. 26** (2016) WORLD PREMIERE

Poems by J. Jakari Rush

I. Lullaby

II. The Night Witch

III. Tears On My Heart

IV. Tempest at Mt. Kennesaw

V. Nostalgia: Song of Home

VI. Vocalise: Fantasy

## **String Quartet in B, Op. 21** (2015) [sound recording]

II. Largo, emotive e espressivo

## **KSU The Wise Choice**

Video Scoring Excerpt

## **Dr. Who** - Fan 'Webisode' Trailer

Video Scoring Excerpt

## **Four Songs for Bass, Op. 28** (2017) WORLD PREMIERE

I. Forest of Love

II. My Heart

III. The Maid

IV. Who Knows?

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree

**Bachelor of Arts in Music.**

Mr. Rush studies composition with Laurence Sherr.

# program notes

## Six Songs for Soprano, Op. 26

Poems by J. Jakari Rush

### I. *Lullaby*

Lay your head upon my breast,  
Succumb to the night with blissful rest,  
Let your dreams be sweet and light,  
Without any witch or nocturnal fright,  
Dream of the stars, that heavenly light,  
Play with the angels in glorious flight,  
Soar to a place that is ever so sweet,  
Sleep till your soul, with peace, is replete.

### II. *The Night Witch*

Behold! It is the witch of the night  
Bringing illusions of a horrid fright.  
She rides on the bosoms of the helpless,  
Tormenting and rendering them nearly breathless.

The footsteps of evil draw in closer,  
Cries of the dark ring louder and bolder.  
There in the void a shadow emerges,  
Tall, slender, and faceless, so horrid!

I scream but yet my mouth is still,  
I move my limbs, but cannot feel...  
This cursed, evil, vulgar fright,  
Tarrys long with the witch of the night!

### III. *Tears on My Heart*

How can I stop the tears on my heart?  
A love long lost to a careless impulse  
A painful memory of obscure others  
The lack of care in your loveless druthers  
Time will advance, my wounds will heal  
The days will be brighter, and your being obsolete.  
As in the spring, nature embraces its restart  
Love will bloom like so; after the tears on my heart.

#### IV. *Tempest at Mt. Kennesaw*

Clouds reveal their mean and grimly bases  
Rain pours down the mountains' sylvan faces  
I rush to find shelter from this tempest  
Flashes of lightning's fatal menace!

The roar of thunder and the aroma of burnt wood!  
Hope... seemed so obscured...  
The tempest soon subsides; still, the sky is somber  
To remind of nature's dreadful wonders.

#### V. *Nostalgia: Song of Home*

I walk the fields in the early sun  
The ripening of blackberries and peaches have begun  
The air is filled with the scent of the woodbine\*  
And Rose's teacakes, a sweetness unsubtle.

The beauty of Truddies' flowers stand tall and bold,  
Just like the maple tree, whose greatness I behold.  
The wind blows, speaking of peace and tranquility,  
As the river sleeps, lulled from nature's pure harmony.

The grass invites me to sit and take rest  
On its pure green blades, I lie at its request.  
Clouds pass gracefully into the distance  
A song of home, my greatest reminiscence.

[\*woodbine: honeysuckle plant]

### **Four Songs for Bass, Op. 28**

Poems

#### I. *Chamber Music (Forest of Love)*

In the dark pinewood  
I would we lay,  
In deep cool shadow  
At noon of day.

How sweet to lie there,  
Sweet to kiss,  
Where the great pine forest  
Enaished is!

Thy kiss descending  
Sweeter were

With a soft tumult  
Of thy hair.

O, unto the pinewood  
At noon of day  
Come with me now,  
Sweet love, away.

- *James Joyce*

## II. *Song (My Heart)*

My heart to thy heart,  
My hand to thine;  
My lip to thy lips,  
Kisses are wine  
Brewed for the lover in sunshine and shade;  
Let me drink deep, then, my African maid.

Lily to lily,  
Rose unto rose;  
My love to thy love  
Tenderly grows.  
Rend not the oak and the ivy in twain,  
Nor the swart maid from her swarthier swain.

- *Paul L. Dunbar*

## III. *A Song (The Maid)*

On a summer's day as I sat by a stream,  
A dainty maid came by,  
And she blessed my sight like a rosy dream,  
And left me there to sigh, to sigh,  
And left me there to sigh, to sigh.

On another day as I sat by the stream,  
This maiden paused a while,  
Then I made me bold as I told my dream,  
She heard it with a smile, a smile,  
She heard it with a smile, a smile.

Oh, the months have fled and the autumn's red,  
The maid no more goes by:  
For my dream came true and the maid I wed,  
And now no more I sigh, I sigh,  
And now no more I sigh.

- *Paul L. Dunbar*

#### IV. A Song (Who Knows?)

Thou art the soul of a summer's day,  
Thou art the breath of the rose.  
But the summer is fled  
And the rose is dead  
Where are they gone, who knows, who knows?

Thou art the blood of my heart o' hearts,  
Thou art my soul's repose,  
But my heart grows numb  
And my soul is dumb  
Where art thou, love, who knows, who knows?

Thou art the hope of my after years—  
Sun for my winter snows  
But the years go by  
'Neath a clouded sky.  
Where shall we meet, who knows, Who knows?

- Paul L. Dunbar

## about the musician

**J**eremy Jakari Rush began to play piano at age 4 and was accompanying his church choir by age 6. Music came naturally to him at an early age and he has an immense love for every style and genre of music. Classical music is where his heart is and his main influences are romantic and contemporary composers. He studied with Dr. Ruben Malán during high school and later relocated to Columbus, Georgia, to study piano at the Schwob School of Music under Professor Gila Goldstein. At the Schwob School of Music, Rush composed *Dolente a Bramosia*, *Barcarolle in B-flat*, and *Hymn No.1 for piano, Vocalise in F-sharp minor*, and many other works. He also works as a freelance musician and has performed in the Atlanta, Columbus, and Tallahassee areas as a solo musician and with Simply Humbled Band. He currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia, and studies composition with Dr. Laurence Sherr at the KSU School of Music.

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Marc Miller, *Jazz Bass*  
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Rob Opitz, *Jazz Trumpet*  
Trey Wright, *Jazz Guitar, Jazz Combos*

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KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament  
Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus  
KSU Faculty Chamber Players  
KSU Faculty String Trio  
KSU Community and Alumni Choir

# about the school of music

The School of Music at Kennesaw State University is an exciting place to live, work and learn. 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. We are so excited about the musical and artistic events that happen here, and we are excited that you are here with us to enjoy them!

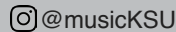
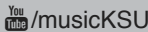
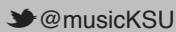
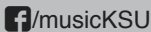
The School of Music is busy preparing our students to be productive artists. We want them to be accomplished and creative leaders of the arts world of tomorrow, professionals who are diversely trained and well-practiced. Diverse in their backgrounds, our students hail from many of the leading musical 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 to 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 with you. With your continued support of music and the arts, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish together!



Stephen W. Plate, DMA  
Director  
KSU School of Music

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