

# SCHOOL of MUSIC

where PASSION is *heard*

***"Some of Our Favorite Tunes"***

**KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament**



Tuesday, March 10, 2020 | 8:00 PM

**Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center**  
**Audrey B. and Jack E. Morgan, Sr. Concert Hall**

# Program

## ***“Some of Our Favorite Tunes”*** **KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament**

*Selections to be announced from the stage.*

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# Personnel

## KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament



**Sam Skelton**  
*Reeds*



**Rob Opitz**  
*Trumpet | Flugelhorn*



**Wes Funderburk**  
*Trombone*



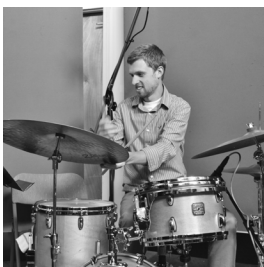
**Trey Wright**  
*Guitar*



**Tyrone Jackson**  
*Piano*



**Marc Miller**  
*Bass*



**Justin Chesarek**  
*Drums*



**Karla Harris**  
*Vocals*

# Biographies

**Sam Skelton** - A native of Conyers, Georgia, Sam Skelton has been active on the Atlanta music scene for well over three decades. Mr. Skelton graduated summa cum laude from Georgia State University with a degree in Jazz Studies. During his course of study at GSU, Sam was a Montgomery Music Scholar and a two-time fellowship recipient to the Aspen Music Festival. He continued his saxophone studies with Kenneth Radnofsky at Boston University in 1991 focusing on classical saxophone and music education. Other teachers include David and James "Dub" Hudson and Jeff Benedict.

Sam is currently Director of Jazz Studies and Senior Lecturer in Saxophone at Kennesaw State University. He is also Artistic Director of GSO Jazz and GYSO Jazz. Sam served as Professor of Saxophone at Georgia State University from 1991 to 2004 and was Jazz Ensemble Director at Georgia Tech from 2002-2004 and Artist-in-Residence at The University Of Georgia Jazz Department. He served as Visiting Professor of Saxophone at Furman University 2001-02. Professional associations include: The Jazz Educators Network, Georgia Music Educators Association, Georgia Association of Jazz Educators, National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (voting member) and the American Federation of Musicians. For his contributions to the city's cultural life, Atlanta Public Broadcasting named him a "Lexus Leader in the Arts" in 2003. Sam is proud to be a Conn-Selmer and D'Addario Artist.

**Rob Opitz** holds the title of Artist- in-Residence in Jazz Trumpet at Kennesaw State University. Originally from Illinois, Mr. Opitz's career has ranged from elementary music, to middle school, high school, and now at the collegiate level. Mr. Opitz has been the Director of Bands at Marietta High School, Creekview High School, Barber Middle School, and Reinhardt University.

Rob is a very active performer. Recently, Rob completed a 4 week tour with international superstar Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds. The tour featured multiple US Cities, Austin City Limits, and the Jimmy Kimmel show. Rob is the founder and director of his own group, the Atlanta Latin Jazz Orchestra – an 18 piece big band featuring the music of some of the greats in Latin Jazz.

He has also appeared as a sideman with Tito Puente, Louis Bellson, Marian McPartland, Rufus Reid, Hal Crook, Marshal Royal, Jon Faddis, Diane Schuur, Paquito D'Rivera, Cladio Roditi, Bob Mintzer, and many more. Rob has performed in local groups in the metro Atlanta Area, including Orquesta MaCuba, the Georgia Symphony Orchestra Jazz Ensemble, Yacht Rock Revue, Bumpin' the Mango,

Bogey and the Viceroy, the Joe Gransden Big Band, Macon Pops Orchestra, and numerous others.

Rob has been married to a terrific woman and Pre-K teacher, Stacie, for over 20 years and has two wonderful sons, Michael and Zach – both of whom are musicians.

**Wes Funderburk** has performed across the United States and Europe and is currently one of the most sought after trombonists and arrangers in the Southeast. He has written, performed and recorded with a wide array of national and internationally-renowned artists including: Arrested Development, John Driskell Hopkins, Jennifer Holliday, Natalie Cole, Jermaine Dupri, Cee Lo, the Boston Brass, Dallas Austin, Joe Gransden, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Pops Orchestra, the Macon Pops Orchestra as well as the Cartoon Network and the Weather Channel.

Wes' arranging credits include music for the Joe Gransden Big Band, Russell Gunn's Krunk Jazz Orchestra, Jennifer Holliday, John Driskell Hopkins, the Atlanta Pops, Natalie Cole, the Georgia Brass Band, Kennesaw State University Jazz Ensemble, Georgia State University Jazz Ensemble and the Piedmont Trombone Society.

Wes earned his Bachelor's Degree in trombone performance from the University of North Florida and his Masters' Degree in trombone performance with a concentration in jazz studies from Georgia State University. He is a former governor for the Atlanta chapter of the Recording Academy and is a performing artist for Rath trombones.

**Tyrone Jackson** - The name Tyrone Jackson is quickly becoming synonymous with the quintessential jazz piano player. Born in the New Orleans cradle of jazz, Jackson embodies the spirit of the Crescent City. As a composer, Jackson has composed original music for the Alliance theater's productions of "Native Guard", "Tell Me My Dream" and "Ethel". Additionally, Jackson has composed and recorded 4 CD's and performed on countless others. His newest CD, "From The Mind Of" is a testament of his ability to crossover genre lines. Jackson has performed with Steve Turre, Larry Carlton, Wynton Marsalis, Branford Marsalis, Wycliffe Gordon, Vincent Gardner, Joe Lovano, Jennifer Holliday, Russell Malone, and Marcus Miller. Currently Tyrone Jackson is a professor at Kennesaw State University where he is Lecturer of Jazz Piano and teaches a myriad of classes.

**Trey Wright** is a jazz guitarist and composer based in Roswell, Ga. At KSU, Trey currently teaches Applied Jazz Guitar, Jazz Theory and Composition, Jazz Guitar Ensemble, Jazz History, Jazz Improvisation and The History of Rock. Trey has also taught at LaGrange College, Gainesville College, the Atlanta Institute of Music and the University of Georgia.

Trey leads or co-leads several jazz groups including the Laura Coyle and Trey Wright duo, the Trey Wright Trio and the Hibbard/Wright Project. In addition, Trey also performs freelance in the Atlanta area and has performed with Yellowjackets bassist Jimmy Haslip, John Patitucci, Joe Lovano, Corey Christiansen and Darmon Meader of the New York Voices. Trey has performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival; Jazz A Vienne; the International Festival of University Theatre of Casablanca Morocco; the World Sacred Music Festival in Bangalore, India; and in Montepulciano, Italy. In early 2008, Trey began playing with the Georgia Symphony Jazz Orchestra.

In 2006, Trey released his first CD *Where I'm Calling From*, receiving rave reviews and airplay throughout the United States and abroad. The Trey Wright Trio released *Thinking Out Loud* in the summer of 2009 on Blue Canoe Records. In the Fall of 2012, the Trey Wright Trio's version of Thom Yorke's "Analyze" was included on the compilation *Head Radio Retransmissions: A Tribute to Radiohead* on the German label ESC records. Other recent CD projects include *The Hibbard/Wright Project* (2013) and *Songs From Oak Avenue* (2015). Over the past two years, Trey's Blue Canoe releases were included as part of Delta Airlines In Flight Entertainment on domestic and international routes.

**Marc Miller** joined Kennesaw State University in 2010. Starting on tuba in elementary school, he picked up electric bass in middle school and double bass in college. Studying under Melanie Punter and Bill Peterson, Marc completed his bachelor's degree at Florida State University in jazz studies. He then went on to study under John Fremgen and David Neubert at the University of Texas at Austin, completing his master's degree in performance in 2002.

Comfortable in any musical style, Marc has performed and recorded with many jazz artists, rock groups, tango, hip-hop, flamenco, salsa, and folk ensembles. While in Austin he was a member of pioneering jazz group *Blaze*, winner of the Austin Music Awards Best Jazz Group for several years running. He has performed regularly with Bob Reynolds, Jason Marsalis, and Lizz Wright. He has also shared the stage with Tim Hagans, Bob Brookmeyer, Wynton Marsalis, Marcus Printup, and Mike Stern. Marc can be heard performing around town in a variety of ensembles, encompassing many genres of music.

He is a regular member of the Trey Wright Trio and the Mace Hibbard Group, appearing on their most recent albums, as well as many other local jazz ensembles. Additionally, he performs with salsa groups Orquesta Macuba and Vecinos Del Mundo, pit orchestras at the Fox, The Atlanta Pops Orchestra, and many other local artists.

**Justin Chesarek** - Percussionist Justin Chesarek began gigging at the age of twelve with Pittsburgh jazz legend Harold Betters and spent time listening to Roger Humphries live, well-known for his work with Horace Silver.

After earning a Bachelors of Music in Music Education from Slippery Rock University, Justin pursued a Masters of Music and Jazz Studies at Georgia State University. Along the way, Chesarek filled his gig-calendar, making a name for himself as an exceptional musician.

He performs regularly with Joe Alterman, Trey Wright, Gary Motley, The Joe Gransden Big Band, the ATL Collective, and he is a regular at the Atlanta Jazz Festival. He has performed at The Iridium and The Blue Note in New York, Washington D.C's Kennedy Center, a TED Talk, the Juneau Jazz and Classics Festival in Alaska, The North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland, and the Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland.

Chesarek teaches Jazz Percussion at Kennesaw State University, he is the Artist Affiliate of Jazz Percussion at Emory University, and he runs a private studio of his own, working with students of all ages. His students have gone on to become professional touring musicians, off-broadway theater pit players, and top call Atlanta drummers. He is a board member of the Atlanta Lovers of Music Association, and a proud endorser of Regal Tip drum sticks, mallets, and brushes.

Justin lives in Decatur, with his wife and daughter.

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**Karla Harris**, known for nuanced jazz vocals that bring a sophisticated ease and dynamic delivery, has made a career within the art form she loves for more than three decades performing for audiences from Portland to Provence. She displays an instinctive ability to share the story, emotion and musical substance of the songs she sings, spanning genres and styles, blending boundaries with subtlety.

A St. Louis native, Karla began singing jazz during college as a member of the St. Louis Jazz Quartet. In 2004, she moved to Portland, OR, and was quickly embraced by that city's vibrant jazz scene, performing regularly with the area's celebrated artists at top venues and events such as the Portland Jazz Festival, Cathedral Park Jazz Festival and Newport Jazz Party.

In 2012, she relocated to Atlanta. She has sung at jazz events and venues throughout the region including the Sarasota Jazz Festival, the Callanwolde Arts Festival, the Jazz Corner, the Palladium, Churchill Grounds, and more, and headlined numerous shows at Downbeat magazine top-rated Velvet Note Acoustic Living Room.

In 2015, Karla released "Karla Harris Sings the Dave and Lola Brubeck Songbook" on Summit Records. Of the project, critics write: "A work of sheer elegance and distinction." - Jazz da Gama; "The Brubecks would have been pleased." - Jazziz Magazine. "A vocal artist with impeccable phrasing and the innate gift to have the band play with and not around her." - Critical Jazz. Karla's contemporary versions of Brubeck classics such as "Take Five" are played on jazz stations internationally.





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## Name A Seat

in Morgan Concert Hall

The School of Music is offering the opportunity for friends and patrons to dedicate a seat in Morgan Concert Hall. Each dedicated seat will be permanently affixed with a plaque bearing your name, business name, or the name of someone you wish to honor.

Your contribution of \$1000 per seat will immediately impact the programs of the School of Music and help to sustain the exceptional quality of music and live performance at KSU for years to come.

To make a donation  
or for more info, contact:

**Dr. Leslie J. Blackwell**

**[lblackwe@kennesaw.edu](mailto:lblackwe@kennesaw.edu)**

**470-578-6151**

**[musicKSU.com](http://musicKSU.com)**

**College of the Arts**

**Dr. Ivan Pulinkala - Dean**

**Prof. Harrison Long - Senior Associate Dean /  
Interim Chair, Theatre & Performance Studies**

**Dr. Jessica Stephenson - Interim Associate Dean**

**Prof. Geo Sipp - Director, School of Art & Design**

**Prof. McCree O'Kelley - Interim Chair, Department of Dance**

**Dr. Leslie J. Blackwell - Interim Director, School of Music**

# SCHOOL OF MUSIC FACULTY AND STAFF

Leslie J. Blackwell, *Interim Director*

## Brass and Percussion

Jason Casanova, *Tuba/Euphonium*  
Paul Dickinson, *Tuba/Euphonium*  
Tom Gibson, *Trombone*  
Brian Hecht, *Bass Trombone*  
John Lawless, *Percussion*,  
*Area Coordinator*

Doug Lindsey, *Trumpet*,  
*Area Coordinator*  
Ryan Moser, *Trumpet*  
Hollie Pritchard, *Trombone*  
Michael Stubbart, *Percussion*  
Mike Tiscione, *Trumpet*  
Richard Williams, *Horn*

## Strings

James Barket, *Double Bass*  
Elisabeth Remy Johnson, *Harp*  
Helen Kim, *Violin*, *Area Coordinator*  
Yinzi Kong, *Viola*  
Charae Krueger, *Cello*

Joseph McFadden, *Double Bass*  
Sean Thrower, *Classical Guitar*  
Kenn Wagner, *Violin*

## Woodwinds

Andrew Brady, *Bassoon*  
Kelly Bryant, *Flute*  
Barbara Cook, *Oboe*  
Robert Cronin, *Flute*  
Anthony Georgeson, *Bassoon*  
Cecilia Price, *Flute*  
Sam Skelton, *Saxophone*

Todd Skitch, *Flute*  
Christina Smith, *Flute*  
Justin Stanley, *Clarinet*  
Elizabeth Koch Tiscione, *Oboe*  
John Warren, *Clarinet*,  
*Area Coordinator*  
Luke Weathington, *Saxophone*

## Jazz

Justin Chesarek,  
*Jazz Percussion & Combos*  
Wes Funderburk, *Jazz Ensembles and*  
*Jazz Trombone*  
Karla Harris, *Vocal Jazz & Combo*  
Tyrone Jackson, *Jazz Piano & Combos*  
Marc Miller, *Jazz Bass & Combos*

Rob Opitz, *Jazz Ensembles and*  
*Jazz Trumpet*  
Sam Skelton, *Jazz Ensembles and*  
*Jazz Saxophone*, *Area Coordinator*  
Luke Weathington,  
*Jazz Saxophone & Combos*  
Trey Wright, *Jazz Guitar & Combos*,  
*Area Coordinator*

## Voice

Eileen Moremen  
Oral Moses  
Nathan Munson  
Valerie Walters

Todd Wedge  
Heather Witt  
Jana Young, *Area Coordinator*

## Piano

Judy Cole, *Collaborative Piano*  
Julie Coucheron  
Robert Henry, *Area Coordinator*  
Eric Jenkins,  
*Collaborative Piano Coordinator*

Huu Mai  
John Marsh  
Erika Tazawa, *Collaborative Piano*

## **Ensembles in Residence**

Georgia Youth Symphony  
Orchestra and Chorus  
KSU Community & Alumni Choir

KSU Faculty Chamber Players  
KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament  
Summit Piano Trio

## **Ensembles & Conductors**

Leslie J. Blackwell, *Director of  
Choral Activities*  
Nancy Conley, *Philharmonic Orchestra*  
David T. Kehler, *Director of Bands*  
Alison Mann, *Women's Choir*  
Reid Masters, *Assistant Director of  
Choral Activities*  
Eileen Moremen, *Opera Theater*  
Oral Moses, *Gospel Choir*

Nathaniel F. Parker, *Director of  
Orchestral Studies*  
Joseph Scheivert,  
*Assistant Director of Bands*  
Sam Skelton, *Director of Jazz Studies*  
Debra Traficante,  
*Associate Director of Bands*

## **Chamber Music**

Julie Coucheron, *Piano Ensemble*  
Charae Krueger, *String Chamber Music*  
Doug Lindsey, *Brass Chamber Music*

John Warren,  
*Woodwind Chamber Music*  
Trey Wright, *Jazz Combos*

## **Music Education**

Judith Beale  
Janet Boner  
Nancy Conley  
Kathleen D. Creasy  
Charles R. Jackson  
Alison Mann, *Area Coordinator*  
Angee McKee

Richard McKee  
Terri Talley  
Paula Thomas-Lee  
Charles Tighe  
Amber Weldon-Stephens

## **Musicology & Music Appreciation**

Drew Dolan  
Edward Eanes, *Area Coordinator*  
Heather Hart  
Kayleen Justus

John Marsh  
Jennifer Mitchell  
Harry E. Price  
Sean Thrower

## **Music Composition, Technology, & Theory**

Judy Cole, *Music Theory*  
Steve Dancz, *Composition, Technology*  
Kelly Francis, *Music Theory*  
Chad Hunt, *Aural Skills*  
Tyrone Jackson, *Music Theory*  
Jennifer Mitchell, *Composition*

Laurence Sherr, *Composition, Technology,  
Bachelor of Arts Area Coordinator*  
Benjamin Wadsworth, *Music Theory  
Area Coordinator*  
Jeff Yunek, *Music Theory, Aural Skills  
Area Coordinator*

## **School of Music Staff**

Christine Collins, *Audition  
Coordinator and Advising*  
Mark Fucito, *Technical Manager*  
Symone Grady, *Communications &  
Outreach Manager*  
Susan M. Grant Robinson, *Associate  
Director for Administration*

Joseph Greenway, *Assistant Director  
for Production & Technology*  
Bobbi Harman, *Office Manager*  
Chris Merkle, *Associate Director  
for Programming & Operations*  
Colleen Radbill, *Office Manager*  
Devin Aaron Witt, *Production Assistant*

# Upcoming Events

## Duo Trompiano

Wednesday, 03/11/2020 at 8 pm

## Jazz Ensembles II & III

Thursday, 03/12/2020 at 8 pm

## Jazz Combos

Monday, 03/16/2020 at 5:30 pm & 8 pm in Scott Hall

## 2020 Steinway Spectacular

Thursday, 03/19/2020 at 8 pm

## *arts* KSU Presents: Afro-Cuban Jazz Artist Brenda Navarrete

Saturday, 03/21/2020 at 8 pm

An emerging flagbearer among the vanguard of female Cuban musicians, Afro-Cuban singer, songwriter, and percussionist Brenda Navarrete combines a foundation of Latin jazz and Afro-Cuban influences with elements of contemporary world music, originality, and relentless energy to form her unique sound. Touring internationally and frequently collaborating with Cuba's notable music elite, the award-winning jazzista is perhaps best known for her skill on the batá, a drum traditionally used in Yoruban spiritual practices that women were once forbidden to play. Presented as part of Kennesaw State University's 2019-20 Year of Cuba.

## *arts* KSU Presents: Atlanta Symphony Orchestra with Nicholas Carter, conductor, and Midori, violin

Friday, 04/17/2020 at 8 pm

Dazzling audiences and critics alike since her celebrated debut at age 11, superstar violinist Midori performs Bartók's Violin Concerto No. 2. In a concerto peppered by the sounds of a Hungarian folksong, Midori showcases her graceful precision and intimate expression as one of the world's most acclaimed violinists. Making his Atlanta Symphony debut, Australian rising-star Nicholas Carter leads the orchestra in Haydn's Symphony No. 44 ("Trauersinfonie") before concluding the program with Prokofiev's wartime piece written in 1944 as Russian troops turned the tables on the German army: the massive and exhilarating Symphony No. 5.



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