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MUSIC

KSU Symphony Orchestra

Nathaniel F. Parker, conductor
Mark Laycock, guest conductor

March 22, 2022 | 7:30 p.m.

Morgan Concert Hall
Bailey Performance Center

MusicKSU.com



KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Dr. Bobbie Bailey

School of Music

Welcome to the Bailey School of Music at Kennesaw State University!

A student-centered academic community on the move, we are passionate about learning through transformative musical and educational experiences. Music engages, heals, elevates, and inspires. The Bailey School of Music's talented students, expert faculty and dedicated staff connect and empower people near and far, and, in so doing, work to improve the world.

Nestled in the Kennesaw State University College of the Arts, the Bailey School of Music enjoys an extraordinary ecosystem of artistic expression and scholarship. Therefore, music students enjoy both distinctive personal attention and the resources of a thriving, large public university. What's more, our Kennesaw and Marietta campuses breathe and contribute to the dynamic cultural, economic, and geographic assets of metro Atlanta.

Music makes for a fabulous journey! Here, you'll find a world of sounds, ideas, and possibilities on the stage as in the classroom. Let us hear from you as we shape extraordinary futures together.

Jesús Castro-Balbi, D. M. A.
Director and Professor
Dr. Bobbie Bailey School of Music

where **PASSION** is *heard*



PROGRAM

Brandon Gasaway (b. 2001)

FAIRY TALE OVERTURE (2021)

World Premiere Performance

Winner, 2020 KSU School of Music Composition Competition

Nolan Rodack (b. 1995)

THEME AND VARIATIONS FOR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (2019)

World Premiere Performance

Winner, 2019 KSU School of Music Composition Competition

Jacob Lack (b. 1999)

INTO THE VALLEY (2021)

World Premiere Performance

Winner, 2021 KSU Bailey School of Music Composition Competition

Nathaniel F. Parker, conductor

INTERMISSION

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

SYMPHONY NO. 8 IN B MINOR, D. 759, UNFINISHED

I. Allegro moderato

II. Andante con moto

José Pablo Moncayo (1912-1958)

HUAPANGO (1941)

Mark Laycock, conductor



PROGRAM NOTES

Fairy Tale Overture (2021) | Brandon Gasaway

Fairy Tale Overture captures the essence of a children's fantasy world while exploring the sounds of a modern classical orchestra. Beginning with "Once upon a time..." and ending with "...and they lived happily ever after, the end" shows the true character of the piece. Written with its own unique fairy tale to go along with the piece, it is an adventure of a lifetime for the audience!

The main character is a small female elf, yearning to go outside her village walls for an adventure. One day, she sneaks out while her family is distracted with work to explore the neighboring cliff towering over the village. As the piece moves into a more spritely and energetic style, she starts to climb the cliff as a thunderstorm approaches. As she reaches the top, she slips and falls down, hitting every ledge of a crag before landing on a ship in the ocean below. She looks around and realizes that she is on a pirate ship that is being attacked by the royal armada! With the waves crashing against the ship, she hides in the hold while the pirates are distracted with the opponent across the bay. She slowly comes out of hiding, where she is then spotted and chased around the deck before she loses her footing and falls off the ship into the ocean. Not knowing how to swim, she begins to drown. As she is about to lose consciousness, she feels something grab her and pull her out from the water.

As the harp and strings signal a change in pace, she looks up and sees that a griffin has saved her from drowning! They fly through the sky before eventually landing at the Kingdom of the Sky, a hidden floating castle in the clouds. When she lands, the curious elf can hear bells ringing in the distance and an orchestra playing. She follows the sound and comes upon the wedding day of the prince and princess of the kingdom! They dance around with each other as the guests sing along to the melody. She watches the wedding from a distance, but begins to feel sick and passes out.

(continued on next page)



PROGRAM NOTES

(CONTINUED)

Fairy Tale Overture (2021), continued | Brandon Gasaway

But wait! It was just a fairy tale of her own! When she fell off the pirate ship, she lost consciousness after hitting her head at the bottom of the crag. She was then found on a beach by a rescue team from the elf village. Leading the team is her father, who almost burst into tears when he found her in the sand. The sounds of the brass choir symbolize the attempt to resuscitate the unconscious elf, but they eventually give up.

Moments later, she starts to cough up water and return to life! The father hugs her and says, "I thought we lost you forever." The rescue team returns to the village with the lost elf and the whole village prepares a celebration. The adventurous elf teaches the village band the melody from the *Kingdom of the Sky* in hopes to keep her own fairy tale alive. They graciously learn the music and add their own jolly twist to the melody, turning it into a marching band parade melody. As all jolly elves do, they throw a big party to celebrate her safe return to the village! The party goes long into the night as they dance and eat. And as all fairy tales end, they lived happily ever after. The end.



PROGRAM NOTES

(CONTINUED)

Theme and Variations for Chamber Orchestra (2019) | Nolan Rodack

Theme and Variations for Chamber Orchestra is a short piece which explores a multitude of motivic transformations in coordination with a continuously rising tempo throughout the entirety of the piece. Each of the nine variations focuses on one or two instruments except for the eighth variation, which includes all the instruments in the ensemble. The arrangement in each variation is meant to establish a unique mood barring a similar musical style.

***Into the Valley* (2021) | Jacob Lack**

Into the Valley is a story about gradually descending into darkness, symbolized by the “Valley.” The piece begins with an awakening. We hear one of the main motifs, a fanfare call, that acts as a sign of confidence moving forward. The following material—the second main motif—could be described as upbeat and lively. This is a faster, exciting phrase that becomes increasingly dissonant at every climax. Much of this part of the piece is influenced by the festive spirit of Bernstein. Afterwards, the musical colors of Ravel create a more ominous and bleak texture. Finally, we reach the most chaotic section, which is characterized by clashing energy and rhythm. This, the darkest part of the “Valley,” is greatly influenced by Stravinsky’s work. After a final impact, the story fades into the distance.



PERSONNEL

Kennesaw State University Symphony Orchestra

Nathaniel F. Parker, Music Director and Conductor

VIOLIN

Deevon Aird
Melody Bearden, *concertmaster*
Aaron Beraki
Jayna Burton
Sarah Chang
Emily Epperly
Hannah Goodwin
Bryan Jeong, *associate
concertmaster*
Esther Kim
Jessica Kim
Kamaya Locke, *associate principal*
Ryan Lopez
Scott Lozier, *principal*
William Merritt
Michael Parrish
Javier Schirmer
Gustavo De La Torre Martinez
Luke Whitney
Kevin Williams
Alexandra Wilson
Gamela Zaki

VIOLA

Dajon Carter
Isabella Giordano, *associate
principal*
Tyler D. Lovelace, *principal*
Lacey Somers
Natalie Wallace

CELLO

Laz Divine
Jair Griffin, *principal*
Jackson Hainey
Jill Norman
Emily Travis, *associate principal*

BASS

Jacob Cherry, *principal*
Eisen Griffin
Bill Pritchard
Madeline Summers, *associate
principal*

FLUTE

Veronica Del Castillo
Camille Grewe
Rianna McClendon
Mackenzie Wilson

PICCOLO

Veronica Del Castillo
Mackenzie Wilson

OBOE

Patrick Daw
Naomi Israel
Robert Simon
Catherine Walker

ENGLISH HORN

Catherine Walker



PERSONNEL

(CONTINUED)

CLARINET

Kathryn Mullinax
Bethany Petri
Ian Robinson

E-FLAT CLARINET

Bethany Petri

BASSOON

Erin Clark
Debby Grove, *guest artist*

HORN

Benjamin Farrow
Olivia Hullender
Natalie Letalien
Adam Stillwagon

TRUMPET

Jalen Dobson
Sommer Lemcoe
Eli Rickles
Billy Sands

TENOR TROMBONE

Blue Goodman
Natalie Hylton

BASS TROMBONE

Chris Lackey

TUBA

Laurenz Oriondo

HARP

Tyler Hartley, *guest alumna artist*

TIMPANI

Matt Andrews
Anna Gugel
Matt Pate
Andrew Yi

PERCUSSION

Matt Andrews
Nicholas Bryant
Anna Gugel
Matt Pate
Andrew Yi

SYMPHONY ASSISTANTS

Tyler D. Lovelace
Alexandra Wilson

SYMPHONY STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jayna Burton
Laz Divine
Sommer Lemcoe
Mackenzie Wilson
Andrew Yi



BIOGRAPHIES

Mark Laycock

Guest Conductor

Dr. Mark Laycock is a Professor of Music at Wichita State University where he holds the Ann Walenta Faculty of Distinction Endowed Professorship. He has been recognized with the WSU Excellence in Creative Activity Award and the College of Fine Arts Excellence in Teaching Award. He serves as Director of Orchestras and Coordinator of Strings. Dr. Laycock is a member of the Board of Directors of the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic. He is Conductor of the Wichita Youth Symphony.

His work as guest conductor, clinician, or adjudicator spans 34 states. Dr. Laycock served the National Orchestra Festival as adjudicator, clinician, and, in 2018 and 2019, chair of the event. A frequent visitor to Australia, his engagements have included Perth, Melbourne, and Brisbane. Dr. Laycock is a five-time invited music education panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, evaluating grant applications from institutions throughout the country. He is a chapter author for the fourth volume of *Teaching Music through Performance in Orchestra* and a frequent contributor to the *American String Teacher journal*.

Dr. Laycock served as Director of Orchestras and Instrumental Music at Chapman University in Orange, California, and Director of Orchestral Activities at Iowa State. He earned a Doctor of Arts degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Laycock holds a Master of Music degree in instrumental conducting from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Bachelor of Arts degree in music history and literature from the University of Southern California.



BIOGRAPHIES

(CONTINUED)

Nathaniel F. Parker

Director of Orchestral Studies

Assistant Professor of Music

Nathaniel F. Parker has conducted professional orchestras in the United States, Peru, Russia, Poland, England, and the Czech Republic. Equally at home working with professionals and training future generations of musicians, Dr. Parker is Director of Orchestral Studies at the Kennesaw State University Bailey School of Music, Music Director and Conductor of the Kennesaw State University Symphony Orchestra, Associate Conductor of the Georgia Symphony Orchestra, and Music Director and Conductor of the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Parker's conducting accolades include being named a finalist for a Conducting Fellowship with the New World Symphony, a semi-finalist for a Conducting Fellowship at Tanglewood, and 3rd Place Winner in the London Classical Soloists Conducting Competition. He also received a Citation of Excellence in Teaching from the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. His work with the KSU Symphony Orchestra has received praise from the College Music Society, the College Orchestra Directors Association, The American Prize, and the Georgia Music Educators Association. An active scholar, Dr. Parker's writings have been published by the Conductors Guild and the College Orchestra Directors Association (CODA). He has presented research at conferences of the College Music Society, the College Orchestra Directors Association, and the Georgia Music Educators Association, and served as editor of the *Journal of the Conductors Guild*.

Parker earned graduate degrees in orchestral conducting from Michigan State University (DMA) and Bowling Green State University (MM). He also earned a BM in Bassoon Performance, *magna cum laude*, from Arizona State University.

For more information, please visit www.nathanielfparker.com.



KSU ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

The Kennesaw State University orchestra program was founded in 2004 with the establishment of the KSU Symphony Orchestra and expanded in 2010 to include the newly-formed KSU Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Symphony, comprising over 70 KSU students, is committed to artistic and technical excellence in the performance of music from the symphonic canon, as well as contemporary compositions and pops literature. Recent repertoire highlights include Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4*, Brahms's *Symphony No. 2*, Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 5*, Dvorak's *Symphony No. 9 "From the New World,"* Beethoven's *Symphony No. 2*, Saint-Saëns's *Symphony No. 3 "Organ,"* Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*, Copland's *Appalachian Spring Suite*, and Musorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, orchestrated by Ravel. The Symphony also regularly engages in collaborative performances with guest and faculty performers, guest and faculty composers, the KSU choirs, the KSU Opera Theater, and the KSU Department of Dance. Notable guest artists who have performed or led masterclasses with students in the KSU Symphony include violinists Midori, Augustin Hadelich, Andrés Cárdenes, David Perry, and David Coucheron, cellist Zuill Bailey, MacArthur Fellow and pianist Jeremy Denk, tubist Alan Baer, conductors Robert Spano, David Becker, and Ovidiu Balan, and composers Chen Yi, Kamran Ince, and James M. Stephenson. The KSU Symphony has been featured at College Orchestra Directors Association's (CODA) 2022 National Conference, 2021 Virtual Symposium, and the 2010 National Conference, which they also hosted. Symphony performances have earned national recognition from the College Music Society and the American Prize, and the orchestra received invitations to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Association's Annual In-Service Conferences in 2009, 2019, 2021, and again in 2022. In January 2011, the KSU Symphony completed a three-concert tour of Beijing and Xian, China.

The KSU Philharmonic is a string orchestra that provides KSU students, both non-music majors and music majors performing on a secondary instrument, the opportunity to advance their instrumental technique and musicianship, explore improvisation, and cultivate problem-solving and teamwork skills. The Philharmonic presents multiple concerts each semester encompassing a wide range of musical genres and styles, from the Baroque to bossa nova. The orchestra frequently collaborates in performance with KSU faculty artists, the KSU University Band, the KSU Percussion Ensemble, and KSU student chamber ensembles.



UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

VOICE HONORS RECITAL

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 7:30 pm

Morgan Concert Hall

AN EVENING OF FRENCH MUSIC WITH GABRIEL RICHARD
AND JEAN-FRÉDÉRIC NEUBURGER

Friday, March 25, 2022, 8:00 pm

Morgan Concert Hall

FRESH AIR FRIDAY

Friday, April 1, 2022, 12:30 pm

KSU Legacy Gazebo

KSU OPERA THEATER

Friday, April 1, 2022 and Saturday, April 2, 2022, 8:00 pm

Morgan Concert Hall

KSU CELLOS

JESÚS CASTRO-BALBI, CHARAE KRUEGER, HILARY GLEN,
ALEXIS LEE, DANIELLE RAMEY, EMILY TRAVIS WITH ERIC JENKINS

Sunday, April 3, 2022, 3:00 pm

Morgan Concert Hall

KSU JAZZ GUITAR AND KSU JAZZ VOCALS

Monday, April 4, 2022, 7:30 pm

Morgan Concert Hall

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The Bailey School of Music is offering friends and patrons the opportunity 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 \$1,000 per seat will immediately impact the programs of the Bailey School of Music and help to sustain the exceptional quality of music and live performances at KSU for years to come.

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