Alumni Spotlight: DARREN ENGLISH

Darren English received a scholarship under Dr. Gordon Vernick in August, 2012 at Georgia State University School of Music. He received his Masters degree in Jazz Studies in 2014. Only 25, Darren has accomplished many remarkable music moments. Darren has performed for the President of South Africa, where he is originally from, on three separate occasions as well as for Arts Bishop Tutu. He also performed at The Cape Town International Jazz Festival in 2008 with The Little Giants, the Norwegian Folk Music Festival in Norway 2009, Cape Town International Jazz Festival with Akoustik Knot and Mervyn Africa Kaap Finale in 2010 and at Dave Liebmans IASJ concert in Brazil in 2011.

Darren has performed and recorded with some of the world’s most renowned jazz musicians: Mike Campbell, Marcus Wyatt, Jimmy Dludlu, Mark Fransman, Buddy Wells, Alvin Dyers, Emily

Guitar: LUTHER ENLOE

Part-time Instructor of Guitar, Luther Enloe, is enjoying an active 2015-2016 academic year as a performer, teacher, and advocate for the classical guitar. Recent engagements include a solo performance at the Fall GSU Faculty Artist Series, solo concerts and clinics for the Warner Robins Community Concert Association (WRCCA) and St. Pius X Catholic High School, and concerts for the Gordon State University Recital Series, Bent Frequency Elevate Atlanta Street Car Performance, the LaGrange College Music Seminar, as well as “Solo Guitar Night” for the Cookeville, TN, guitar club.

Luther’s clinics were comprised of a warm-up/technique seminar for the St. Pius X advanced guitar ensemble and sessions entitled, “This is Classical Guitar” for the St. Pius X beginning ensembles and Houston County music students. The concert program for these events, titled “Music from Spain and the Americas,” presented classical guitar favorites, including Heitor Villa-Lobos’ Five Preludes and Leyenda by Isaac Albéniz, alongside lesser known works such as The Brumby Variations, by Atlanta composer, Curtis Bryant, and Tres Piezas Rioplatenses the Argentinean, Maximo Diego Pujol. Sharon Waugh, President of the Warner Robins Community Concert Association stated, “Your program was both entertaining and educational for all ages. Your knowledge of the composers, the history of the classical guitar, and the techniques of playing classical guitar captured the attention of all. The musical selections from 16th Century Spain to Modern day USA exhibited your wide range of ability.” Luther is in the process of recording this program for a new solo CD.

Exciting solo and collaborative projects are in motion for Spring and Fall 2016. Luther will perform a solo program for the Agnes Scott College “Spring Equinox Concert” on March 18, 2016. Concerts in this series are a collaboration between the Agnes Scott College Music and the Physics/Astronomy departments and are held in the planetarium within the observatory on campus.

Luther collaborated with trombonist William Mann on a performance of Cafe 1930 from Histoire du Tango by Astor Piazzolla as part of the GSU Faculty Artist Series in January. Originally composed in 1986 for flute and guitar, the piece works beautifully with the uncommon combination of trombone and guitar. Future performances include a new solo piece, Tonoi XI, composed by Nick Demos, to be premiered Fall 2016 and a performance of Joaquin Rodrigo’s guitar concerto, Fantasía para un gentilhombre, with the Michael Palmer and the GSU Symphony Orchestra also slated for Fall 2016.

Through his engagement with professional organizations, Luther is active in guitar outreach and guitar education. He is presently serving his third term as the Guitar Chair for the Georgia Music Educators Association. In this capacity, he serves on the GMEA In-service Conference Planning Committee and presides over twelve Guitar Division sessions and performances at the 2016 In-Service Conference. Performers for the 2016 conference consist of the Kennesaw State University Jazz Guitar Ensemble, the Athens Guitar Duo, and the Atlanta Guitar Orchestra. As Guitar Chair, he also acts as a liaison for guitar educators and an advocate for the inclusion of guitar classes in elementary, middle school, and secondary school education. Further outreach endeavors include hosting guest artists in concert and master class as part of the GSU Classical Guitar Series. This series brings world class performers/teachers to the GSU campus and is the only dedicated

Visit our website to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, to view a complete calendar of concert listings, full faculty bios, program descriptions, and more!

MUSIC.GSU.EDU
It’s an exciting time at Georgia State University!

The recent announcements of our consolidation with Georgia Perimeter College and our probable acquisition of Turner Field give us great excitement about the future. Our (undefeated) marching band recently participated in its first ever bowl game in Orlando at the Auto Nation Cure Bowl. Our faculty and students continue to excel – Drs. Stuart Gerber and Jan Baker will be performing a new work in Carnegie Hall this spring with our ensemble in-residence Bent Frequency. Dr. Deanna Joseph and our University Singers have been invited to perform at the regional American Choral Directors Association conference in Chattanooga, and the School of Music recently presented over 15 sessions at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference in Athens. Our alumni continue to make us proud – today I learned of Coy Bowles from the class of 2004 who has the distinction of having played on 6 Grammy winning recordings with the Zac Brown Band.

Alumni Spotlight: DARREN ENGLISH

(continued from front cover)

Bruce, George Werner; Charles Lazar; Kesivan Naidoo, Errol Dyers, Bheki Khoza, Hilton Schilder; Shannon Mowday, Arne Hoir, Mervyn Africa; Donny McCaslin with the GSU big band; Kevin Bales, Carmen Bradford, Joe Grandsen, Michela Lombardi, Piero Frassi, Mace Hibbard, Kebbi Williams, Gregory Tardy, Drive-By Big Band, Duffy Jackson, Chris Burroughs, Eddie Daniels, Ryan Kilgore, Blair Crimmins, Needlz (Bruno Mars & Ludacris’ producer), Dewayne Pate, Finley Quaye, Dave Mathews (Carlos Santana band), Nic Le Roux, Loyiso Bala, Basil Moses, Jonathan Kilgore, Kevin Gibson, Robbie Jansen, Andre Peterson, Feya Faku, David Kramer; and actor Alistair Izobell.

Darren has always been a proud alumni and supporter of GSU School of Music. In November he performed at the 2015 International Education Week Concert at GSU along with fellow alumni Emrah Kotan. In January, Darren joined us in Athens for GMEA and performed with our faculty Geoff Haydon and Gordon Vernick at the Jazz Jam at The Foundry.

Darren English’s debut album under Atlanta’s top jazz label, Hot Shoe Records®, which features Grammy nominated trumpeter Russell Gunn, Joe Gransden, Carmen Bradford, and saxophonist Gregory Tardy will be released the end of February, 2016. This spring he will also be performing at the Cape Town International Jazz Festival and recording with Mike Rossi on his new album in Cape Town. Darren English is endorsed by B.A.C. Custom Artist Series Trumpets.
Contemporary Music: The STATE of New Music

The GSU School of Music is a vibrant center for contemporary classical music on campus as well as in the Greater Atlanta Area. With two new music ensembles in residence and a significant student composer series, it is clear that the music of our time plays a very important role in the artistic mission of the School.

The School of Music currently offers both an undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Music) and a graduate degree (Master of Music) in Music Composition. There are well over 20 students involved in the Composition Program in any given semester. In addition to private lessons, all composition students attend a bi-weekly Composition Seminar where they receive additional instruction in the field of Music Composition, investigate composers and repertoire of our time and enjoy guest lectures from today’s top composers and performers. Students also participate in the Society of Composers, Inc. (SCI) one of the largest national associations of composers in the United States. The School boasts of one of the largest and most active SCI student chapters in the nation!

Additionally, students in the Composition Concentration receive private instruction with our award-winning and distinguished Composition Faculty: Dr. Robert Scott Thompson, Mr. Brent Milam and Dr. Nickitas Demos.

Robert Scott Thompson is a composer of electroacoustic and computer music as well as music for chamber ensemble and orchestra. A student of Roger Reynolds, Bernard Rands, F. Richard Moore and Joji Yuasa, he earned the Ph.D. in composition in 1990 from the University of California at San Diego, where he was a research assistant at the Center for Music Experiment (CME), Computer Audio Research Laboratory (CARL) from 1984 to 1989. In 1991, he was a Fulbright Research Scholar working at the Danish Institute of Electroacoustic Music (DIEM) where he created the 70' computer work, “The Strong Eye”. He has received several international prizes and distinctions for his works in competitions such as the 1995 Irino Prize in Chamber Music (Japan), the Fondazione “Luigi Russolo” tape music prize (Italy) and Bourges Electroacoustic Music (France), among others. Dr. Thompson is published on over a dozen recordings by Aucourant, Oasis/Mirage, Hypnos, Neuma, Drimala and Capstone and is widely presented in broadcast as well as in live performances of his music nationally and around the world.

Nickitas Demos holds a DMA in Composition from the Cleveland Institute of Music where he studied with Donald Erb (1927-2008). His commissions include works for the Cleveland Orchestra, Atlanta Ballet, Nashville Chamber Orchestra, Georgia Music Teachers Association and the National Association of College Wind & Percussion Instructors. He is the recipient of numerous grants and awards including a Semi-Finalist in the 2015 Rapidio! Composition Competition; a MacDowell Fellowship (2012); Grand Prize in the 2004 Millennium Arts International Competition for Composers; Grand Prize in the 2005 Holyoke Civic Symphony Composition Competition and 18 ASCAP Awards. His music is self-published through Sylvan Lake Press (ASCAP) and recorded on Ablaze Records, Albany Records, MSR Classics and Capstone Records. Dr. Demos is Coordinator of Composition Studies at GSU, and the Founder and Artistic Director of the neoPhonia New Music Ensemble. Outside of GSU, he has served on the Executive Committee of the Society of Composers, Inc. and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the MacDowell Arts Colony.

In addition to its faculty and student body, the influence of the contemporary music program at GSU on the Atlanta scene cannot be overstated. Atlanta is home to many professional music ensembles specializing in contemporary classical music. Many of the major new music ensembles have direct ties back to the GSU School of Music. A few examples include: Chamber Cartel, an energetic ensemble on the rise nationally comprised of alumni of the GSU School of Music; Terminus Ensemble, a new music group formed by GSU alumni and faculty; the eclectic CliBrer Jones Ensemble, formed by GSU Alumni; Bent Frequency, another of Atlanta’s vibrant and prestigious new music ensembles formed by GSU faculty; and, of course, GSU’s own neoPhonia New Music Ensemble comprised of faculty and student performers and now celebrating its 21st Season. Both neoPhonia and Bent Frequency are ensembles-in-residence at the GSU School of Music.

Founded in 1996, the neoPhonia New Music Ensemble promotes the music of established contemporary composers, presents important chamber works of the late 20th/early 21st Century, hosts significant guest artists and provides an opportunity for the performance of music by emerging young composers. The ensemble features a flexible instrumentation comprised of GSU Faculty, GSU Student and area professional musicians. To date, the neoPhonia New Music Ensemble has given 82 premieres and commissioned new pieces by such composers as Theodore Antoniou and Yiorgos Vassilandonakis. The group has been the featured guest ensemble at the 2015 Modern Greek Studies Association Symposium; the 2014 National Conference of the National Association of Composers – USA (NACUSA); the 2008 National Conference of the Society of Composers, Inc. (SCI); the Third Biennial Contemporary Music Symposium in 2001 at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga; and the 1998 SCI Region IV Conference. The ensemble was cited in the April 2004 issue of GRAMOPHONE Magazine and has been featured on broadcasts by NPR affiliate WABE-FM 90.1.

Founded in 2003 and hailed as “one of the brightest new music ensembles on the scene today” by GRAMOPHONE Magazine, Bent Frequency (BF) brings the avant-garde music tradition to life through adventurous programming, the promotion of New Music, and a creative synthesis of music and media. As an ensemble-in-residence at Georgia State University, BF has become one of the most active and visible contemporary music ensemble in the Southeast. The group has collaborated with some of the most ground-breaking composers working today (including Lei Liang, Tristan Murrill, Jennifer Walsh, and Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon), and has produced large-scale events such as Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon’s chamber opera Comala at the International Cervantino Festival and Fiestas de Octubre in Mexico and an appearance as ensemble-in-residence at the Tage Aktueller Musik in Nürnberg, among others. BF has been awarded numerous prestigious and competitive governmental and foundational grants to fund the creation and promotion of New Music.

With a prestigious faculty, active student body, two contemporary music ensembles in residence and a clear influence on the contemporary music scene in Atlanta and beyond, GSU very much represents the STATE of new music!
The Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) is one of fifty-one state affiliates of the National Association for Music Education. GMEA was founded in 1938 and has been continuously active in music education in Georgia since that time. Currently they have more than 2,700 members who are public school, private school, college and university, and private studio music teachers. They also have a collegiate membership, made up of students who are majoring in music education, which has twenty-three chapters, and a program for high school students, who are interested in studying music in college, which has fifty-five chapters. GMEA’s mission is to promote the advancement of music education in Georgia. This year’s conference was held for the first time at the The Classic Center in Athens, GA, on January 28-30.

Among the presenters were GSU faculty or alums, Dr. Patrick Freer, Dr. Chester Phillips, Dr. Paulette Sigler; Dr. Martin Norgaard, Dr. Gordon Vernick, Dr. David Vandewater; Dr. Robert Pethel, Dr. Katie Carlisle, and Dr. Daniel Welborn, as well as School of Music grad student Casey Hall. Our instructor of Guitar, Luther Enloe is also Guitar Chair for GMEA. In this capacity, he served on the GMEA In-service Conference Planning Committee and presided over twelve Guitar Division sessions and performances at the 2016 In-Service Conference.

We were thrilled to host an Alumni reception for all GSU alumni attendees at GMEA at the South Kitchen. An additional activity at GMEA was the Georgia Educators Jazz Jam, a collaboration between Georgia State University, Kennesaw University, Berry College, and Emory University jazz faculty under the direction of Dr. Gordon Vernick at The Foundry in Athens.

Our students were the shining stars at GMEA this year. Three of Dr. Geoff Hayden’s undergraduate piano majors won awards in the GMEA auditions in December. Lee Song and Meitan Lu performed in the GMEA piano Division Winners Recital and Iris Cho performed in the GMEA Piano Division College Master Class. Eight of Dr. Deanna Joseph’s choral students were selected to be part of the collegiate honor choir and they worked with Dr. Betsy Cook Weber from the University of Houston and performed at GMEA. The students were William Nichols, Taylor Conley, Stephen Pepper, Zachariah Schmidt, Julie Culotta, Madalyn Hardwick, Devon Higgins, and Erin Barksdale. Taylor Conley, student in choral conducting, was one of two graduate students selected from across the state to participate in the conducting masterclass. Taylor is one of our Robert Shaw choral scholars.
Georgia State University Brass

The GSU Brass Area has a lot to be excited about. Between great concerts, guest artists, and successes for both the students and instructors, there is much to celebrate. Our annual concerts include the Brassapalooza and Brass Ensembles Concert which feature our mixed brass ensembles, ranging from quartet to brass choir. The tuba and euphonium studios host the Octubafest and Spring Euphoria concerts, which feature soloists and tuba and euphonium ensembles. The trumpet, horn and trombone studios feature their students in the Trumpet, Horn and Trombone Extravaganza in the fall semester. This list of concerts would not be complete without mentioning all of the excellent solo student recitals that happen each semester.

The Brass Area has also had the privilege to host many great musicians from around the world in both performances and master classes. We have hosted Marie Speziale, retired trumpet with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; Brian Hecht, bass trombone with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra; Gerry Pagano with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra; Jemmie Robertson, Associate Professor of Trombone at Eastern Illinois University; Don Palmire, Euphonium with the US Army Band (Washington, D.C.); Steven Mead, international euphonium soloist; David Thornton, euphonium tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music; Philip Broome, euphonium with the West Point Army Band; Oystein Baasdevik, international tuba soloist; the Army Ground Forces Brass Quintet (Fort Bragg, N.C.), the Midtown Brass Quintet; and the Beltline Brass Quintet. We are also very excited about hosting Larry Isaacson, who teaches at the Metropolitan State University of Denver coming this spring to give a recital and master class.

This spring to give a recital and master class. We also have Dr. Michael Hengst, Assistant Professor of Brass, and is the former trombonist with the Empire Brass Quintet; and the Beltline Brass Quintet. We are also very excited about hosting Larry Isaacson, who teaches at the Metropolitan State University of Denver coming this spring to give a recital and master class.

The students of the Brass Area have many accomplishments that we are proud of. Michael Waddel and Vincent Rose as a euphonium duo were one of the winners of the Brumby Concerto Competition with Philip Sparke’s Two Part Invention for Euphonium Duo and Strings. This arrangement for strings was also a premiere performance and was arranged by Michael Waddel. Zach Marino (trumpet) spent last summer at the Sewanne Music Festival in Sewanne, TN studying with Peter Bond, trumpeter with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Ellis Elzie (tuba) spent his summer as a counselor at the Blue Lake Music Camp in Twin Lake, MI. Todd Wood (tuba) and Frederick Pyla (trombone) performed at the Blue Lake Music Camp in Twin Lake, MI. Teddy Mack (tuba) arranged Gustav Holst’s “Uranus” from The Planets and conducted the GSU Blue Brass Ensemble in the premiere performance. Todd Wood (tuba) and Frederick Pyla (trombone) composed Lullaby for the GSU Trombone Choir. Many other brass students also marched with many of the Drum Corps International groups including Cavaliers and Spirit of Atlanta.

We are all very excited about the future growth of the Brass Area and working with the enthusiasm our students and colleagues bring to GSU everyday. We hope that you will join us at one of our many performances.
Faculty News & Notes

JAN BERRY BAKER and STUART GERBER (Bent Frequency Duo Project) performed concerts and conducted masterclasses at the Conservatoire National de Région Versailles and Conservatoire National de Région Boulogne-Billancourt in France in January as part of a FACE (French American Cultural Exchange) grant.

In March, 2016, they will be giving a concert and masterclass tour of Pennsylvania and New York, culminating in a performance at Carnegie Hall. They have also recently finished recording premiere works for their upcoming CD to be released on Centaur Records this spring.

Stuart Gerber was also featured in January, 2016, in the Atlanta Business Chronicle as one of the “People on the Move.”

NICKITAS DEMOS, Coordinator of Music Composition, was named a semi-finalist in the National Rapido! Take Four!! Composition Competition. His award-winning work, “Dances for the New Mandarins” for clarinet, violin and piano, received its premiere by the Atlanta Chamber Players at the New American Shakespeare Tavern in Atlanta. Demos’s music was recently selected for inclusion for the online international catalog of new music, BabelScores. He also received his 18th consecutive ASCAP Award in December, 2015. His work, “So Small Against the Stars” for soprano sax, vibraphone, percussion and double bass, commissioned by the Atlanta based ensemble Chamber Cartel, received a preview performance on November 7, 2015, at the Goat Farm Arts Center. Demos was the Keynote Speaker at the annual eGOVLive Conference in Chicago, IL on September 3, 2015, speaking on the topic of the Creative Process.

ADAM FREY, Instructor of Euphonium, has been quite busy with recent performances in Chiayi, Taiwan; Manila, Philippines; and Rangsit University in Thailand. Adam has also performed and given master classes at Indiana University, the Boston Conservatory, the University of Alabama, the Luzern Conservatory in Switzerland and in Tuva, Russia. During the last 13 summers, Adam has hosted the International Euphonium Tuba Festival that brings together nearly 100 players from around the world to study and share great music.

ERIC BUBACZ, Instructor of Tuba, performs quite a bit both in and out of the Southeast. Eric performs regularly with the Columbus, Greenville (SC), LaGrange, Macon, and Reading (PA) Symphony Orchestras and the Georgia Brass Band. In addition to these, he has also recently performed with the Kansas City Symphony. During the summers, Eric teaches and performs at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival in Sewanee, TN.

BRICE ANDRUS, Instructor of Horn, needs no introduction as the Principal Horn of the Atlanta Symphony. In addition to his duties with the ASO, Brice has performed recently with the Charlotte, Los Angeles Philharmonic, National, and San Francisco Symphony Orchestras. This summer Brice was also a featured soloist at the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival performing the Mozart Horn Concerto.

HOLLIE LIFSHEY, Assistant Professor of Trumpet, presented masterclasses at Northern Kentucky University and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music last fall. She played the World Premiere of “Sonata for Trumpet and Piano” by Greg McLean at the Georgia Music Teachers Association Conference in November 2015. The work was commissioned by GMTA for McLean and he asked Hollie to be the soloist for the project. More recently, Hollie conducted the Collegiate Ensemble at the 2016 Trumpet Festival of the Southeast and played the World Premiere of “Hope Awakens” for Trumpet and Piano Resonance by David Johnson. In addition to these performances and master classes, Hollie performs regularly with the Atlanta Opera Orchestra and the Macon Symphony.

WILLIAM “BILL” MANN, Assistant Professor of Trombone, is one of the founding members of the American Trombone Quartet (ATQ), which was formed in the summer of 2015 with three trombone professors from universities across the U.S. Since then, the ATQ has performed at the Midwest Trombone Euphonium Conference and given master classes at the University of Kentucky. The ATQ will be conducting a recital and master class tour of Virginia this March. In addition to the ATQ, Bill has performed with the Atlanta, Chattanooga and Columbus Symphonies and given recitals and master classes at the Midwest Trombone Euphonium Conference and Western Carolina University. During the past summer and this coming summer, Bill is teaching at the Third Coast Trombone Retreat in Montague, MI.

MARIE SUMNER LOTT, presented at the Reediana Omnibus Musica Philosopha (ROMP) 2016: Brahms. Revisted at Reed College, “Finding His Niche: Audience and Style in Brahms’ String Chamber Music”. Her presentation centered on Brahms three distinct personalities as the composer experimented with musical styles appropriate to specific social settings and musical consumers.

GORDON VERNICK, Coordinator of Jazz Studies, is preparing for the Johnny Mercer Concert February 26, at the Rialto Center for the Arts with Joe Gransden, Kathleen Bertrand and the GSU Jazz Band. He conducted a masterclass with Jason Carder, a trumpet player with Yanni, on February 20. Gordon will also collaborate with Oliver Greene on the “Triology of the Blues,” Symposium, February 25 he will give a lecture on “Delta Blues-The Impact of Guitarist from the Dockery Plantation”.

CHESTER PHILLIPS traveled to Yokohama, Japan in November, 2015 to judge the twenty-third Drum Corps Japan All Japan Championships in Nissan Stadium, home of 2020 Olympic football (soccer). During his time in Yokohama, he was involved in panel discussions with over fifty Japanese music instructors, judged the country’s top drum corps, and participated in clinics with each performing corps. The panel of judges were a mixture of the elite adjudicators from the United States and Japan.
**Music Theory and Composition: Brent Milam**

Brent Milam, Part-Time Instructor of Music Theory and Composition, is the Artistic Director and co-founder of the Terminus Ensemble of Contemporary Music and also serves as frequent composer and conductor for the ensemble. The Terminus Ensemble is now in its fifth season with twenty concerts and three residencies to its credit, and three articles by Arts Atlanta and the Atlanta Journal Constitution highlighting the level of musicianship and impact on the local music scene.

In Fall 2015, Terminus was a resident ensemble at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Contemporary Music Festival engaging students in discussions on composition and performing a concert as part of the Festival. In January 2016, Terminus had a full day residency at the University of Georgia in Athens wherein Milam conducted a two-hour composition masterclass for graduate and undergraduate composition students with multiple faculty and additional music majors in attendance. The residency also featured an extended reading session of student works with commentary by the ensemble and Milam and concluded with an evening concert which featured Milam’s composition “Between the Walls,” a three movement work for piano, flute, clarinet/saxophone, and cello. “Between the Walls,” was also featured at the Terminus winter concert in December 2015 at the Eyedrum in Atlanta with Milam conducting numerous additional works. The Terminus Ensemble has a residency scheduled at Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia for February 2016, in which Milam will serve as pianist for the ensemble. This residency will feature an interactive workshop and concert designed to engage students in exploring the boundaries and possibilities of contemporary music and art. Additionally, Terminus will participate in the Op404 New Music Festival in April 2016. This festival, the “brain child” of GSU music faculty member Nickitas Demos and curated by the directors of four local ensembles including Terminus, will feature a week-long series of concerts highlighting ensembles in Atlanta that specialize exclusively in contemporary music. Milam is composing a series of three new short works for this festival.

In addition to new works for Terminus, Milam has also been commissioned by the Boston-based ensemble Transient Canvas to write a new work for their spring 2016 programs. Milam’s extended electronic composition “Dark Expanse” will be the featured sound installation at the Hard Labor Creek Observatory for the annual stargazing event of the Atlanta Science Festival in March 2016. The event will highlight artistic works relating to space and prominently feature Milam’s installation in the main hall with a poster of biographic information and program notes.

Since 2013, Milam has delivered invited talks on mathematics and music composition at Emory University, the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Georgia State, and a series of lectures for the Composition Seminar in the Georgia State School of Music. His specific interests and applications of mathematics in musical composition primarily involve the manipulation of psychoacoustic phenomena, the controlled evolution of overtones, the use of natural phenomena and physical systems as unique models for musical structure, and the development of novel and unexplored mathematical transformations and algorithmic methodologies to generate musical material with unexpected yet coherent relationships. Most recently, he has been invited by the American Mathematical Society to speak at a special session on mathematical music theory at the Southeastern AMS Regional Meeting in Athens, GA in March 2016. The title of Milam’s talk is “Deterministic Geometries, Self-Similar Sequences, and the Aesthetics of Music Composition.”

Milam is currently involved in several extended collaborations with professionals and faculty members in various mathematical and scientific disciplines to create new works of music based on natural phenomena. The use of mathematics to develop models of physical phenomena provides endless possibilities for musical expression including scientific models of natural systems as material for musical structure and the use of music as a tool for scientific analysis. In this regard, Milam is working with scientists at Georgia Institute of Technology using DNA aptamer sequences as material binding agents for self-assembling structures. Milam is directing the project to make musical representations of such sequences as a method of potential pattern recognition by aural rather than visual means, a process often called “sonification.” Milam is in the process of discussing similar sonification projects with chemists and composers at the University of Illinois in Urbana/Champaign. Milam has just begun a project with Dr. Misty Bentz in the Physics and Astronomy Department at Georgia State to model large-scale astrophysical phenomena such as three-body interactions, the tidal disruption of stars, the chaotic activity in accretion disks of black holes, and the quasicrystalline composition of asteroids to create noncyclical progressions. Milam is directing a project with Dr. Robert Bigwood at Intel in Portland, Oregon to use the intravibrational relaxation of energy within small molecules as a template for harmonic events. Future collaborations are planned with Dr. Mariana Montiel of the Department of Mathematics at Georgia State to use purely mathematical constructs such as group theory, vector fields, probability, and game theory as the generative basis for new musical material.

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**SAXOPHONE**

Graduate students Reese Burgan, saxophone and Courtney White, clarinet performed at the International Navy Band Symposium in Washington, D.C. on January 15-16. They were selected to perform at the North American Saxophone Alliance Conference (NASA) in Lubbock Texas in March. Graduate students Joshua Heaney and Bradley Karas were also selected to perform as soloists at the NASA conference.

The Akira Saxophone Quartet comprised of graduate students Joshua Heaney, Bradley Karas and Kyle White and Jack Thorpe, junior competed in the NASA quartet competition and have been selected as one of the twenty groups from over 100 groups across the U.S. and Canada to advance to the semi-final round in Lubbock, Texas.
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