

2019

Student Composers' Recital

featuring works by

Ben Champion, Nicholas A. Felder, Matthias Kosse,
Yazmeen Mayes, Nolan Rodack and Brianna Spottsville



Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 8 pm

Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall

Seventy-fifth Concert of the 2018-19 Concert Season



BRIANNA SPOTTSVILLE (b. 1998)

Triumph (2019)

Michael Brown, trumpet
Andrew Olsen, trumpet
Heather Leach-Trickle, horn
Kirill Wood, trombone
Andrew Berry, tuba

NICHOLAS A. FELDER (b. 1997)

Racing to Find Some Truth (2018)

Melissa Ake, violin I
Scott Lozier, violin II
Charles Page, viola
Tiffany Chen, cello

YAZMEEN MAYES (b. 2000)

Use Your Blinkers and Signal (2019)

Ruth Bearden, flute
Christina Pacetti, oboe
Faith Kirkpatrick, clarinet
Hayden McAfee, horn
Meghan O'Harra, bassoon

NOLAN RODACK (b. 1995)

Heart (2018)

Melody Bearden, violin I
Jeavanie Desarmes, violin II
M. K. Guthrie, viola
Esme Aleksandra Mason, cello
Laurel Buchanan, harp

NICHOLAS A. FELDER

Rick & Josie: The Musical (2017)

Xandrya Edwards, soprano
Parker Ossmann, tenor
Judith Cole, piano
Clay Rogers, narrator

MATTHIAS KOSSE (b. 1999)

Trepidatio (2018)

Melissa Ake, violin I
Jenna Flohr, violin II
Ryan Finlayson, viola
Lacee Link, cello
Daniel Barket, double bass

BEN CHAMPION (b. 1952)

First Time Again (2019)

I. Makin' Time
II. 3 Quarter Time
III. Never Enough Thyme
IV. Out'v Time

Ruth Bearden, flute
Christina Pacetti, oboe
Faith Kirkpatrick, clarinet
Hayden McAfee, horn
Meghan O'Harra, bassoon

Composer Biographies

Ben Champion was seduced by music almost from birth. As a toddler he was mesmerized whenever music of any genre was within earshot. As a youth he became fairly proficient as a pianist, then a drummer/percussionist, and later a pop guitarist. In midlife he turned his ear and heart toward composition. Now retired from teaching and performing, he has decided to re-enter the academic environment to further hone his compositional flair. When asked why he chose a career in music he said, "I didn't choose music. Music chose me."

Nicholas A. Felder began composing music at the age of sixteen. Premiered at his graduation ceremony at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater, Felder wrote "A War for Peace," his first work for large orchestra. He 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 to write for, more recently experimenting with musical theatre, Argentinian Tango and African tribal music.

Felder is currently fulfilling a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Composition at Kennesaw State University. He studies with Composer-in-Residence, Dr. Laurence Sherr.

Matthias Kosse is a sophomore composition major at Kennesaw State University. His primary instrument is the piano, although he also has experience playing the violin and clarinet. He plans to become a composer for films, television, and video games when he graduates. He became interested in soundtracks around the age of 8 when he became obsessed with the soundtrack for "Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith." Since then he has become more experienced with the piano and learning soundtracks on the piano from ear, eventually starting to compose music himself. This is the first performance of an original composition of his.

Yazmeen Mayes is a freshman at Kennesaw State University. She attended high school in Loganville, Georgia, and is now pursuing her degree in composition. Though Yazmeen comes from a choral background, this program has introduced her to the vast world of instruments. She is incredibly grateful for the music that shaped her tiny ears, and she is even more grateful for your attendance and support. Enjoy!

Nolan Rodack was born in Chicago, IL, and raised in Marietta, Georgia. Nolan was blessed with growing up in a musical family of three older brothers, a mom and a dad. He studied percussion for eight years, middle school through his first year of study at Auburn University, and currently plays double bass for the Kennesaw State University Symphony Orchestra. Nolan's primary instrument is the tenor ukulele, which he studied for eight years. At Auburn University, he co-founded the Auburn University United Ukulele Collaboration where he held the title of President, and taught others ukulele to varying degrees. Currently, Nolan is studying music composition at Kennesaw State University.

Brianna Spottsville, "I started my journey to becoming a music major when I was in 6th grade after I begged my parents to let me play the violin after seeing a group called Nutin' But Stringz on TV. I played the violin for six years and have been playing viola for the past three years. I fell in love with music composition when I was a freshman in high school. I wrote my first piece titled "A Passing Tornado" for strings in just one night. I entered that piece in the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Composition Competition and, much to my disbelief, I received 4th place. After that experience, I knew that composition was something that I wanted/needed to keep doing, which brings me to now as a 2nd year composition major."



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Woodwinds

Kelly Bryant, *Flute, Chamber Music*
Robert Cronin, *Flute*
Todd Skitch, *Flute*
Christina Smith, *Flute*
Cecilia Price, *Flute, Chamber Music*
Barbara Cook, *Oboe*
Elizabeth Koch Tiscione, *Oboe*
John Warren, *Clarinet, Chamber Music*
Andrew Brady, *Bassoon*
Anthony Georgeson, *Bassoon*
Sam Skelton, *Saxophone*
Luke Weathington, *Saxophone*

Brass & Percussion

Doug Lindsey, *Trumpet, Chamber Music*
Ryan Moser, *Trumpet*
Mike Tiscione, *Trumpet*
Jason Eklund, *Horn*
Richard Williams, *Horn*
Tom Gibson, *Trombone*
Hollie Pritchard, *Trombone*
Brian Hecht, *Bass Trombone*
Jason Casanova, *Tuba / Euphonium*
Paul Dickinson, *Tuba / Euphonium*
Marja Kerney, *Percussion*
John Lawless, *Percussion*

Strings

Helen Kim, *Violin*
Kenn Wagner, *Violin, Chamber Music*
David Coucheron, *Orchestral Studies*
Catherine Lynn, *Viola*
Paul Murphy, *Viola*
Charae Krueger, *Cello*
James Barket, *Double Bass*
Joseph McFadden, *Double Bass*
Elisabeth Remy Johnson, *Harp*
Sean Thrower, *Classical Guitar*

Voice

Eileen Moremen	Todd Wedge
Oral Moses	Heather Witt
Nathan Munson	Jana Young
Valerie Walters	

Piano

Judith Cole,	Julie Coucheron
<i>Collaborative Piano</i>	Robert Henry
Eric Jenkins,	Huu Mai
<i>Collaborative Piano</i>	John Marsh
Erika Tazawa,	
<i>Collaborative Piano</i>	

Jazz

Justin Chesarek, *Jazz Percussion*
Wes Funderburk, *Jazz Trombone, Jazz Ensembles*
Karla Harris, *Vocal Jazz*
Tyronne Jackson, *Jazz Piano*
Marc Miller, *Jazz Bass*
Sam Skelton, *Jazz Ensembles*
Rob Opitz, *Jazz Trumpet*
Trey Wright, *Jazz Guitar, Jazz Combos*

Ensembles & Conductors

Leslie J. Blackwell, *Choral Activities*
Nancy Conley, *Philharmonic Orchestra*
Trey Harris, *University Band, Marching Band*
Alison Mann, *Choral Activities*
Oral Moses, *Gospel Choir*
Eileen Moremen, *Opera*
Nathaniel F. Parker, *Symphony Orchestra*
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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



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Thank you for making time in your busy schedules to support the performances of the Kennesaw State University School of Music. We are excited that you are here and we appreciate your love of music and support of our faculty, students and musical guests!

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.


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 can accomplish together!


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

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