



SCHOOL OF MUSIC AT  
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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# SOUNDS

NEWSLETTER

SPRING  
2017

UNIVERSITY SINGERS  
INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER  
CHOIR COMPETITION AND  
TOUR P.6



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

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**DR. WADE WEAST**  
DIRECTOR  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**R**OBERT BROZOWSKI  
GRADUATE STUDENT  
IN THE STUDIO OF ERIC BUBACZ

**Please share with us some of your experiences you've had while at Georgia State.**

During my time here at Georgia State, I have had the opportunity to learn from world-class teachers and musicians allowing me to take my abilities in performing and educating and raising them to an entirely new level. During this time, I have had the pleasure of performing in many ensembles including the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Trombone Choir, Tuba-Euphonium Quartet and Low Brass Trio, just to name a few! I have also had opportunities to perform in multiple solo settings, collaborating with outstanding pianists and ensembles while creating amazing music. One distinct opportunity that I am very grateful for during this time, would be my 2016 Brumby Concerto Competition performance of Philip Wilby's Euphonium Concerto with the Symphonic Wind Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Robert Ambrose.

**What makes GSU's School of Music special for you?**

What makes Georgia State special for me would have to be the opportunities to

make connections on and around campus. Between the local opportunities to occasionally perform and educate in the Atlanta community, to working with guest artists from across the world, Georgia State provides opportunities for me to make these connections that are essential to my music career.

**You won First Place at the American Protégé International Woodwinds & Brass Competition 2016. What was the process to apply for this award?**

Thank you for mentioning this, it is a great honor to have this opportunity. During my time at Georgia State, I have been able to develop my musical performance to a point where I am fortunate to compete in many solo competitions. A few of my close colleagues have had the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall through the American Protégé International Woodwinds & Brass Competition. After some encouragement from these colleagues, I submitted a video recording to the audition committee. Now I have the honor of being selected first place to perform in one of the winner recitals held at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in May 2017.



A new video compilation that celebrates Georgia State University School of Music students' success, creative passion, entrepreneurship and connections with local and international audiences. See our "Did you Know?" videos on [music.gsu.edu](https://www.music.gsu.edu).

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# A

LISA MCCANCE

COUNTRY | AMERICAN | BLUEGRASS



Alisa grew up in Tyrone, Georgia, singing at every talent show, fair, festival and musical event possible. After high school, she attended Georgia State University on the Bill Lowery Scholarship for music where she earned a degree in Sound Recording. Upon graduation from GSU, Alisa went on to work for Bill Lowery at the Lowery Music Group, whose many publishing successes include Ray Stevens, Waylon Jennings, Wynonna Judd and Travis Tritt. She also played fiddle and sang in bands while at the same time, formed her own band, and established herself around the Atlanta area. After a performance opening for Toby Keith, Rich Eckhardt (Toby's lead guitarist) encouraged Alisa to move to Nashville.

Since then, Alisa has been busy sharing the stage with artists such as Alison Krauss and Union Station, Lady Antebellum, Little Big Town, Luke Bryan, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Clay Walker, Little Texas, Asleep at the Wheel, Neal McCoy, Blue County, Kentucky Headhunters and others. Alisa played fiddle for Keith Urban in the video for his hit song "Without You," which aired on his tour. You can see her in Lonestar's video, "Maybe Someday." Alisa made her debut on the Grand Ole Opry playing with Radney Foster and performed on the season one finale of the ABC TV series 'Nashville.' She worked with Radney Foster on her album, released last Fall.



**EYES WIDE OPEN,  
BRIGHT SMILES AND  
READY TO PLAY**

The students of Thomasville Heights Elementary School opening their instruments.

## MUSIC OUTREACH

Thomasville Heights Elementary School students were treated to a very special delivery of shiny new musical instruments donated by the Rockley Family Foundation and Georgia State School of Music through a grant from the Cousins Foundation.



**2017 GALA OPERA DINNER**  
A Benefit Celebrating the 35th  
Anniversary of the Harrower Summer  
Opera Workshop

Sunday, June 18, 2017

6:00PM - 9:00PM

at 103 West

FEATURING:

Operatic Performances by Singers From the 2017  
Harrower Summer Opera Workshop  
Performance and Book Signing by Special Guest Artist  
Jennifer Larmore

For more information call 404-413-5914.



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## ROBERT AMBROSE:

DIRECTOR OF BANDS AND MUSIC PROFESSOR

## FIRST CIVILIAN TO CONDUCT U.S. ARMY FIELD BAND

Director of Bands and Professor of Music Dr. Robert J. Ambrose joined the United States Army Field Band's Concert Band and Soldier's Chorus as guest conductor for several dates on their Fall 2016 tour. He travelled with the band for one week, conducting concerts in New Wilmington, PA and Buffalo, Fredonia, Rochester, Syracuse, and New Berlin, New York. Dr. Ambrose is the first civilian in history to conduct any of the premiere US military bands on tour.

Dr. Ambrose conducted several works on each program including Leonard Bernstein's *Overture to Candide*, Steven Bryant's *Radiant Joy*, Paul Hindemith's *March from Symphonic Metamorphosis*, William Steffe's *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, Frank Ticheli's setting of

*Amazing Grace*, and Ambrose's own transcription of Joseph Hellmesberger's *Gypsy Dance* from *The Pearl of Iberia*.

About the invitation Ambrose said, "The United States Army Field Band's Concert Band is known across the land and around the world for their profoundly moving and highly engaging performances. I was deeply honored to have been asked to guest conduct this fine ensemble for part of their Fall 2016 tour. My most sincere thanks to Colonel Jim Keene, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Bamonte, and First Lieutenant Alexandra Borza for their gracious invitation."

The United States Army Field Band was formed in 1946 with the mission "to serve and inspire the American people by telling

the Army story and honoring our Soldiers and Veterans at home and abroad as The Musical Ambassadors of the Army." The Field Band is comprised of four separate performing ensembles: the Concert Band, the Soldier's Chorus, the Jazz Ambassadors, and The Volunteers Rock Band. According to their website, the Concert Band is "the oldest and largest of the Field Band's four performing components. This elite 65-member instrumental ensemble, founded in 1946, has performed in all 50 states and 25 foreign countries for audiences totaling more than 100 million. Tours have taken the band throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, South American, Europe, the Far East, and India."



## KEVIN BALES: JAZZ IMPROVISATION AND PIANO INSTRUCTOR

Kevin Bales was asked, "Who are your music influences?" "There have been many artists that have influenced me over the years. I have over 4000 recordings from artist influences like Louis Armstrong to Wynton Marsalis," Bales exclaimed. "For me, it's how the artist expresses their own individuality. This is what attracts me to them."

Bales never considered being a musician. Originally, he wanted to be a computer programmer and have a "steady" career. At Georgia State, he studied the classical piano while working on computers. This is when he met Marcus Printup, a world-renowned jazz trumpeter and an alumnus from Georgia State University. Marcus Printup is known for his collaborations with Wynton Marsalis and

Betty Carter. Bales quickly discovered the language of jazz and fell in love. He toured with Printup's band for five years.

Bales built one of the most enviable resumes in the music business, performing with artists like Aretha Franklin, Wynton Marsalis, Rene Marie, James Moody, Jimmy Cobb, Buddy DeFranco, Sam Rivers, Longineu Parsons, Nathen Page, Bobby McFerrin, Ben Tucker, Louis Bellson, Eddie Daniels, Nat Adderley, Wycliff Gordon, and Ira Sullivan, among others.

Bales played piano and provided arrangements for Rene Marie, a songwriter and jazz vocalist. They recorded four albums, of which one was nominated for a Grammy in 2014.

He was an instructor at The University of North Florida for ten years, and currently teaches

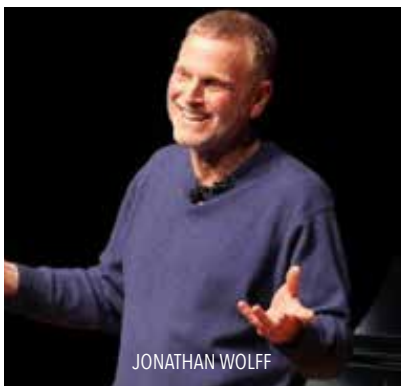
Jazz Improvisation and piano at Georgia State University School of Music. Over the years, he has taught over 1000 students and mentored many more.

Bales talked about his philosophy of music. "As musicians we forget what a privilege it is to be doing what we're doing. This music, as it is for my students and others, became, and still is, a force that heals me. It's been a great bridge for understanding things about the world and life and has taught me how to be a better person. When I play, there's a certain amount of nakedness. You're really listening to an expression of a person's story. I'm being honest, transparent in that moment, and it's a very intimate thing. I'm not interested in what category or genre I'm playing in; I'm just trying to be me. The fact that I'm able to do this and reach any person at all is a real measure of my success."

SCHOOL OF MUSIC GUEST ARTISTS  
2016-2017



JASON MARSALIS QUARTET



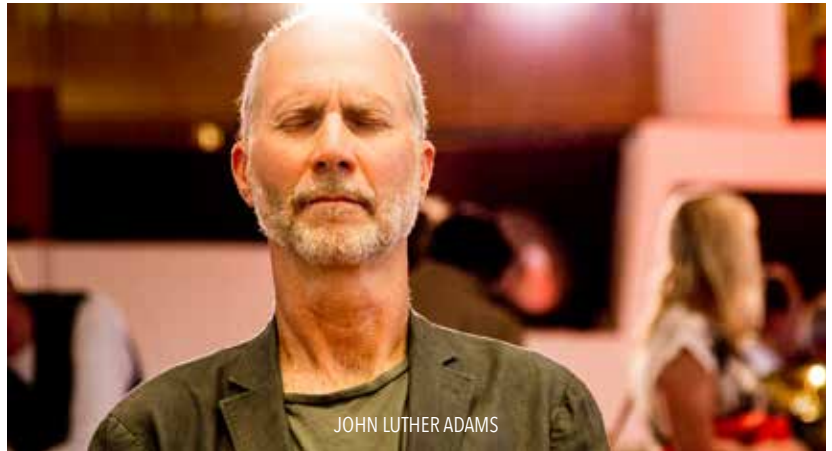
JONATHAN WOLFF



ANDREW ZOHN



PETER STEINER



JOHN LUTHER ADAMS

The School of Music welcomed Pulitzer Prize winning composer John Luther Adams. His residency included a performance of his *Sila: The Breath of the World* for 80 musicians! In this performance, 80 voice, woodwind, brass, string, and percussion students and faculty performed within the urban soundscape of the city streets of downtown Atlanta in and around Woodruff Park.



ELLIOT FRANK



NOA EVEN & PHIL PERICK

## GUEST ARTISTS

**O**UR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI ENJOY PROFESSIONAL RESIDENCIES WITH LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS.

Listed below are some of our recent guest artists who have taught master classes, gave lectures, and performed for our School of Music students and alumni.

JOHN LUTHER ADAMS  
UNITED STATES MARINE BAND  
RANDY BRECKER  
ADRIAN CUNNINGHAM  
JUSTIN EMERICH  
ELLIOT FRANK  
ALEXANDRA GRAVES  
CRAIG IRVIN  
DARREN KRAMER  
JENS LINDEMANN

JASON MARSALIS  
GERARD MCCHRYSTAL  
MATT PALMER  
NOA EVEN & PHIL PERICK  
WILLIAM PU  
PETER STEINER  
GIL TEIXEIRA  
KENNY WERNER  
JONATHAN WOLFF  
ANDREW ZOHN

# DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT



## ATLANTA BALLET'S CARMINA BURANA

The University and Master Singers performed in the Atlanta Ballet's Carmina Burana in February. "Take the opening image: in the darkness, the impressive Georgia State University singers blast us with that first iconic note."

"Soprano Jeni Houser's superb voice calls to the seminarian like a siren (tenor Brian Wallin and baritone Andrew Lovato also do outstanding work as the vocal soloists)," said ArtsAtl.

This is one of the many wonderful reviews the singers received for their performance in the Atlanta Ballet's Carmina Burana in February.

## INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER CHOIR COMPETITION AND TOUR

This summer, the Georgia State University Singers will embark on a tour of Germany and Austria where we will compete in the International Chamber Choir Competition in Marktoberdorf, Germany.

The University Singers is one of 12 choirs chosen from an international pool to compete in Marktoberdorf. Being invited to compete is in itself, a great honor that elevates Georgia State's School of Music on the international stage, but if we do well—or even win the competition—the accolades will further enhance GSU's reputation in the music world. Due to the high cost associated with sending 40 people abroad for 11 days, we need your help to cover the costs of meals, housing, and travel expenses. With your support, University Singers can represent Georgia State internationally and provide a life-changing experience for 37 talented GSU students. Please consider making a gift today! **If you would like to donate to the University Singers trip, please contact Cynthia Forrest, Director of Development, at 404-413-3191.**



## GSU CHOIR ON THE WALKING DEAD

Eight students from the University Singers were selected to sing in episode two of the seventh season of the wildly popular series "The Walking Dead."

"They were super excited and it's just such a great opportunity for them to make professional connections and work in the industry," Deanna Joseph, associate professor and director of choral activities said.

The students sang a special arrangement of Nobel Laureate Bob Dylan's "Don't Think Twice." The arrangement itself was composed by Zayreton Slaton, another student in the School.

The choral group is yet another connection to the mega-hit series. One of Walking Dead's executive producers is Tom Luse, a GSU film alumni and a pioneer of Georgia's film industry. His first project was in 1982, when he produced and directed Who's Killing the Cities? as his master thesis for Georgia State University's Film and Video program.

According to Joseph, "With Atlanta burgeoning into such a big television and film industry, the choir frequently gets calls asking for students who can perform in various roles."

**CLARINET STUDIO**

Congratulations to Lauren Murphy on being accepted to the Cortona Sessions for New Music in Italy with graduate trio International Counterpoint (Jovana Damjanovic, flute; Megan Bauman, saxophone); and to Marcus Moore on his fellowship to attend the Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival in New York City!



International Counterpoint



Marcus Moore

**SAXOPHONE STUDIO**

The Georgia State University Saxophone Studio has had a productive fall! The studio hosted the 10th Annual Atlanta Saxophone Day, featuring guest artist Claude Delangle from the Paris Conservatoire. Over 150 saxophonists attended this one day event. In October, Akira Quartet (Kyle White, Jack Thorpe, Joshua Heaney and Bradley Karas) competed in the chamber and solo MTNA competitions. Akira Quartet won second place in the collegiate chamber competition. The group has since given a performance at Atlanta’s Eyedrum, commissioned new repertoire that will premiere this spring, and has continued recording in the CARA studios for future competitions. Be sure to see the Akira Quartet "Did You Know" video

feature. In November, Bradley Karas performed as a concerto soloist with the GSU Symphony Orchestra as a winner of the Brumby Concerto Competition. In January, many members of the studio were invited to perform at the International Navy Band Symposium in Washington, DC, including International Counterpoint. In March, the studio performed at the North American Saxophone Alliance Conference held in Valdosta; and Jack Thorpe and Kyle White performed in a concert tour of Japan as members of the Snow Pond Saxophone Quartet.



The Saxophone Studio with Guest Artist Claude Delangle



Akira Quartet



Snow Pond Saxophone Quartet

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P.O. Box 4097  
Atlanta, GA 30302-4097

