

2018 UGA Bassoon and Oboe Symposium Faculty Bios

Jeffrey Rathbun joined The Cleveland Orchestra as Assistant Principal Oboe in 1990, and served as Principal Oboe from 2001–03. He won first prize at the 1988 Lucarelli International Competition for Solo Oboe Players, held at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. A Buffet Artist, Rathbun was the only North American oboist invited to perform in the 190th Anniversary Concert for the renowned instrument manufacturing company Buffet Crampon in Paris in 2015. In demand as guest principal oboe, he has performed in that capacity with the Boston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and most recently with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Rathbun teaches at the Kent/Blossom Music Festival, and, since Fall 2006, has served as lecturer in oboe at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory and with the Cleveland Institute of Music, and he has led masterclasses at schools across the United States. A composer of chamber and orchestral works, Rathbun's works have been performed by numerous ensembles, including The Cleveland Orchestra, and have been conducted by Christoph von Dohnanyi, Franz Welser-Most, and others. A new commission will be performed by The Cleveland Orchestra in 2018.

Barrick Stees, Bassoon, is the Assistant Principal Bassoonist of the Cleveland Orchestra and Instructor of Bassoon at the Cleveland Institute of Music and Kent/Blossom Music. Stees received a bachelor's degree and performer's certificate from the Eastman School of Music where he studied with K. David Van Hoesen. He has concertized extensively in Europe, South America and Asia, including a solo tour of Hong Kong and China. He has appeared at international music festivals in Italy, Germany, Argentina, Colombia and the Dominican Republic. He has given recitals throughout the United States. Solo appearances include performances with the Hartford Symphony, the South Bend Symphony, the Brevard Music Center Orchestra and the Cass City Bach Festival. Awarded the Presidential Scholar Teacher Recognition Award from the United States Secretary of Education, he has taught at Michigan State University, the Interlochen Arts Camp, the Interlochen Arts Academy, the Brevard Music Center and the University of Akron. His former students occupy prominent positions in orchestras and universities throughout the United States. He was previously Principal Bassoonist with the Hartford Symphony and has played with the Pittsburgh, Milwaukee and Detroit Symphony Orchestras as well as the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He has recorded three solo CDs, *The Romantic Bassoon*, *Opera Transcriptions and Paraphrases*, and *Nostalgica*. His website, <http://www.steesbassoon.com/>, and blog, [BarryBlogs](#), contain a wealth of information for bassoonists.

Amy Pollard is the Associate Professor of Bassoon at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia. She is currently principal bassoonist of the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra and second bassoonist with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle in Raleigh. Pollard has performed with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, and the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, among others. An avid chamber musician, she has performed nationally and internationally with such groups as the Georgia Woodwind Quintet and the bassoon/percussion duo, Col Legno. Pollard's debut CD, *Ruminations: the Bassoon Music of Eugene Bozza*, was released in 2015 on the Mark Masters label. She holds DMA and MM degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and a BM degree from Louisiana State University.

Reid Messich serves as Associate Professor of Oboe at the University of Georgia where he is an active member of the Georgia Woodwind Quintet. Messich also serves as Co-Principal Oboist with Memphis's IRIS Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Michael Stern and as the Principal Oboist of the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro John Morris Russel. Each year during the summer months, Messich serves as instructor of oboe and woodwind literature at the MasterWorks Music Festival. In demand, Messich maintains an active international and national performance career. He has performed with many top musicians and orchestras as both an orchestral musician, soloist, and clinician. Messich received his Bachelor of Music degree at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music where he studied under the direction of Richard Woodhams. He received his Master of Music degree and Doctor of Music degree from the Florida State University. Messich performs on a Howarth Coco-Jazz XL. In his spare time Messich is an avid Pittsburgh Steeler fan and enjoys spending time with his wife, Kaitlin, and newborn daughter, Lowry.