

# **Rhythm Celebration**

Saturday, March 22, 2025  
Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center

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

## Rhythm Celebration

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Welcome to Eastvold Auditorium.  
Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of today's events.  
Use of cameras, recording equipment, and all digital devices is not permitted.

### PROGRAM

#### PLU Alumni Steel Band

Miho Takekawa, *director*

Donovan Klega, Darek Solomon, Jessa Delos Reyes, Rui-An Tseng, Joel Bozich

Guantanamera.....Cuban Folk Song

How Far I'll Go ..... Lin-Manuel Miranda (b. 1980) & Mark Mancina (b. 1957)  
Jessa Delos Reyes, *vocal solo*

Caribbean Connection.....Merchant (b. 1981)  
arr. Darek Solomon

#### Puyallup School District Pans of Steel

Sebastian Hernandez, *director*

#### Junior Calypso

Addison Anderson, Molly Anderson, Hadley Angle, Nathan Baatz, Link Balascak, Benjamin Berg, Ellie Emrick,  
Faithmarie Foote, Yuki Hall, Karlie Jarvi, Quinn Johnson, Henley Kambich, Harper Keogh, Yoonha Kim,  
Gabriella Lewis, Anniston Lyons, Liam Miller, Chase Rizzo, Weston Ruch

Hill and Gully ..... Trinidadian Folk Song

Frangipani ..... Emily Lemmerman

#### Soca

Nadia Baxter, Ellie Dean, Evie Hoang, Olivia Jackson, Jake Knower, Cora Livingston, Sierra Louis-Jeune,  
Faith Massano, Mason Moe, Dekhi Peterson, Jaxon Cañez, Austin Scott, Nolan Wilson, Emma Aboites,  
Lorelei Spindler, Luna Hernández Rogge, Brynlie Smith, Tariq Todman, Sofia Nicole Tobon Arevalo

Someone else's cat ..... Walt Hampton

Buya l'Africa ..... Bonnie Carol

## **Mambo**

Angelina Aleksandruk, Allan Armenta, Lakyn Campbell, Dezi Cornelison, Mirabelle Ganchorre, Julian Garcia-Martinez, Rowyn Bear Hazlerig, Brooklyn Knowler, Mackenzie Parker, Sawyer Ruch, Bridgette Sanders, Kaden Scherck, Adyson Scott, Jaxson Terry, Ethan Thierbach, Lyon Mom, Naomi Nelson, Rylín Kambich, Hazel Sullivan, David St. Louis, Addison Clark, Julian Ganchorre

**Havana** ..... **Camila Cabello (b. 1997)**  
arr. Paradis

**Windsor Road**..... **Emily Lemmerman**

## **Calypso**

Donovan Armenta, Josefina Burgos, Grant Huson, Logan Keogh, Lua Lopez, Holden Muench, Anderson Oberg, Samantha Papineau, Brady Parker, Kenya Quihui, Kai Ruminski, Nyx Wetzel

**Somewhere Over the Rainbow**..... **Harold Arlen (1905-1986)**  
arr. TJ Wheeler

**Nobody go run me**..... **Sir McLean Emmanuel (b. 1942)**  
arr. Khan Cordice

## **Combined PLU Alumni Steel Band and Pans of Steel**

**Jean and Dinah**..... **Mighty Sparrow (b. 1935)**  
arr. Greg Youtz, digitized by Logan Keogh

## **About Puyallup School District Pans of Steel**

The Puyallup School District is proud to be one of the few in Washington State with an active steel pan program. Involvement in this program supports students in developing districtwide relationships and multi-level connections through collaboratively exploring the fundamentals of musicianship and teamwork as they relate to percussion ensemble. In addition to the artistry of the music, students learn the history of the steel pan, and its evolution in Trinidad from slavery to today, providing students a broader perspective and understanding. The steel pan ensembles perform regularly at school and community events including, but not limited to, assemblies, meetings, celebrations, and festivals. In the end, Pans of Steel is a community of families that focus on the common goal of providing a fun, wholesome, inclusive, and fulfilling musical experience for their children.

## **About the Directors**

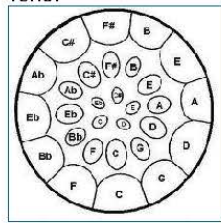
**Sebastian Hernandez** graduated from Pacific Lutheran University in 2015. He has always had a passion for teaching and seeing students surpass their limits. Prior to studying music education at PLU, Hernandez served in multiple worship groups growing up. This is where he learned how to play multiple band instruments in addition to the trumpet and saxophone learned in school. Once being presented with the idea of building a pan program in the Puyallup School District, Hernandez found the space to merge all areas of interest in one setting. Hernandez has since arranged and composed for not only Pans of Steel but other pan ensembles such as the PLU Steel Band and others. Hernandez teaches at Dessie E. Evan's Elementary School and directs four steel pan ensembles, and would not have it any other way, stating, "Every day I learn something new from these students! They impact my life as much as I hope I do theirs. Although I would like to believe the main goal is to have every student become an accomplished musician, my ultimate goal is to encourage the development of sensitivity, creativity, and discipline, while at the same time bringing joy into their everyday." In his spare time Hernandez loves to play pickleball with friends and travel to play tournaments.

**Miho Takekawa** was raised in Tokyo and currently resides in Seattle. She teaches at Pacific Lutheran University, where she heads the percussion studio and directs the school's percussion and steel pan ensembles. During the 2010-2011 school year, she was an interim professor of percussion at the University of Washington School of Music. Miho began piano at the age of three and took up percussion at thirteen, ultimately graduating from Tokyo's prestigious Kunitachi School of

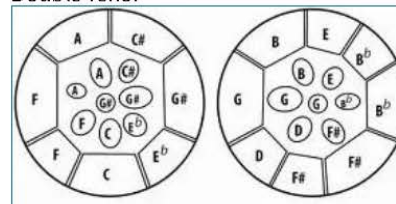
Music. She earned both master's and doctoral degrees in percussion performance from the University of Washington School of Music in Seattle, where she was awarded the coveted Boeing Scholarship, among other honors. She is a sought-after performer in many styles of music, working with groups ranging from classical music (such as the Seattle Modern Orchestra) to Mexican banda music, to steel band, and West African drumming. She performs with Diego Coy Musica Colombiana, Pan Duo, and many other groups, and is a founding member of the Miho & Diego Duo ([www.mihodiego.com](http://www.mihodiego.com)). Significant awards include a Washington State Arts Commission Fellowship and grants from King County 4Culture. In addition to her own performance career, Miho directed the North Rainbow Steel Drum Group (Sapporo, Japan) and served as an arranger for the Hirosaki University Steel Pan Group. Inspired to share her passion for music with others, and especially younger musicians, Miho is a board member of Steel Magic Orchestra Northwest, a consultant for the Washington State Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society, an annual guest speaker for the University of Washington Percussion Lab, and a co-founder of Smile for Japan, a Seattle-based fundraising event for the victims of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. She was also a contributing performer to a fundraising CD to aid victims of the Oso (Washington) Mud Slide. She has worked to foster cultural exchange between Japanese and American youth groups, leading or coordinating tours by the University of Washington Husky Marching Band and the University of Washington Wind Ensemble (Seattle), Musica Grato Himi (Toyama, Japan), the Tamana Girls High School Band (Japan), the Graham-Kapowsin High School Band (Washington State), the Left Coast Brass Quintet (Seattle), and Seattle percussionist Tom Collier. Many of Miho's past activities can be found at [www.tymusicexchange.com](http://www.tymusicexchange.com).

### Steel Pan Layout Examples

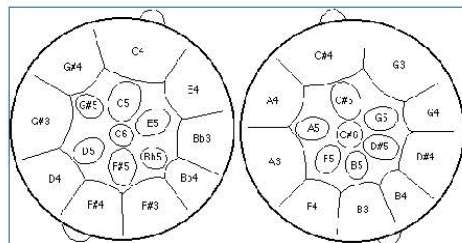
Tenor



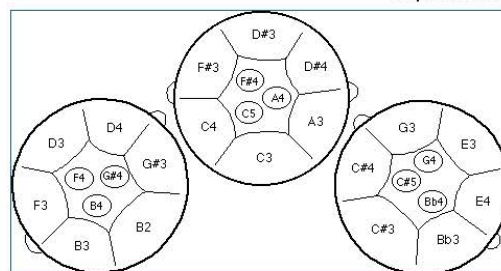
Double Tenor



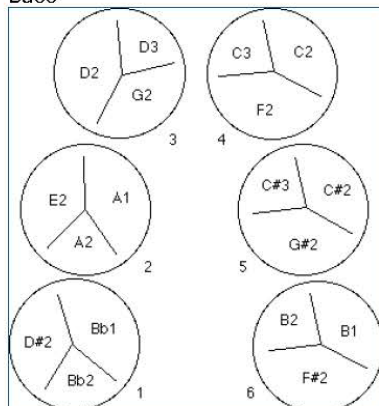
Double Seconds



Triple Cello



Bass



## **From Oil Drum to Steel Band Instrument**

### *Step 1: Find your drum*

Steel pans start life as a standard 55-gallon oil drum, made from 17- or 18-gauge steel. These drums are cleaned and checked for faults before the best are chosen for use.

### *Step 2: Sinking*

The flat bottom of the oil drum is robustly hammered into a concave shape using a heavy hammer. In some part of the Caribbean a shot-put or a 5kg heavy cast iron ball (cannon balls!) is used instead, which is bounced onto the surface. This process, known as sinking, stretches the steel and creates the surface for the notes. This surface is now completely below the rim of the oil drum.

### *Step 3: Cutting*

The lower section of the drum is cut off. How much is cut off determines the pitch of the steel pan. If you leave more 'skirt' in the drum, it has a lower pitch. Less skirt, the higher the individual pan voices can be. (This can also be done after the grooving process in Step 7.)

### *Step 4: Smoothing*

The hammer comes out again, to smooth out the concave surface in a process rather like taking dents out of car doors (panel beating). This second round of hammering further strengthens the drum.

### *Step 5: Etching*

The individual notes need to be etched onto the playing surface so each one can be pitched. This is done using a punch tool, some pre-cut shapes as according to which note is being created, and a template of where each note should be positioned. Each pitch of pan (tenor, baritone, etc.) has its own template. These can be simple or complex.

### *Step 6: Countersinking*

The area between each note is carefully flattened using (you guessed it) precision hammers. The result is that each note protrudes slightly as a 'bulge', making it easier to hit when playing.

### *Step 7: Grooving*

Using a nail punch, indentations are gently hammered around each note to create an outline. The idea is that this outline separates each note from one another, and stops them from blending together. However, given that we're still dealing with one big piece of steel, some steel pan tuners think this process just makes the pan look nicer!

### *Step 8: Firing and tempering*

The steel in the drum still needs to be tempered. It is heated rapidly and then cooled by pouring water over it or leaving it to cool in a gentle Caribbean breeze. This process removes what is known as 'local' tensions, where some steel sections are stretched more than other sections. This process 'evens out' the stresses, making the pan much easier to tune.

### *Step 9: Tuning*

Turning a dented oil drum into a finely tuned instrument is an art form in itself. Small hammers (natch) are used to shape each note from above and below to achieve the correct pitch.

### *Step 10: Cleaning and polishing*

Once in tune, each steel drum is cleaned and polished. It can also be painted, chrome-plated, or powder coated to give it a protective layer and attractive finish.

### *Step 11: Final tuning*

A final tune is required to ensure every note is perfect. It's a process not to be rushed, as each time one note is tweaked, it will inevitably affect the others around it.

### *Step 12: Blending*

If you're playing in a steel band, you'll want all the steel pans to blend together for a mellow vibe and sympathetic harmonics. Blending and tuning is not a one-off, as any steel pan drum needs retuning and blending over its lifespan.

# 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. Ravell. Tickets: \$40, purchased through Second City Chamber Series only, by phone at 253-572-8863 or at their website:  
[www.sccchamberseries.org](http://www.sccchamberseries.org)

#### 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 Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips 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, 7:30pm

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

#### 2 Friday, 7:30pm

Sølvvinden Flute Ensemble, free admission

### MAY, Cont.

#### 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

#### 6 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](http://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](http://www.plu.edu/music/calendar) (updated March 3, 2025)