

## Interchange IV:

# *Portraits*

NATHAN MUNSON, Tenor

HEATHER WITT, Mezzo-soprano

JOHN WARREN, Clarinet

JOHN LAWLESS, Percussion

BEN WADSWORTH, Piano



Photo credit: Melissa Basham

Wednesday, September 5, 2018, 7:00 pm and 8:30 pm

Zuckerman Museum of Art

Third and Fourth Concerts of the 2018-19 Concert Season



## **Interchange IV: *Portraits***

Musical selections have been chosen by the performers as a brief musical portrait of themselves as artists. Artist Matt Haffner will be engaging in the live creation of works using digital photography during tonight's event.

ILDEBRANDO PIZZETTI (1880–1968)

### ***I pastori***

Nathan Munson, tenor

Benjamin Wadsworth, piano

CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862–1918)

### ***En sourdine***

Heather Witt, mezzo-soprano

Benjamin Wadsworth

EUGÈNE BOZZA (1905–1991)

### ***Aria***

### ***Idylle***

John Warren, clarinet

Benjamin Wadsworth

SAMUEL BARBER (1910–1981)

***A Green Lowland of Pianos, opus 45, No. 2***

Nathan Munson

Benjamin Wadsworth

JAKE HEGGIE (b. 1961)

***This Journey***

from *Dead Man Walking*

Heather Witt

Benjamin Wadsworth

BRYDEN / JOHN LAWLESS (b. 1959)

***Astro***

John Lawless, percussion

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF (1873–1943)

***Vesennije vodi (Spring Waters), opus 14, No. 11***

Nathan Munson

Benjamin Wadsworth

# Biographies



**Nathan Munson, tenor** has been praised for his vocal beauty, and proven to be a versatile presence on the concert and operatic stage.

He has sung leading and supporting roles with the Sarasota Opera, Hawaii Opera Theatre, the Atlanta Opera, Opera North, Piccola Opera San Antonio, Capitol City Opera, dell'Arte Opera, and the Illinois Opera Theatre. Roles include Beppe in *I pagliacci*, the Steersman in Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer*, Normanno in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Pedrillo in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, El Dancaïre in *Carmen*, Rodolfo in *La bohème*, Roméo in *Roméo et Juliette*,

Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, Cassio in Verdi's *Otello*, and Dr. Baglioni in a world premiere revision of Daniel Catan's *La Hija di Rappaccini*.

In addition to his operatic appearances, Dr. Munson has been a frequent visitor to the concert stage. He made his Carnegie Hall debut as tenor soloist in Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, and debuted with the Helena Symphony Orchestra as tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah*. He has been a featured soloist in Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, Bruckner's *Te Deum*, Bach's *B-minor Mass* and *Magnificat*, and Mozart's *Requiem*. He has also been a featured soloist with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, Hunstville Symphony, and the Georgia Symphony.

Dr. Munson can be heard on the world premiere recording of *The Golden Ticket* (Albany Records), and was a featured soloist in a Christmas Concert with the Atlanta Opera, which was recorded live for broadcast by WABE-Atlanta.

**Heather Witt, mezzo-soprano** called by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, "...the kind of singer you hope to hear - talented, alert... a singer with a future." Ms. Witt is known for her portrayal of a wide array of opera's most notable mezzo-soprano characters, including: Gertrude in *Roméo et Juliette*, Giulietta in *Les contes d'hoffman* (FIO, Brazil), Dryad in *Ariadne Auf Naxos*, Principessa in *Suor Angelica*, Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*, Second



Lady and Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Elmire in *Tartuffe*, Mrs. Nolan in *The Medium*, Meg in *Falstaff*, Sally in *Hand of Bridge*, and Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, among many others.

Most recently Heather Witt performed in the debut of a fully staged production of Hans Eisler's *Hollywood Songbook* (Songfest). The L. A. Times called her performance "...uniformly impressive." She has also performed the roles of Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, Phobia in *La Pizza con Funghi*, and was the alto soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with the Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium (Anderson, SC).

Ms. Witt won first place in Georgia State University's Bauru Atlanta Competition, was an Emerging Artist at St. Petersburg Opera (FL), and also attended the prestigious Opera Division at La Musica Lirica in Novafeltria, Italy. In 2013, Ms. Witt made her South American debut with Festival of International Opera of the Americas in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She has been a featured soloist for many Atlanta Opera events and collaborations.

Ms. Witt completed her undergraduate studies in Music at Millikin University, and received a Masters in Voice from Georgia State University.



**John Warren, clarinet** is Associate Professor of Clarinet, having joined the Kennesaw State University faculty in 2006. His previous University affiliations include Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia, and The University of Nebraska at Omaha. He was for fifteen years the principal clarinetist of the Savannah Symphony Orchestra and prior to that position, the principal clarinetist of the Omaha Symphony. He also served as principal clarinetist of the Des Moines Metro Opera for many summers prior to arriving in Atlanta. At

KSU, Mr. Warren teaches studio clarinet, wind chamber music, and chairs the Woodwind Performance Area.

Originally from Shreveport, Louisiana, Mr. Warren holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati College/Conservatory of Music and The Curtis

Institute of Music in Philadelphia. His most influential teachers include Donald Montanaro, L. Thomas LeGrand and Richard Waller.

He has performed as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the IRIS Orchestra, the Curtis Institute Orchestra, and the Symphonies of Savannah, Omaha, Hilton Head, and Beaufort, SC. As a recitalist and chamber musician, Mr. Warren has appeared at the Aspen Music Festival, the Evian Festival and the Highlands Chamber Music Festival. He has presented chamber music programs in France, Italy, Spain, Luxembourg, and Monaco as well. He was a featured recitalist at the International Clarinet Association's 2005, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 conferences, and has coordinated the Association's High School Solo Competition.

Mr. Warren is a member of the Atlanta Opera Orchestra, the IRIS Orchestra of Memphis, TN, as well as performing frequently and recording with the Atlanta Symphony. His playing can be heard on the Telarc, Naxos, Albany, ASO Media, and New World labels. He is a Performing Artist for Yamaha, playing their CSVR instruments, and D'Addario, using their X10E mouthpiece and reeds.



**John Lawless, percussion** joined the music faculty of Kennesaw State University in 1998 and became the Director of Percussion Studies in 2004. Principal Timpanist of the Atlanta Opera orchestra since 1979, John held the same position with the Chattanooga Symphony for 21 years.

Since 1978, Mr. Lawless has performed, toured and recorded with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra while maintaining a thriving freelance career as a studio and pit percussionist.

A founding member of the Atlanta Percussion Trio, Mr. Lawless performs hundreds of school concerts a year for thousands of children throughout the Southeastern United States. Along with Scott Douglas and Karen Hunt, the trio has been a performing group for 32 years, bringing educational programs to children of all ages.

As a soloist, Mr. Lawless played several concertos with the Chattanooga Symphony, including: *The Olympian for 8 Timpani and Orchestra* as well as *The Messenger for Multiple Percussion and Orchestra*, both written

by James Oliverio. In 2009, Mr. Lawless performed Joseph Schwantner's *Concerto for Percussion* with the Cobb Symphony Orchestra. In 2014, he performed the Southeastern premier of Christopher Theofinidis' *Marimba Concerto* with the KSU Wind Ensemble for the Festival of New Music.

A graduate of Georgia State University, Mr. Lawless' teachers include Tom Float, Jack Bell, Cloyd Duff, Paul Yancich, Bill Wilder and Mark Yancich. Previous faculty appointments include those at Georgia State University, Clark Atlanta University and West Georgia State University.



**Ben Wadsworth, piano.** After spending his childhood in Connecticut, Dr. Wadsworth attended Oberlin College where he studied piano with Sanford Margolis and organ with Haskell Thomson. He graduated in 1998 with a Bachelor of Music with majors in Piano Performance and Music Theory and a minor in Organ. In 1999, he moved to Rochester, New York, where he completed a PhD in music theory in 2008. After graduating from the Eastman School of Music, Ben taught at Louisiana State University for one year, then moved to the Atlanta area in 2009. He

is now Associate Professor of Music Theory at Kennesaw State University, where he oversees the written theory area.

Ben is a regular presenter on topics of musical analysis at national and local conferences. He has written on Schenkerian analysis, music theory pedagogy, 19th-century music, and early 20th-century music. He has a review of a Schenkerian textbook for *Music Theory Online* coming out in September. He has given lecture-recitals on piano music of Arnold Schoenberg and Robert Schumann, and piano and organ music of J. S. Bach. He is currently serving a second term as President of the South-Central Society for Music Theory.

Locally, Ben is active as organist and choir director at Kennesaw's First United Lutheran Church. In addition to his musical interests, Ben enjoys spending time with his wife, Kelly Francis, and their two children, Sophie and Peter.



**Matt Haffner, artist.** Associate Professor of Photography and Video at Kennesaw State University, is an Atlanta based photographer, mixed-media, and installation artist. As a celebrated artist, Matt has been awarded several prestigious grants, fellowships, and residencies including a National Endowment for the Arts project grant, a Working Artist

Fellowship at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, a Forward Arts Foundation award, two residencies at the Hambidge Center for the Arts, a Creative Practice Research Grant from Kennesaw State University, along with many other awards. He has had several solo exhibitions of his work in Atlanta, New York, Philadelphia, Memphis and has been included in countless exhibitions regionally, nationally, and internationally. His work is in a wide variety of collections including museums, universities, corporate, and private collections.

For more information visit [www.matthaffner.com](http://www.matthaffner.com).



Zuckerman Museum of Art





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The School of Music at Kennesaw State University continues to be an exciting place! This year's *Signature Series* features four wonderful performances that we know will be memorable and well worth your investment.

The 27-time Grammy Award winning Atlanta Symphony is with us again. We so value our professional relationship with this orchestra and we love having them here on our Morgan stage. If you have not yet purchased your season tickets, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible.


Having just completed our 10th Anniversary Season, the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center is poised to begin the next decade of bringing you outstanding musical performances and artists from around the world. The Bailey Center continues to be transformational in the life of our School and for you, our patrons!


We are continuing our *Name a Seat* campaign this year. If you have a friend, loved one, child, student, teacher, or significant other that you would like to honor or memorialize, we welcome your support. Your \$1,000 gift to the *Name a Seat* endowment helps us to ensure that we can continue to bring you amazing musical performances well into the future.


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 we will accomplish together!


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

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