

The Twenty-Seventh Annual PLU Orchestra Festival

Friday, October 25, 2024

Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Pacific Lutheran University
The College of Professional Studies and School of Music, Theatre & Dance present

The Twenty-Seventh Annual PLU Orchestra Festival

Asieh Mahyar, Korine Fujiwara, and Anna Jensen, *Clinicians*
Ron Gerhardstein, *Guest Conductor*

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Welcome to Lagerquist Concert Hall.
Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the performance.
Use of cameras and recording equipment is not permitted in the concert hall.

Time	Event
8:00-8:30	South Kitsap Consort..... Keira Merwine, <i>Director</i> Symphony No. 10 in B Minor – Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) October – Eric Whitacre (b. 1970), arr. Paul Lavender Darkened Shadows – Joshua Reznicow (b. 1975)
8:35-9:05	Bellarmino Chamber Orchestra..... Samuel Booth, <i>Director</i> This Is Halloween – James Kazik (b. 1974) Waltz of the Wicked – Kirt N. Mosier
9:10-9:40	Curtis High School Philharmonic Orchestra..... Matthew Grenzner, <i>Director</i> St. Paul’s Suite in C Major, op. 29, no. 2 – Gustav Holst (1874-1934) <i>I. Jig: Vivace</i> <i>II. Ostinato: Presto</i> <i>III. Intermezzo: Andante con moto</i> <i>IV. Finale (The Dargason): Allegro</i>
9:45-10:15	Enumclaw High School Orchestra..... Timothy Hager-Wentz, <i>Director</i> Desperate Measures – Owen Goldsmith (1932-2015) Air and Dance – M.L. Daniels (b. 1931) Brandenburg Sinfonia – J. S. Bach (1685-1750), arr. Merle J. Isaac

- 10:20-10:50 Puyallup Chamber Orchestra Todd Giltner, *Director*
- Chaconne in E Minor – Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
- Concerto in B Minor – Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
Mvt. I
- Incantations – Richard Meyer (b. 1957)
- 10:55-11:25 Bothell High School Chamber Orchestra.....Trevor McNamara, *Director*
- Romanze in C, op. 42 – Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)
- A Su Merced, Don José – Nubia Jamie Donjuan (b. 1984)
- 11:30-12:00 Ballard High School Symphonic Orchestra.....Daniel Valdez, *Director*
- Short Overture for Strings – Jean Berger (1909-2002)
- Chaconne – Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706), arr. Robert Müller-Hartmann
- Heart of Fire – Lauren Bernofsky (b. 1967)
- 12:05-12:40 Pacific Lutheran University Symphony Orchestra Ron Gerhardstein, *Director*
- Ararat Suite, op. 34 – Loris Tjeknavorian (b. 1937)
V. Celebration Waltz; Dove Returns with Olive Branch – Genesis 8:11
- Symphony No. 5 in E Minor, op. 64 – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
I. Andante – Allegro con anima – Molto più tranquillo
II. Andante cantabile, con alcuna licenza
- 12:40-1:35 *Break*
- 1:35-2:05 Bethel High School Chamber Orchestra.....Rebecca Pelandini, *Director*
- Brook Green Suite – Gustav Holst
I. Prelude
II. Air
III. Dance
- Marche Slav – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, arr. Carrie Lane Gruselle
- Noatak Post, *student teacher* • Richie Vuthy, *violin*
- 2:10-2:40 Hazen Philharmonic Orchestra Christopher Coy, *Director*
- Across the Wind – Doug Spata (b. 1975)
- Brook Green Suite – Gustav Holst
I. Prelude
II. Air
III. Dance

- 2:45-3:15 Olympia High School Chamber Orchestra Joe Dyvig, *Director*
- The Holberg Suite, op. 40 – Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)
I. Paraeludium
II. Sarabande
III. Gavotte
IV. Air
V. Rigaudon
- Chloe Song, *violin* • Alyx Triebel, *viola*
- 3:20-3:50 Meadowdale Chamber Orchestra..... Nathan Rengstorf, *Director*
- Concerto Gross, op. 6, no. 4 – Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)
Allegro
- The Gift – William Hofeldt (b. 1951)
- M to the Third Power – Carold Nunez (1929-2015)
- Alexander Metzger and Ryan Natanawan, *violins* • Eli Hooke, *cello*
- 3:55-4:25 Heritage High School Chamber Orchestra.....Glenn Wilcott, *Director*
- Danse Macabre – Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921), arr. Carrie Lane Gruselle
- St. Paul’s Suite – Gustav Holst
I. Jig: Vivace
- Lion City – Soon Hee Newbold (b. 1974)
- 4:30-5:00 Garfield High School Symphony OrchestraMike Sundt, *Director*
- Danse Negre – Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912), arr. Deborah Baker Monday
- Serenade for Strings – Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
I. Allegro piacevole
- Sinfonia No. 2 in D Major – Felix Mendelssohn
I. Allegro
II. Andante
III. Allegro vivace
- Rosalia Feng, *violin*
- 5:05-5:35 Kamiak Uber Hammerstreich Brian Steves, *Director*
- Allegro in C Major – Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)
- “Air” from *Air and Gavotte* – Arthur Foote (1853-1937)

About the Host and Clinician

Passionate about performing music from diverse cultural traditions, **Asieh Mahyar** serves as the Interim Director of Orchestral Studies at Pacific Lutheran University and the Symphony Orchestra Conductor at the West Seattle Community Orchestra. A Doctor of Musical Arts candidate in Orchestral Conducting at Michigan State University, Ms. Mahyar holds an MM in orchestral conducting from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a BM in choral conducting from the Komitas State Conservatory in Yerevan, Armenia. Originally from Iran, Ms. Mahyar is one of the few female conductors from her country, bringing a wealth of diverse conducting experience to her roles. Her past positions include Assistant Conductor at Michigan State University, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Tchaikovsky Music College in Armenia. She has collaborated with professional orchestras such as the Grand Rapids Symphony and Jackson Symphony, Michigan, and the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra, Ohio. Her commitment to music education is evident through her work as a clinician and adjudicator with various Washington State high school orchestras, festivals, and conferences, including the WMEA Conference 2024-Junior All-State Orchestra, Lake Stevens High School Solo Ensemble Competition (MPMEA), PLU Invitational High School Orchestra and Band Festivals, Mercer Island High School Festival, and Capital High School Orchestra Festival. Ms. Mahyar's extensive experience encompasses leading instrumental and vocal ensembles and directing full opera productions. Ms. Mahyar has been selected for prestigious conducting workshops and conferences, working alongside leading conductors such as Christian Macelaru and Octavio Más-Arocas at the Cabrillo Music Festival, Richard Rosenberg at the National Music Festival, Gerard Schwarz at the Eastern Music Festival, Miguel Harth-Bedoya at the Conducting Institute, and Kenneth Kiesler at the Conductors Retreat at Medomak.

About the Guest Conductor

Ron Gerhardstein is the Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music at PLU. Dr. Gerhardstein has enjoyed a long career as a music educator in public school and collegiate settings. At PLU, he directs the Wind Ensemble and he teaches coursework in the music education curriculum, including: Band Repertoire and Rehearsal, Woodwind Labs I/II, Percussion Lab, Music and Culture, and PLUS 100: Transitions to PLU. Dr. Gerhardstein earned a Ph.D. in music education from Temple University where he studied with Edwin Gordon and Beth Bolton. He also attended the University of Idaho, earning a Bachelor's degree in music education, and a Masters of Music (saxophone performance) studying with Robert Miller. Dr. Gerhardstein is a frequent workshop clinician, guest conductor, and festival adjudicator. Prior to coming to PLU in 2014, he was the band director at West Valley High School in Yakima where his band program had a reputation for excellence in all areas (concert band, jazz band, and marching band). He has proudly served as an honor band conductor on several occasions, most notably the 2019 APAC Honor Band in Kobe, Japan, and the 2017 WMEA Junior All-State "Rainier" Band. A passionate advocate for music education, Ron is an active member of WMEA, currently serving a two-year term as WMEA President. Dr. Gerhardstein makes his home in Tacoma with his wife, Jerilyn, an elementary teacher librarian in the Bethel School District.

About the Guest Clinicians

Korine Fujiwara is professor of violin, viola, and composition at PLU. She served for many years on the music faculty of Ohio Wesleyan University and is in great demand for masterclasses and clinics throughout the United States. She is a founding member of the Carpe Diem String Quartet, a devoted and sought-after chamber musician and teacher, and a gifted composer and arranger. Named as one of *Strings Magazine's* "25 Contemporary Composers to Watch," Korine has received multiple commissions including works for opera, chamber ensembles, chorus, concerti, and music for modern dance. Her works have been performed throughout the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Italy, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Australia, China, and Japan. Critics have remarked of Ms. Fujiwara's music, "The ear is forever tickled by beautifully judged music that manages to be sophisticated and accessible at the same time" (*Fanfare Magazine*); "She knows how to exploit all the resources of string instruments alone and together" (*Strings Magazine*). "Fujiwara beautifully meets the challenge of weaving together different emotions across generations that make sense musically while delighting the ear" (*WOSU Classical 101 by Request*). "Fujiwara's music is rich and beguiling throughout;" (*The Columbus Dispatch*) "Artfully layered and knitted together" (*The Wall Street Journal*). Korine is a recipient of an Opera America Commissioning Grant from the Opera Grants for Female Composers program, made possible through the generosity of The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, for her award-winning composition *The Flood*, with Stephen Wadsworth, librettist, premiered in full production by Opera Columbus and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra

in February 2019. Ms. Fujiwara holds degrees from The Juilliard School and Northwestern University and began her orchestral career with the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra of Columbus. She was also a member of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, where she held the position of Acting Assistant Principal Second Violin. Korine performs on a 1790 Contreras violin, 2004 Kurt Widenhouse viola, and bows by three of today's finest makers, Paul Martin Siefried, Ole Kanestrom, and Charles Espey, all of Port Townsend, WA, USA. Outside of her musical endeavors, she enjoys chocolate, ramen, and geocaching.

Anna Jensen is the Executive Director of the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association where she conducts the Tacoma String Philharmonic. During the academic year, she teaches at PLU as the Lecturer of Double Bass and at the University of Puget Sound as the Director of Orchestras and Instructor of Double Bass. She is also the Director of Orchestras at the Annie Wright Schools. During the summer, Dr. Jensen teaches at The Evergreen Music Festival and The Hammond Ashley Bass Workshop. In recognition of her dedication to music education, Dr. Jensen was awarded the Outstanding Master Studio Teacher Award from the American String Teachers Association, WA Chapter and the WMEA "Friend of Music" award. As a conductor, Dr. Jensen is a frequent clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor for All-State orchestras, district festivals, contests, and workshops across the Pacific Northwest, including Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. Dr. Jensen is the assistant principal bassist of Symphony Tacoma, the principal bassist of the Tacoma Opera Orchestra, the principal bassist of the Tacoma City Ballet Orchestra, and performs with the Paramount Theater Orchestra.

About the PLU School of Music, Theatre & Dance

The PLU School of Music, Theatre & Dance is a nationally recognized center for musical performance, education, and community. From early in the morning to late at night students are practicing, studying, collaborating, and sharing their passion for musical growth. The Mary Baker Russell Music Center, an architectural and acoustical jewel on the PLU campus, houses the exquisite Lagerquist Concert Hall, spectacular Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Organ, and impressive rehearsal and classroom facilities. Our faculty—exceptional performers, composers, authors, and educators—consistently demonstrate artistry and musical leadership, dedication to nurturing talent, fostering an inclusive learning environment, and encouraging musical opportunities for all students. Degree programs include Bachelor of Arts (music and liberal arts), Bachelor of Musical Arts (music combined with an outside field), and Bachelor of Music (in performance or composition). The Bachelor of Music Education is offered for those intending to become music teachers in the public schools. For additional information, please call (253) 535-7602 or e-mail: music@plu.edu. Scholarship auditions for the 2025-2026 academic year will be held in February 2025.

You may see the Pacific Lutheran University Symphony Orchestra, along with PLU's Choir of the West, and the University Chorale in our annual Christmas concert series, this year entitled, *In excelsis Deo*. Online ticket sales begin October 30, 2024. For more information visit www.plu.edu/christmas.

Visit the PLU Orchestra online at www.plu.edu/symphony