

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

2018
Student Composers Recital

Sean Brinkley Jr., Ben Champion,
Nicholas Felder, Andrew Niehoff,
Rachel Rabeneck, Eric Ramos,
STUDENT COMPOSERS



Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 8 pm
Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall
One-hundred Fifth Concert of the 2017-18 Concert Season

program

ERIC RAMOS (b. 1995)

A Prayer in Spring (2017) **World Premiere*

Claire Pappas, soprano

Joe Donohue, marimba

RACHEL RABENECK (b. 1995)

Documentary Film Clip (as yet untitled) (2018)

SEAN BRINKLEY JR. (b. 1996)

Reminisce (2017) **World Premiere*

Will Worthan, horn

Virginia Hyde, horn

Hayden McAfee, horn

C. J. Markow, horn

Janet Johnson, horn

NICHOLAS FELDER (b. 1997)

"We Are But Dust..." (2017) **World Premiere*

Brenden Ayestaran, clarinet

Lauren Greene, violin

Joseph Grunkemeyer, cello

Andrew Hughes, piano

ANDREW NIEHOFF (b. 1995)

Glitch, feature-length film clip

BEN CHAMPION (b. 1952)

Brass Quintet (2018) **World Premiere*

I. What?

II. Where?

III. Why?

Michael Brown, trumpet I

Jordan Mader, trumpet II

Virginia Hyde, horn

Karill Wood, trombone

Andrew Berry, tuba

INTERMISSION

ERIC RAMOS (b. 1995)

A Landscape (2018) *World Premiere

Simon Needle, guitar

Dustin Price, bassoon

Matthew Hodgetts, clarinet

RACHEL RABENECK (b. 1995)

Unfinished Women (2017) *World Premiere

I. Ode to Aphrodite

II. If thou must love me...

III. I Sit and Sew

IV. Softer Sex

Ericka Palmer, mezzo-soprano

Huu Mai, piano

ERIC RAMOS (b. 1995)

Prayer of the Faithless, video-game excerpts (2017–2018)

Mia's Theme

Mia's Party Theme

Vanessa's Theme

ANDREW NIEHOFF (b. 1995)

Willow (2017) *World Premiere

Ziara Greene, alto

Joseph Donohue, marimba

Lindsay Rohskopf, vibraphone

Andrew Creech, percussion 1

Andrew Yi, percussion 2

SEAN BRINKLEY JR. (b. 1996)

Galaxy (2017) *World Premiere

I. Stars

II. Planets

III. Sun

Nikki Hamel, flute

Emily Gunby, oboe

Israel Fortner, clarinet in B-flat

Will Worthan, horn

Dustin Price, bassoon

lyrics

A Prayer in Spring – Robert Frost (1874–1963)

"Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfil."

Unfinished Women

I. *Ode to Aphrodite* – Sappho (c. 630–c. 570 B.C.E.)

Aphrodite, subtle of soul and deathless,
Daughter of God, weaver of wiles, I pray thee
Neither with care, dread Mistress, nor with anguish,
Slay thou my spirit!
Come to me now thus, Goddess, and release me
From distress and pain; and all my distracted
Heart would seek, do thou, once again fulfilling,
Still be my ally!

II. *If thou must love me...* – Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806–1861)

If thou must love me, let it be for nought
Except for love's sake only. Do not say,
"I love her for her smile—her look—her way
Of speaking gently,—for a trick of thought
That falls in well with mine, and certes brought
A sense of pleasant ease on such a day"—

For these things in themselves, Belovèd, may
Be changed, or change for thee—and love, so wrought,
May be unwrought so. Neither love me for
Thine own dear pity's wiping my cheeks dry:
A creature might forget to weep, who bore
Thy comfort long, and lose thy love thereby!
But love me for love's sake, that evermore
Thou mayst love on, through love's eternity.

III. *I Sit and Sew* – Alice Dunbar-Nelson (1875–1935)

I sit and sew—a useless task it seems,
My hands grown tired, my head weighed down with dreams—
The panoply of war, the martial tread of men,
Grim-faced, stern-eyed, gazing beyond the ken
Of lesser souls, whose eyes have not seen Death
Nor learned to hold their lives but as a breath—
But—I must sit and sew.

I sit and sew—my heart aches with desire—
That pageant terrible, that fiercely pouring fire
On wasted fields, and writhing grotesque things
Once men. My soul in pity flings
Appealing cries, yearning only to go
There in that holocaust of hell, those fields of woe—
But—I must sit and sew.

The little useless seam, the idle patch;
Why dream I here beneath my homely thatch,
When there they lie in sodden mud and rain,
Pitifully calling me, the quick ones and the slain?
You need, me, Christ! It is no roseate seam
That beckons me—this pretty futile seam,
It stifles me—God, must I sit and sew?

IV. *Softer Sex* – Jordan Carter (b. 1995)

I know a woman
with nineteen
delicate lines
tattooed down her arm.
They are her unfinished
poem, a reminder.

As if she needed a reminder
of what made her woman,
a story that stops halfway through....
She realized this at nineteen,
smothered in the world's arms,
out of money to buy more feel-good lines.

They paint them on the road for a reason, the lines.
"Don't swerve," a reminder.
She swerved, put the needle against her skin
Sprinted headlong, collided, mainlined Woman.
Worst things could happen at nineteen.
Thought—unfinished.

Womanhood left her feeling unfinished
even after girl parts blossomed out of lines.
Days left: nineteen
before curved hip, curved lip screamed mind her.

What does it mean to be a woman?
Walking into every situation unarmed?
How could she ever be armed
with the space between her legs unfinished?

I know a man who named her "woman."
Between his legs, a solid, straight line.
He used it to remind her
that she was unarmed and unfinished at only nineteen.

a woman reclaiming what it meant to be a woman
who could write her story line by line
(not let it stop halfway through).

At nineteen, when I fell into her arms
I was reminded that being a woman doesn't mean the feet.
A line goes on forever and so would we, unfinished.

Willow – William Carlos Williams (1912–1963)

It is a willow when summer is over,
a willow by the river
from which no leaf has fallen nor
bitten by the sun
turned orange or crimson.

The leaves cling and grow paler,
swing and grow paler
over the swirling waters of the river
as if loath to let go,
they are so cool, so drunk with
the swirl of the wind and of the river—
oblivious to winter,
the last to let go and fall
into the water and on the ground.

biographies

Sean Brinkley Jr. is working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree in music composition at Kennesaw State University under the instruction of Dr. Laurence Sherr and Jennifer Mitchell. He previously performed in the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony, Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Metro Atlanta Youth Wind Ensemble. He has been awarded several KSU music scholarships such as the Audrey and Jack Morgan scholarship and the KSU School of Music scholarship. Along with his dedication to musical excellence, Sean Brinkley Jr. is a colonizing member of the Nu Mu chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi at Kennesaw State University.

Ben Champion, a native of Atlanta, has been involved in music since age nine. From piano to percussion to guitar to composition, Mr. Champion has made music an integral part of his life. His appreciation for the beauty of 19th-century art music coupled with his love of mid-20th century pop music ultimately influences his aesthetic. "I'd like my music to be a blend of exquisite Romantic era melody and the mellow sounds of folk-rock of the 1960s. I'm quite certain that if Tchaikovsky, Brahms, and Chopin had access to electric guitars and synthesizers, they would have composed for them."

Nicholas Felder has won numerous competitions including 3rd place in the 2014 Georgia PTA Reflections Contest, 1st place in the 2016 Kennesaw State University Music Composition Contest and was a finalist for the 2017 ASCAP Morton Gould Award, as well as a top ten finalist for the 2018 Juventas New Music Ensemble Call for Scores. Felder enjoys exploring new genres and styles, experimenting with musical theatre, Argentinian Tango, and African tribal music. Felder is currently fulfilling a Bachelor of the Arts Degree in music composition at Kennesaw State University. He studies with Composer-in-Residence, Dr. Laurence Sherr.

Andrew Niehoff is currently pursuing Music Composition studies as well as a certificate from the Joel A. Katz Music and Entertainment Business Certificate Program. He studies composition with Dr. Laurence Sherr and has studied with Steven Dancz and Jennifer Mitchell. His music has been performed across the country, and he has won multiple awards, including the John Philip Sousa Award, the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra's Young Composers Contest, and the KSU Composition Contest. He is currently scoring the indie video game *Faerie.FM* and working with local director Adante Watts for the feature film *Glitch*. Upon graduation, Niehoff plans to freelance with Atlanta-area content creators.

Rachel Rabeneck is a classically trained composer who writes scores for film, TV, video games, and the classical/theatrical stage. Rachel attended West Virginia University and studied composition with Dr. Joseph Dangerfield. At KSU, she has studied composition with Jen Mitchell and Dr. Laurence Sherr, and film scoring with Steve Dancz. She is a senior graduating in May 2018 with a BA in Music Composition and a minor in Film Studies. In her free time, Rachel likes to drink a large cup of coffee with her cats while reading a good book.

Eric Ramos is pursuing a Bachelor in Arts in Music Composition and a certificate from the Joel A. Katz Music & Entertainment Business Program at Kennesaw State University. Eric studies composition with Dr. Laurence Sherr.



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Nathan Munson	Jana Young

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Erika Tazawa, *Collaborative Piano*
Julie Coucheron
Robert Henry
Huu Mai
John Marsh

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Alison Mann, *Choral Activities*
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KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament
Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus
KSU Faculty Chamber Players
Summit Piano Trio
KSU Community and Alumni Choir

about the school of music



Welcome to the Bailey Performance Center!

The School of Music at Kennesaw State University is an exciting place! We have a wonderful slate of performances planned for this year's *Signature Series*, and if you have not yet purchased your season tickets, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. The Atlanta Symphony returns again this year as well as a wonderful slate of other performances.

The Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center is celebrating its 10th Anniversary Season this year. When this building opened in October of 2007, it was transformational for the School of Music and for KSU! It continues to be a jewel in our crown and musicians from around the world love to perform here because of the wonderful acoustic properties of Morgan Hall.

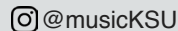
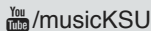
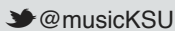
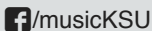
The weekend of October 7th–8th, we had an alumni recital on the 7th and a grand celebration Sunday afternoon October 8th, with full choir and orchestra to celebrate all this Center has meant to us these past 10 years! In honor of the Bailey 10th Anniversary, we officially launched our *Name a Seat Campaign* during our celebration in October. What a wonderful way to honor a loved one or to provide for future programming for Morgan Hall.

I look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with you. With your continued support of music and the arts, I look forward to all that we will accomplish together!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen W. Plate". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephen W. Plate, DMA
Director, KSU School of Music

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<http://community.kennesaw.edu/GiveToMusic>