

University Concert Band

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 7:30pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

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

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Matt Vegh, *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 concert.
Use of cameras, recording equipment, and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

PROGRAM

- Kirkpatrick's Muse**.....**Jay Bocook (b. 1953)**
- Pageant**.....**Vincent Persichetti (1915-1987)**
- Foundry**.....**John Mackey (b. 1973)**
- Sleep****Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)**
- Rocketship!****Kevin Day (b. 1996)**
- March of the Belgian Parachutists****Pieter Leemans (1897-1980)**
arr. John R. Bourgeois
- The Ascent from Darkness****Rossano Galante (b. 1967)**
- Metroplex: Three Postcards from Manhattan****Robert Sheldon (b. 1954)**

Program Notes

Kirkpatrick's Muse was commissioned by the McDaniel College Summer Music Camp in Westminster, Maryland to honor their camp founder and director of 30 years, Dr. Linda Kirkpatrick. The introduction contains a slow, Irish-style flute solo, before progressing to a faster Irish reel. The primary melodic material is a 16-bar theme partially derived from the Appalachian fiddle tune, *Glory in the Meeting House*. Celtic musicians would say this music is performed “with a bounce,” somewhat similar to a swing style in jazz music. Jay Bocook is the Director of Athletic Bands at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina.

A classic in the band repertoire, *Pageant* was commissioned by the American Bandmaster's Association, and finished by Persichetti in 1953. Vincent Persichetti, well-known for teaching composition at the Juilliard School (where he famously had pupils such as Philip Glass and Steve Reich), originally intended to name this piece *Morning Music for Band*. The opening horn motive is frequently quoted throughout the slower first part of the piece, and is meant to evoke a sunrise. The composer masterfully passes this motive throughout the ensemble, making use of the many timbral color variations possible in a wind band. The second, faster section is set up by the snare drum, and is referred to as the “parade.” Persichetti frequently uses polytonality (playing in two or more keys at the same time) in this section, where he uses both a B-flat chord and an A-flat chord at the same time on the first chord of this section. This polytonality continues through the rest of this piece – including the final chord.

Composer John Mackey writes, “the idea with *Foundry* was to make a piece that celebrates the fact that percussionists have this ability to make just about anything into an ‘instrument.’ Snare drums and bass drums are great, but why not write a whole piece featuring non-traditional percussion – things like salad bowls and mixing bowls and piles of wood?” This piece utilizes several percussionists from other sections of the band, as well as our entire percussion section, and is intended to be a musical depiction of a steel factory.

Eric Whitacre originally composed *Sleep* for a cappella choir, based on an original poem by Charles Anthony Silvestri. It was commissioned in its original choral form by Julia Armstrong, a lawyer and professional mezzo-soprano in Austin, Texas. She pursued the commission in honor and memory of her parents, who died within weeks of one another after over fifty years of marriage. Here is the text of Charles Anthony Silvestri's (b. 1965) poem:

The evening hangs beneath the moon,
A silver thread on darkened dune.
With closing eyes and resting head
I know that sleep is coming soon.

Upon my pillow, safe in bed,
A thousand pictures fill my head.
I cannot sleep, my mind's a-flight;
And yet my limbs seem made of lead.

If there are noises in the night,
A frightening shadow, flickering light,
Then I surrender unto sleep,
Where clouds of dream give second sight,

What dreams may come, both dark and deep,
Of flying wings and soaring leap
As I surrender unto sleep,
As I surrender unto sleep.

Kevin Day's *Rocketship!* is a high-energy modern work for wind band that makes use of fast tempi, power chords (open fifths), and several marching snare drum solos. While Dr. Kevin Day is well-known for his compositions that explore diverse musical styles, he is also an active jazz pianist, and serves as Lecturer of Music Theory and Musicianship at the UC San Diego Department of Music.

While serving in the Belgian army during World War I, Pieter Leemans was asked to compose a march by his regimental commander. Although he started the composition, it was not finished until the end of World War II following a dinner with a group of paratroopers, who asked him again to compose a march. Also known as *March of the Belgian Paratroopers* and *Marche des Parachutistes Belges*, Pieter Leemans composed this march during one single night, utilizing many of the themes from his earlier attempt. This edition is not the most famous (Charles Wiley's version is more well-known), but is likely most true to Leeman's original version. Col. John R. Bourgeois arranged this version following his acquisition of the original Belgian publication, which contained several strains not included in previous arrangements.

The Ascent from Darkness, a dramatic piece that pays homage to the human race that endured the pandemic, is broadly cinematic, utilizing themes that depict the strength of the human spirit, compassion, and perseverance. A single trumpet states the first motive, which gets passed to the French horns and woodwinds, followed by full chordal brass. The B section incorporates a solo oboe with clarinet accompaniment, before building to the tutti melody. The A section returns with bolder brass chords and rhythmic woodwind lines, before the piece quietly restates the first motive.

As one of the most performed composers of band music worldwide, Robert Sheldon has sold over three million copies of his compositions and books. Many of his works are staples in the modern wind band repertoire. As the title of the piece suggests, *Metroplex: Three Postcards from Manhattan* depicts three different scenes from Manhattan's cityscape – a broad view of the New York City skyline, the intimacy of the urban jazz nightclub scene, and a wild taxi ride through the busy, traffic-laden city streets. The New York City skyline reappears at the end of this piece as we leave Manhattan, with the hope of returning again soon.

About the Director

Matt Vegh graduated from Pacific Lutheran University in 2012 with a Bachelor's of Music Education (K-12 band and K-12 music) and Central Washington University in 2016 with a Master's of Music in wind band conducting, where he studied with Lewis Norfleet and Mark Lane. Professor Vegh also teaches at Steilacoom High School. At SHS, he directs Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, and has taught AP Music Theory. His concert bands consistently receive Superior ratings at festivals, while percussion ensemble frequently performs at the WIAA/WMEA State Ensemble Contest, and has performed as a guest ensemble with PLU's Percussion Ensemble twice. Matt Vegh's primary instrument is saxophone. He studied privately with Tracy Knoop, Dr. Erik Steighner, and online with Chad Lefkowitz-Brown. He has been fortunate to perform with the Columbia Basin Jazz Orchestra, South Sound Symphonic Band, Sophisticated Swing Jazz Band, and various other groups in the Pacific Northwest.

About the Ensemble

The **PLU University Concert Band** is a non-auditioned ensemble open to students and community members. Many of our members are non-music majors representing every department and school that our thriving liberal arts community at PLU has to offer. The musicians join our ensemble primarily for the opportunity to continue performing and engaging with music for personal, social, and intellectual enjoyment. The band performs once per semester and rehearses on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the MBR center on the PLU campus. Students who would like to join the ensemble for the Spring semester 2025 are encouraged to register for the class and join the band!

University Concert Band Personnel

Flute

Ashton Allen
Vicky Bratcher, *piccolo*
Kera Buckmaster
Evergreen Burling
Kaitlynn Koehn
Jadeyn Reeves
Isis Romero-Chavez
Margaret Stuart+

Oboe

Gabrielle Guerrero+
Sophia Pancoast

Bassoon

Syd Thayer-O'Brien

Clarinet

Bethani Juarez
Riley Judd
Xavier McMains
Kaylyn Sanford
Bella Woodland

Bass Clarinet

Eli Lockhart

Alto Saxophone

Steven Blankenship
Diana Kaufman
Courtney Lazzarini
Anthony Millsbaugh
Piero Ramirez

Tenor Saxophone

Brandon Harwood
Cadence Philbeck
Grace Weddle

Baritone Saxophone

Joseph Alvarez
Noah Ping+

French Horn

Ben Coats
William Lindsay+
Elizabeth Oie

Trumpet

Lydia Brannan
Clara Chabot
Gaje Dequis
Joan Fort
Allison Howes
Alby Jones
Mathilde Patursson
Levi Read

Trombone

Christian Ayala
Jaden Pulido-Hughes

Euphonium

Jevon Ignaco
Nick Salas
Jenea Staples

Tuba

Preston Hill+
David Hobson+
Tyler Kim+
Lillian Woolery

Double Bass

Jess Mason

Percussion

Ben Giertz
Rory Lacy*
Brandon Liukkonen
Rachel Mower
Sam McDonald
Jenea Staples
Joseph Wilcher
Jenna Woods+

* Section leader

+ Community member

Fall Events

at Pacific Lutheran University

ALL MUSIC EVENTS ARE IN MARY BAKER RUSSELL MUSIC CENTER, LAGERQUIST CONCERT HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

SEPTEMBER

- 8 Sunday, 3pm**
Faculty Recital: Erik Steighner, Saxophone, free admission
- 14 Saturday, 7:30pm**
Faculty Recital: Dawn Sonntag, Composer, free admission
- 29 Sunday, 3pm**
Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series: Justin Murphy-Mancini,
Organist

OCTOBER

- 6 Sunday, 6pm**
Jubilee Day Celebration Concert, in partnership with Seattle Opera,
free admission
- 9 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
University Jazz Ensemble. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille
Phillips Center
- 13 Sunday, 3pm**
University Wind Ensemble
- 15 Tuesday and 16 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Choral Concert
- 19 Saturday, 5pm**
PLU Faculty Brass Showcase
- 25 Friday, 12pm**
Orchestra Festival concert, free admission
- 27 Sunday, 3pm**
South Sound Saxophone Ensemble, free admission

NOVEMBER

- 3 Sunday, 3pm**
Angela Meade Vocal Competition, free admission
- 4 Monday, 7:30pm**
University Symphony Orchestra
- 6 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Keyboard Students Recital, free admission
- 10 Sunday, 3pm**
Faculty Recital: Korine Fujiwara and Family, free admission
- 13 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Early Music Concert, free admission
- 16 Saturday, 3pm**
Woodwind Students Recital, free admission
- 16 Saturday, 4:30pm**
Brass Students Recital, free admission
- 17 Sunday, 3pm**
University Wind Ensemble
- 19 Tuesday, 7:30pm**
University Concert Band
- 20 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Piano Ensemble, free admission
- 21 Thursday, 6:30pm**
Steel Band. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center, free
admission
- 22 Friday, 7:30pm**
University Jazz Ensemble. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille
Phillips Center
- 23 Saturday, 3pm**
Sølvvinden Flute Ensemble, free admission
- 23 Saturday, 7:30pm**
Percussion Ensemble, free admission
- 24 Sunday, 12pm**
Guest Artist Recital: April Clayton, Flute & Miguel del Aguila,
Composer and Piano, free admission
- 24 Sunday, 2:30pm**
April Clayton Flute Masterclass and Burkhart Flutes Exhibit. Room
322, Mary Baker Russell Music Center, free admission
- 24 Sunday, 3pm**
Choral Union
- 24 Sunday, 5pm**
PLUtonic/Gold Rush. The Cave, Anderson
University Center, free admission

NOVEMBER, Cont.

- 24 Sunday, 7:30pm**
Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble, free admission
- 26 Tuesday, 6pm**
Chamber Music Kaleidoscope, free admission
- 26 Tuesday, 7:30pm**
String Kaleidoscope, free admission

DECEMBER

In excelsis Deo, A PLU Christmas Concert

Tickets go on sale Wednesday, October 30

Friday, December 6, at 7:30pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall
Saturday, December 7, at 2pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall
Saturday, December 7, at 7:30pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall
Sunday, December 8, at 2pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall
Monday, December 9, at 7:30pm - Benaroya Hall, Seattle

- 3 Tuesday, 6pm**
Saxophone Quartets & Jazz Combos. The Cave, Anderson
University Center, free admission
- 4 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Sounds of Christmas, featuring University Singers and Knights
Chorus

JANUARY

- 11 Saturday, 4:30 and 6:30pm**
Northwest High School Honor Band, free admission
- 19 Sunday, 5pm**
PLU Honor Orchestra for Strings, free admission
- 31 Friday, 7:30pm**
Great Moments in Opera. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips
Center

FEBRUARY

- 1 Saturday, 7:30pm**
Great Moments in Opera. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips
Center

To Order Tickets:

On Line: www.plu.edu/music/tickets

At the Concert: Lobby Desk in Mary Baker Russell Music Center
or Karen Hille Phillips Center (depending on performance location)

*CONCERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
All ticket sales are final - no refunds*

MUSIC EVENT TICKET PRICES: \$16 GENERAL PUBLIC; \$12 PLU FACULTY/STAFF, ALUMNI, MILITARY,
SENIORS (60); \$8 IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF PERFORMERS, PATRONS UNDER 18; FREE TO PLU STUDENTS
WITH STUDENT ID. **CONCERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND SOME CONCERTS MAY BE ADDED
AFTER PUBLICATION.** www.plu.edu/music/calendar (updated October 22, 2024)