

ATLANTA POPS ORCHESTRA AND OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY

TWO-NIGHT GALA EVENT
CELEBRATING

70 YEARS OF AND 100 YEARS OF

ATLANTA POPS
ORCHESTRA

OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY
ON PEACHTREE



Jason Altieri
Music Director

OCTOBER 2 AND 3 AT 8:00PM

CONANT PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY

BRINGING TOGETHER THE PAST AND PRESENT WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

CECIL WELCH • BRENT RUNNELS • SCOTT PORTER • MICHELLE MALONE
JOE GRANSDEN • CHRIS WRIGHT • MONTANA SKIES • LEVI LOWREY
ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT & HEAVEN BEATBOX



PRESENTED BY ARTS, EDUCATION AND IDEAS AT OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY

WELCOME TO TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE

Greetings Gala Patrons!

On behalf of everyone at Oglethorpe University and the Atlanta Pops Orchestra I'd like to welcome you to this gala celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Atlanta Pops and Oglethorpe University's 100 Years on Peachtree. We are thrilled you are here to celebrate these milestones and hope you enjoy these two rich musical programs. We also hope you come back in the future for more great programs here in the Conant Performing Arts Center and around the Oglethorpe campus.

Best,
Lawrence M. Schall, J.D. , Ed.D.
President

ATLANTA POPS ORCHESTRA

In 1944 French immigrant Albert Coleman accepted the position of Musical Director for WSB Radio in Atlanta, Georgia and set about forming an orchestra that would include Atlanta's best musicians and be available for radio dates, public concerts and free performances for the benefit of young people and aspiring musicians. Albert established his first Atlanta Pops in 1945 and led the ensemble for 55 years.

In his long career Mr. Coleman also served as Music Director for Chet Atkins and Boots Randolph and performed with many of the major symphony orchestras throughout the United States and Europe. Most of the concerts in Atlanta were free to the local audiences and drew thousands of attendees. During his tenure, Albert was responsible for discovering and contributing to the careers of many young artists. His contributions won him the honor of membership in the Georgia Music Hall of Fame.

In 2002 former Atlanta Symphony Principal Trumpeter John Head became the Conductor and principal arranger for the Atlanta Pops, succeeding Albert Coleman. He conducted the orchestra in their 2004 tour of Taiwan, as well as concert performances throughout the southeast. In 2010 Maestro Head was succeeded by current Conductor and Musical Director Dr. Jason D. Altieri, an accomplished conductor of symphony, opera and pops programs.

OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY ON PEACHTREE

Re-chartered in 1913, the cornerstone to the new campus was laid at its present location on Peachtree Road in Atlanta in 1915. Dr. Thornwell Jacobs, who was the driving force behind the university's revival and who intended the new campus to be a "living memorial" to James Edward Oglethorpe, became the president for nearly three decades. During Jacobs' tenure, he launched several projects that brought national and international repute to Oglethorpe including finding the tomb of James and Elizabeth Oglethorpe in England; conferring honorary doctorates to recognize superior civic and scientific achievement to such notables as Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt and Amelia Earhart; and developing the Crypt of Civilization, the first modern time capsule which is located on the campus and is not to be opened until the year 8113 A.D.

In 1944, Oglethorpe University began a new era under noted attorney and educator Dr. Philip Weltner. With a group of faculty associates, Dr. Weltner initiated an exciting approach to undergraduate education called the "Oglethorpe Idea." It involved one of the earliest efforts to develop a core curriculum, with the twin aims to "make a life and to make a living." As Oglethorpe University continues to grow, academically and materially, it is ever mindful of its distinguished heritage and will still remain, in the affectionate words of poet and alumnus Sidney Lanier, "a college of the heart."

Oglethorpe University is listed on Georgia's Registry of Historic Places. The current President for the past decade is Larry Schall.

PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER 2, 2015

Monica Pearson & Chuck Dowdle, *Emcees*

Belle of The Ball
Georgia On My Mind
Pink Panther
Mr. Lucky
The Spanish Trumpet

Leroy Anderson
H. Carmichael/M. Gold
Henry Mancini
Henry Mancini
Henry Mancini

Cecil Welch ... *Trumpeter*

Embraceable You
Rhapsody In Blue

George Gershwin
George Gershwin

Dr. Brent Runnels ... *Pianist*

INTERMISSION

Lord of the Dance

Ronan Hardiman

Scott Porter ... *Irish Dancer*

Open Spaces
(performed at an Atlanta Pops concert in 1955)

Albert Coleman

Eleanor Rigby
Feather in a Hurricane

Arr. by Ethan Levitt
Michelle Malone/Arr. E. Levitt

Michelle Malone ... *Singer, Guitarist*

Satchmo *(medley)*

Arr. by Ted Ricketts

Palladio *(I, Allegretto)*

Arr. by Ted Ricketts

HeavenN Beatbox

Inner City
People Everyday

Arr. by Wes Funderburk/Kevin Leahy
Arr. by Wes Funderburk/Kevin Leahy

Arrested Development

PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER 3, 2015

Joe Gransden, *Emcee*

South Rampart St. Parade
Beguine The Beguine
Portrait Of Jennie
I Wish You Love

Steve Allen
Cole Porter
Burge/Robinson
Charles Trent

Joe Gransden ... *Trumpeter, Vocalist*

Chicago *(medley)*

Kander and Ebb

Let Me Sing and I'm Happy

I. Berlin/Arr. by S. Sensenig

Last Rose of Summer

Gov. Nathan Deal/Arr. S. Sensenig

Chris Wright ... *Actor, Vocalist*

Country Jubilee
(medley from the Atlanta Pops' "Hooked on Country" recording, 1983)

Albert Coleman

INTERMISSION

Serenata

Leroy Anderson

House of the Rising Sun

Arr. by Montana Skies

Gringo Flamenco

Montana Skies/Arr. Matthew Jackfert

Montana Skies

TV Western Medley

Arr. by John Head

Wherever We Break Down

Levi Lowrey

A Maritime Song

Levi Lowrey/ Arr. Wes Funderburk

Levi Lowrey ... *Fiddler, Vocalist, Songwriter*

Lord of the Dance

R. Hardiman/L. Moore

Scott Porter ... *Irish Dancer*

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Cecil Welch - October 2

When he was a member of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Academy Award winning film composer, Henry Mancini heard Cecil Welch perform and offered him a position as his principal trumpeter and soloist. This association allowed Cecil to perform with most of the major symphonies all across America, Canada and abroad, including the London Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony and the Tokyo Philharmonic. For 18 years he traveled the globe performing concerts in thousands of venues from the small towns of mid-America to the greatest concert halls the world has to offer. Cecil also performed with the Atlanta Pops Orchestra under the direction of Albert Coleman and toured with Chet Atkins and Johnny Mathis and played for President Jimmy Carter's 80th birthday celebration at the Carter Center in Atlanta and as a guest performer on the Jeff Foxworthy comedy TV show Blue Collar Comedy.

[Pink Panther](#) - Henry Mancini

[Mr. Lucky](#) - Henry Mancini

[The Spanish Trumpet](#) - Henry Mancini



Brent Runnels - October 2

A first prize winner of the *New Orleans International Piano Competition* and second prize in the *Jacksonville Classical Piano Competition* Brent Runnels has appeared as a soloist with the Atlanta Symphony, Prague Radio Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Florida Symphony, Orlando Philharmonic, and many others. He has given recitals in London, Prague, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Sydney and Atlanta and performs regularly as a member of the Atlanta Pops Orchestra. Dr. Runnels has also performed extensively as a jazz pianist and has appeared with such jazz artists as Jon Faddis, Clark Terry, Gene Bertoncini, Lou Soloff, Laurie Holloway, Francine Reed, Ted Howe and Joe Gransden and recorded a CD with late violinist Beth Newdome of the *Herbert Howells Violin Sonatas* which was released on Mark Records. In addition to performing, Dr. Runnels serves as Executive and Artistic Director of *Jazz Orchestra Atlanta* and is currently on the music faculty at *Oglethorpe University* in Atlanta.

[Rhapsody in Blue](#) - George Gershwin



Scott Porter - October 2 & 3

Scott Porter was the past producer and CEO of *Celtic Woman Ltd. & Touring, Inc.* Today, Scott is the founder, owner, producer and manager of *Kelly Porter Productions* with his wife Lisa Kelly, previous and original member of *Celtic Woman*. In addition to producing, Scott was also a seven-year member as dancer, dance captain and understudy to the male lead in the popular, worldwide touring show, *Riverdance*. You can currently find Scott dancing in Chloe Agnew's "An Irish Heart" Live in Con-

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

cert with the *Atlanta Pops Orchestra* and producing two new shows with Lisa Kelly at the Frederick Brown Amphitheatre in Peachtree City; *Lisa Kelly: The Voice of Ireland* and *Lisa Kelly's Celtic Christmas*. Scott and Lisa Kelly Porter own their own Irish dance academy and voice studio in Peachtree City; *Kelly Porter Dance Academy* and the *Lisa Kelly Voice Academy*.

[Lord of the Dance](#) - Ronan Hardiman



Michelle Malone - October 2

Atlanta native Michelle Malone is "equal parts rowdy guitar slinger and sweet songstress" (Guitar World). Her mastery of guitar, along with her trademark voice and songwriting skills, have earned her 3x Best Female vocalist, Best Acoustic Guitarist, Album of the year, and 2 grammy ballot appearances (Best Contemporary Blues 2006, Best Americana 2009). Her songs have appeared in film and TV, and have been recorded by Indigo Girls, among others. So far, over her 20+ career she has released 13 albums to date, and is currently on tour in support of her new album, *Stronger Than You Think*, a collection of empowering folk rock made to "fortify and inspire everyone who needs an extra boost of joy!" Malone's performances are "raucous and jubilant" (Rolling Stone) and can make the biggest venue feel cozy as a campfire and an intimate venue feel like the center of the universe.

[Eleanor Rigby](#) - The Beatles (arr. for orchestra by Ethan Levitt)

[Feather in a Hurricane](#) - Michelle Malone (arr. for orchestra by Ethan Levitt)



Heaven Beatbox - October 2

Heaven Beatbox is a Crossover beatboxer, an actor, rapper, and an artist. He began beatboxing at the age of 14, vocally mimicking sounds that were inspired by hip-hop and alternative rock. He was the first ever beatboxer to be featured on the Universoul Circus Tour. Steven uses beatboxing as an artform. With it, he manipulates sound musically and rhythmically to create a story. A graduate from Georgia State University he earned his bachelors degree in Film with a minor in Performance Theater Acting. He is currently working on an album of his original beatboxing scores. He is also working on several projects in the acting world that you will not want to miss.

[Palladio \(Allegretto\)](#) - Karl Jenkins



ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Arrested Development - October 2

Arrested Development (AD) are true trailblazers with-in hip-hop music. Since 1991 they've championed colorful sounds, while spreading a unique mixture of consciousness and musicality around the globe. AD's hit song "Mr. Wendal" brought much needed attention to the plight of the homeless and the group gave half of that singles royalties to the National coalition of the homeless. Their dance smash, "People Everyday" (Metamorphosis mix) addresses the tension between ignorance & consciousness, while paying homage to Sly & the Family Stone. MTV's Buzz Clip was the first major video outlet to play their music video, "Tennessee" which exposed them to the broader world. Spin Magazine, New York Times, LA Times among many others juggernauts featured AD on their covers. Later, the group would also become recipients of the NAACP image award (1993) plus a Soul Train music award. Despite their topics being an analysis and celebration of black reality in America, people of all backgrounds relate to Arrested Development's music. AD has won two Grammy awards (1993 - Best New Artist & Best Rap Single - Tennessee), Rolling Stone Magazine named them band of the year in 1992 and they were the first, and last, rap group (thus far), to win the Grammy's coveted Best New Artist award.

[Inner City](#) - Arrested Development (arr. for orchestra by Wes Funderburk /Kevin Leahy)

[People Everyday](#) - Arrested Development (arr. for orchestra by Wes Funderburk /Kevin Leahy)



Joe Gransden - October 3

Renowned first for the hard bop of his trumpet, Joe Gransden's singing voice has been compared to that of Chet Baker and Frank Sinatra. Joe has been on the road as a sideman with the big bands of Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller. In addition to touring the country with his Big Band, Joe has made 3 appearances at the famed Blue Note in NYC. He also regularly plays events at the Tehema Golf Club in Carmel, CA for Clint Eastwood. In town you can catch Joe & His Big Band every 1st and 3rd Monday at Café 290. Joe has brought the sounds of the big band to many audiences throughout the country. His current CD *Songs of Sinatra & Friends* can now be heard on Sirius XM and Pandora. He also performs with Kenny Banks as a Jazz duo, with his quintet and with orchestra. Joe's CD's include *Close to My Heart* produced by Joe and Kenny G and his new CD *Songs of Sinatra & Friends* featuring Joe singing and playing with his 16 piece Big Band.

[Portrait of Jennie](#) - Burdge/Robinson

[I Wish You Love](#) - Charles Trent



Chris Wright - October 3

Chris is making his debut with the Atlanta Pops Orchestra and is premiering Georgia Governor Nathan Deal's recently orchestrated song that he wrote for his wife Sandra. As a member of Actor's Equity, Chris has enjoyed performing across the country in roles such as Sancho (*Man of LaMan-*

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Chris Wright - October 3 (cont.)

cha), Nicely Nicely (*Guys and Dolls*), and in his signature role Peter Pan (*Peter Pan*.) He currently tours and performs with his wife Katie Deal in her hit show *Today, Tomorrow & Forever: A Tribute to Patsy Cline*.

[Let Me Sing and I'm Happy](#) - Irving Berlin (arr. for orchestra by Steven Sensenig)

[Last Rose of Summer](#) - Governor Nathan Deal (arr. for orchestra by Steven Sensenig)



Montana Skies - October 3

A metaphor for musical freedom, Montana Skies (Jenn Adams, cello and Jonathan Adams, guitar) continues to follow their creative instincts far beyond traditional boundaries. In concert, these award winning musicians delve into music from Pink Floyd and Rush to Vivaldi, House of the Rising Sun, and their own originals that have been featured everywhere from NPR to the Travel Channel. Montana Skies seemingly non-stop tour schedule has taken them all across the US as well as to Canada, Asia, and Russia and their dedication to their musical vision has helped them build an enthusiastic grass-roots fan base along the way. They recently composed and recorded the score for the PBS documentary, *Jay: A Rockefeller's Journey*. In short, this ain't your granny's chamber music.

[House of the Rising Sun](#) - (arr. by Montana Skies)

[Gringo Flamenco](#) - Montana Skies - (arr. for orchestra by Matthew Jackfert)



Levi Lowrey - October 3

Levi Lowrey reached the top of Country Music's charts by penning the Zac Brown Band #1 hit "Colder Weather". He graced the stages of the Ryman Auditorium, Red Rocks, and Madison Square Garden, toured internationally with Country music's premier acts, and released 2 stellar albums. "Much like his previous albums, I Confess I was a Fool (2011) and Levi Lowrey (2014), his new album, My Crazy Head (2015) is a piece of art that is felt as much as it is heard. His writing is both ahead of and behind the current state of country music. With the deepest respect to the roots of this genre, his lyrics stream the simplistically complicated storytelling of Samuel Clemens and the blue collar, everyman's poetry of Kris Kristofferson. Not a line wasted, not a detail overlooked."

[Wherever We Break Down](#) - Levi Lowrey with L.A. Tuten (Acoustic Bass), Rocky Ball (Banjo), Jenn Adams (Electric Cello) Kevin Leahy (drums)

[A Maritime Song](#) - arr. for orchestra by Wes Funderburk



ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Jason Altieri - Conductor

Dr. Jason Altieri is the current Music Director of the Atlanta Pops Orchestra and Associate Conductor for the Reno Philharmonic. Dr. Altieri is also a strong advocate for young musicians through his position as Director of Orchestras at the University of Nevada and with guest conducting engagements with youth orchestras all over the United States. Jason enjoys regular conducting engagements with the Hollywood Film Orchestra, an ensemble which he has led on several tours throughout the United States, China, and Japan since 2006. His extensive touring has seen him conducting in most of the major performance venues in the United States and Asia including *The People's Hall* in Beijing, China and *Suntory Hall* in Tokyo, Japan. In addition to his extensive touring and as a result of his tireless work with young musicians, Dr. Altieri was invited as a guest conductor for the Los Angeles Orchestra Festival held in Walt Disney Hall on June 24th, 2011. He also served as the orchestra director for the International Double Reed Society Conference in July of 2012 as well as guest conductor for the Santa Fe Symphony and the New Mexico Philharmonic.



The Ruby Reds Band - Lobby Entertainment

Ruby Reds Band (Rocky Ball, banjo, L.A. Tuten, acoustic bass, Marty Martin, trumpet & vocals) may be the oldest, continuously operating jazz band in Georgia. The band was formed in early 1966 to perform nightly at a banjo sing-along parlor called Ruby Reds Warehouse, at 58 Ellis Street in downtown Atlanta, GA, and has been playing throughout the Southeast ever since. For over 48+ years Ruby Reds Band have played for nearly every major corporate entity in the state. Along with thousands of private parties, land auctions, professional sports events, conventions of every kind, store openings, concerts, ribbon-cuttings, ice-cream socials, weddings, divorces, jazz funerals, country clubs, wake-up breakfasts, all-night street dances and they can't even count the parades. Ruby Reds Band currently plays weekly at Watershed on Peachtree's Sunday Cajun brunch where they recorded their newly released CD, *Ruby Reds Band Live@Watershed*.



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Dr. Jason Altieri

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King of Pops

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ATLANTA POPS ORCHESTRA

Presents

A GALA CONCERT SERIES AT OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY

Celebrating The 70Th Anniversary Of The Atlanta Pops Orchestra

Dr. Jason D. Altieri - *Music Director and Conductor*

FIRST VIOLINS

Mary Burndrett, *Concertmaster*
Will Meyers
Sinisa Ciric
David Edwards
Jonathan Urizar
Dena Gaddie

SECOND VIOLINS

Kirsten Browning
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Nan Kemberling
Barney Culver

BASS

Marc Miller

DRUM SET/TIMPANI

Kevin Leahy
Scott Douglas

FLUTE / PICCOLO

Jeanne Carere

OBOE / ENG. HORN

Mandy Dunaway

CLARINET

Miranda
Dohrman

BASSOON

Kiyoaki Kojima

FRENCH HORNS

Ed Ferguson
Elizabeth Regas

TRUMPETS

Lee King
John Bryant

TROMBONES

Tom Gibson
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Lee Watts (*Bass Trombone*)

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