

Northwest High School Honor Band

Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 4:30pm and 6:30pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center



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

Northwest High School Honor Band

Ron Gerhardstein, *director*

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Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

PROGRAM

Olympic Concert Band, 4:30pm

Betsy McCann, *conductor*

Program will be chosen from

Cosmopolitan AmericaHelen May Butler (1867-1957)
arr. James Lamb

Takeda Lullaby Benjamin Yeo (b. 1985)

The Gathering of EaglesBob Baker
arr. Robert Buckley

Ron Gerhardstein, *conductor*

Refractions..... Kevin Poelking (b. 1988)

Synthetic Sunlight Steven Bryant (b. 1972)

Cascade Concert Band, 4:30pm

Jonathan Helmick, *conductor*

Program will be chosen from

Space Races..... Erin Keeton-Howard (b. 1986)

Safely Rest.....Nicole Piunno (b. 1985)

Blue Ridge Reel Brian Balmages (b. 1975)
Matt Vegh, *conductor*

Milano: Marcia, op. 174Amilcare Ponchielli (1834-1886)
arr. Armando Saldarini

Sedona Steven Reineke (b. 1970)

Rainier Symphonic Band, 6:30pm
Tonya Mitchell-Spradlin, *conductor*

Program will be chosen from

- The Governor’s Own March**.....**Alton Adams (1889-1987)**
- My Eyes are Full of Shadow**..... **Joel Puckett (b. 1977)**
- Little Mexican Suite**.....**Nubia Jaime Donjuan (b. 1984)**
III. Sahuaro
- Song for Terra**.....**Yukiko Nishimura (b. 1967)**
Ron Gerhardstein, *conductor*
- Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light, BWV 248**..... **J. S. Bach (1685-1750)**
arr. Johann Schop
- Luminescence****David Biedenbender (b. 1984)**

About the Clinicians



Dr. Betsy McCann is the Assistant Director of Bands and Director of Marching and Athletic Bands at the University of Minnesota. In this position, she directs the “Pride of Minnesota” Marching Band, conducts the University Band, instructs undergraduate conducting, and manages the comprehensive Athletic Bands program. McCann is the first woman to head a Big Ten Marching Band and Athletic Bands program. She has guided the program to great success on and off the field, including internationally renowned performances in the Super Bowl LII Halftime Show and World Expo 2020 in Dubai, UAE. McCann is active nationally as a guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and speaker. She has presented on leadership, group culture, and other topics at a variety of public and private events, including multiple appearances at the College Band Directors National Association Athletic Bands Conference, the Minnesota Music Educators Association Midwinter Clinic, and corporate training events. She has served as a guest conductor and clinician with bands from the United States and Canada, including with the Minnesota All State Concert Band. McCann is a strong supporter and active conductor of new music, receiving positive acclaim from composers, performers, and audiences for her interpretation and conducting artistry. Prior to McCann’s current appointment at the University of Minnesota, McCann served as the Assistant Director of the University of Minnesota Marching Band. Additionally, she served as a band director and classroom music instructor at Burnsville and Watertown-Mayer High Schools in Minnesota and Waubonsie Valley High School in Illinois. McCann earned a doctorate in conducting at the University of Minnesota, with research and performance emphasis on conducting contemporary music. She earned a Master of Music degree in wind band conducting from Northwestern University, where she graduated with program honors, and a Bachelor of Music degree in flute performance and music education from the University of Minnesota. McCann is a member of the National Association for Music Education, College Band Directors National Association, National Band Association, Minnesota Music Educators Association, and Phi Beta Mu. She serves on the College Band Directors National Association Athletic Band Committee and is an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. She lives in the Minneapolis area with her husband and two children.



Dr. Jonathan Helmick serves as Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music at Slippery Rock University. Part of his responsibilities include directing the Slippery Rock University “Marching Pride”, the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and the Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble. He also teaches assigned courses such as Fundamentals of Conducting, Advanced Conducting, Brass Methods, Marching Band Field Charting, and Applied Euphonium. Under his direction, the Slippery Rock University Wind Ensemble has achieved national acclaim having been named a finalist for the prestigious American Prize in Wind Ensemble and Concert Band Performance (college/university division). Most recently, the two hundred-member Slippery Rock University Marching Pride was invited to perform in Ireland at the 2019 Dublin St. Patrick’s Festival Parade and the 2019 Limerick International Band Championship. During these internationally televised

performances the ensemble received the honor of being named Best Overall Band, Best Adult Band, and Best International

Band. Dr. Helmick holds the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in conducting from The University of Southern Mississippi. He earned a Master of Music degree in euphonium performance with a cognate area in music theory from The University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. Both his Bachelor of Music in music education degree and Bachelor of Arts in business and organizational communications degrees were received from the University of Akron with honors. Prior to his college teaching career, Dr. Helmick taught in the public schools of Ohio and Mississippi, most recently the All-Superior Sweepstakes Award-winning Oak Grove Band program. He has also served as Assistant Conductor and member of the Board of Trustees for the Freedom Brass Band of Northeast Ohio and performed as a member of the Brass Band of the Western Reserve on both euphonium and baritone. Prior to his position at Slippery Rock University, Dr. Helmick served as the Director of Bands and Low Brass Instructor at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, MS. At Jones, he conducted the Jones County Junior College Symphonic Band and was the Director of the “Maroon Typhoon” Marching Band. Courses he taught included applied trombone, euphonium, and tuba. During his time at Jones, the marching band gained national attention when invited to perform in the 2015 McDonald’s Thanksgiving Parade in Chicago, IL. Under his direction, students have had the opportunity to work in both performance and masterclass settings with national and international performing artists such as Tucker Jolly, Dr. Richard Perry, the Maniacal 4 Quartet, Harmonic Brass, and Travis Scott. Further, he served as co-founder and site coordinator of the “Roger Bobo Festival of Brass,” a summer brass symposium featuring international brass pedagogue and tubist Roger Bobo as clinician. Active as a musician and educator, Dr. Helmick has served as a guest clinician, artist, and adjudicator in Pennsylvania, Florida, Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, Mississippi, Ohio, Michigan, Florida, Idaho, New Mexico, Texas, Sicily, Austria, and the Czech Republic. At Slippery Rock University, he has earned the honor of being named recipient of the 2017-2018 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 2019, he was honored to receive the Citation of Excellence from the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, representing District 5. Primary teachers of conducting and music education include Dr. Thomas Fraschillo, Dr. Mohamad Schuman, Professor Robert D. Jorgensen, Dr. Galen S. Karkiker, and Dr. Jody Besse. Principal euphonium teachers include Dr. Richard Perry and Professor Tucker Jolly.



Dr. Tonya Mitchell-Spradlin is Director of Wind Band Studies and Assistant Professor of Music at Penn State University. In addition to conducting the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, overseeing the graduate wind conducting program, teaching courses in wind band literature and wind conducting, she oversees all aspects of the concert band programs at Penn State. Her appointment at PSU follows three years as Assistant Director of Bands and Associate Director of Athletic Bands at the University of South Carolina. Prior to her tenure at UofSC, Mitchell-Spradlin taught at Valdosta State University as Director of Athletic Bands and was Director of Bands at Chamblee High School in Chamblee, Georgia. Mitchell-Spradlin has a diverse background as a clinician, adjudicator, educator, and speaker. She is a frequent guest conductor, and has presented regionally at the South Carolina Music Educators Association Conference, nationally at the Midwest International Band

and Orchestra Clinic, internationally at the International Society for the Promotion of Wind Band in Austria, and has served as Tau Beta Sigma’s local and national Women in Music Speaker. As a proponent of new music, she is engaged in building the wind band medium. She led the consortium and premiere of Aaron Perrine’s *Beneath a Canvas of Green* for wind ensemble and percussion quartet which was also the source of her doctoral dissertation. Additionally, she is active in a number of premieres and consortiums for new music. Mitchell-Spradlin serves as the National Vice President of Professional Relations for Tau Beta Sigma: National Honorary Band Sorority. She also holds memberships in Kappa Kappa Psi, the College Band Directors National Association, National Association for Music Education, and Women Band Directors International.

About the Directors



Ron Gerhardstein is the Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music at Pacific Lutheran University. 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 in 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.



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.

Participating High Schools and Directors

Auburn High School, Colton DeCarteret
Auburn Mountainview High School, Meredith Heinzmann
Auburn Riverside High School, Meghan Wagner
Bainbridge High School, Chris Thomas
Bellarmine Preparatory School, Casey Whitson
Bethel High School, Ryan Whitehead
Black Hills High School, Andrew Landowski
Bonney Lake High School, Brandon Cain
Camas High School, Richard Mancini
Cedarcrest High School, Dean Snavelly
Centralia High School, Louie Blaser
Curtis Senior High School, Randall Qualls
Decatur High School, Jeff Chang
Ellensburg High School, Warren Murray
Emerald Ridge High School, Scott Fry
Enumclaw High School, Timothy Hager-Wentz
Fife High School, Ingrid Smith
Governor John R Rogers High School, Stephen Pickard
Graham Kapowsin High School, Dan Hendrick
Hanford High School, Cole Lobdell
Henrietta Lacks, Scott Hamilton
Henry M. Jackson High School, Michael Lundquist
Hockinson High School, Corey McEnry
Hoquiam High School, Drew Shipman
Ilwaco High School, Rachel Lake
Inglemoor High School, Charlie Fix
Juanita High School, Annemarie Smith
Kentwood High School, Benjamin Petersen
Lake Stevens High School, Neil Proff
Lakes High School, Tami Johnson
Lakewood High School, Katy Trapp
Liberty High School, Jared Tanner
Mark Morris High School, Regan Huffman
Monroe High School, Lisa Ray

Montesano Jr/Sr High School, Maria Hoffman
Mount Si High School, Bill Leather
Mount Tahoma High School, Matt Wasson
Nestucca High School, Kathleen Serven
North Kitsap High School, Bryce Adams
North Mason High School, Chris Drewry
North Thurston High School, Darren Johnson
Oak Harbor High School, Zachary Petty
Olympia High School, Erik Curley
Orcas Island High School, Darren Dix
Orting High School, David Buroker
Peninsula High School, Megan Hilborn
Prosser High School, Dan Norris
Puyallup High School, Eric Ryan
Rainier High School, Adam Cornwall
Redmond High School, Cory Edwards
Rochester High School, Kelsey Kosin
Roosevelt High School, Hannah Mowry
Royal High School, Erich Mietenkorte
Selah High School, Kevin Madson
Snohomish High School, Rich Carey
Spanaway Lake High School, Bruce Leonardy
Squalicum High School, Kay Reilly
Stadium High School, Justin Ehli
Steilacoom High School, Matt Vegh
Sultan High School, Jill Sumpter
Sumner High School, Joe Carl
Tenino High School, Andrew Bowerly
The Bear Creek School, Kelsey Thompson
The Northwest School, Erin Keeton-Howard
Toppenish High School, Derek Gore
Tumwater High School, Peter Klinzman
Washougal High School, David Duarte
White River High School, Rich Kuntzelman

Spring Events

at Pacific Lutheran University

ALL MUSIC EVENTS ARE IN MARY BAKER RUSSELL MUSIC CENTER, LAGERQUIST CONCERT HALL AT 8PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

FEBRUARY

- 8 Saturday, 7:30pm**
Puget Sound Concert Opera: *Highway 1, USA* and opera by William Grant Still, free admission (donations accepted)
- 9 Sunday, 3pm**
Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series: Barbara Baird, Organist
- 19 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Faculty Recital: Er-Hsuan Li, Piano, free admission
- 20 Thursday, 7pm**
United States Coast Guard Band Presents: "Centennial Celebration" Concert Tour, free admission but ticket is required:
<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/us-coast-guard-band/Tacoma>

MARCH

- 1 Saturday, 2pm**
Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble, free admission
- 1 Saturday, 5pm**
Guitar Faculty Recital, free admission
- 2 Sunday, 3pm**
Second City Chamber Series: Bon Anniversaire, M. Ravel!. Tickets: \$40, purchased through Second City Chamber Series only, by phone at 253-572-8863 or at their website:
www.scchamberseries.org
- 2 Sunday, 5:30pm**
Bon Anniversaire, M. Ravel! Masterclass, free admission
- 9 Sunday, 3pm**
Choral Union
- 16 Sunday, 7:30pm**
University Wind Ensemble
- 18 Tuesday, 7:30pm**
Wayne Bergeron with the Pacific Lutheran University Jazz Ensemble. Eastvold Auditorum, Karen Hille Philips Center
- 19 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
University Symphony Orchestra: Student Showcase
- 22 Saturday, 1pm**
Rhythm Celebration concert. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center, free admission
- 30 Sunday**
Pacific NW Trombone Symposium 2025, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

APRIL

- 6 Sunday, 3pm**
Faculty Recital: Oksana Ejokina, Piano with Guest Artists, free admission
- 16 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Keyboard Students Recital, free admission
- 19 Saturday, 7:30pm**
Faculty Recital: Jason Gilliam, Euphonium, free admission
- 22 Tuesday, 7:30pm**
Steel Band, free admission
- 23 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Percussion Ensemble, free admission
- 27 Sunday, 3pm**
University Singers & Knights Chorus
- 27 Sunday, 3pm**
Faculty Recital: Jennifer Rhyne, Flute & Shelly Myers, Oboe, free admission
- 29 Thursday, 7:30pm**
University Chorale

MAY

- 1 Thursday, 7:30pm**
Choir of the West
- 2 Friday, 3:30pm**
Stanford Olsen Voice Masterclass. Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall, free admission

MAY, Cont.

- 2 Friday, 7:30pm**
Sølvvinden Flute Ensemble, free admission
- 3 Saturday, 7:30pm**
Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble, free admission
- 4 Sunday, 3pm**
University Wind Ensemble
- 6 Tuesday, 6pm**
Saxophone Quartets & Jazz Combos. The Cave, Anderson University Center, free admission
- 7 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Piano Ensemble, free admission
- 8 Thursday, 7:30pm**
University Symphony Orchestra
- 9-10 Friday-Saturday, 7:30pm**
The Fairy Queen by Henry Purcell. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center
- 10 Saturday, 3pm**
Woodwind Students Recital, free admission
- 10 Saturday, 4:30pm**
Brass Students Recital, free admission
- 11 Sunday, 6pm**
Chamber Music Kaleidoscope, free admission
- 11 Sunday, 7:30pm**
String Kaleidoscope, free admission
- 13 Tuesday, 7:30pm**
University Concert Band
- 14 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
University Jazz Ensemble. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center
- 17 Saturday, 3pm**
Mariyka Vasilchuk Piano - Forestine Wise Monsen Scholarship Recital, free admission
- 17 Saturday, 7:30pm**
Choral Union
- 18 Sunday, 3pm**
Choir International Tour Concert
- 18 Sunday, 7:30pm**
Composers Forum, free admission

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 January 6, 2025)