

The Twenty-Eighth Annual PLU Orchestra Festival

Friday, October 24, 2025

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-Eighth Annual PLU Orchestra Festival

Thomas Dickey, Svend Rønning, and Korine Fujiwara, *Clinicians*

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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> Simple Symphony – Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) <i>I. Boisterous Bourrée</i> <i>II. Playful Pizzicato</i> <i>III. Sentimental Sarabande</i> <i>IV. Frolicsome Finale</i>
8:35-9:05	Newport High School Orchestra Barney Blough, <i>Director</i> Finale in D – G. F. Handel (1685-1759), arr. Steven Frackenpohl Such Sweet Sorrow – Jeremy Woolstenhulme
9:10-9:40	Curtis High School Philharmonic Orchestra Matthew Grenzner, <i>Director</i> Dance of the Trolls – Mike Forbes (b. 1973) Wounded Heart – Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) Yakima Variants – Richard Meyer (b. 1957)
9:45-10:15	Bellarmino Preparatory School Chamber Orchestra Tauvia Eggebroten, <i>Director</i> Music from <i>Coco</i> – Michael Giacchino (b. 1967), arr. Larry Moore Still, Still, Still – Traditional, arr. Mark Hellem Danse Bacchanale – Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921), arr. Jamin Hoffman
10:20-10:50	Black Hills High School Orchestra Joshua Friedlander, <i>Director</i> Classical Salzburg Suite – Leopold Mozart (1719-1787), arr. Walter J. Halen Variations on the Famous Paganini 24 th Caprice – Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840), arr. Harry Alshin Danse Macabre – Camille Saint-Saëns, arr. James McLeod Khaian Ho, <i>soloist</i>

10:55-11:25	Bothell High School Chamber Orchestra..... Trevor McNamara and Amelia Scanlon, <i>Directors</i>
	Two Elegaic Melodies – Edvard Grieg <i>I. Herzwunden</i> <i>II. Letzter Frühling</i>
	Catalyst – Lauren Taylor
11:30-12:00	Auburn Mountain View High School Philharmonic..... Jon Heintz <i>Director</i>
	Pavane for a Dead Princess – Maurice Ravel (1875-1937), arr. Jeremy Woolstenhume
	Visions of the Sky – Adrian B. Sims (b. 2000)
12:05-12:40	Pacific Lutheran University Symphony Orchestra Thomas Dickey, <i>Director</i>
	Spring Song, op. 16 – Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)
	Viola Concert – Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979) <i>Mvt. III</i>
	Symphony No. 8 in G Major, op. 88 – Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904) <i>IV. Allegro ma non troppo</i>
12:40-1:00	<i>Q&A with PLU Faculty</i>
1:00-1:30	<i>PM Break</i>
1:30-2:00	Kamiak Uber Kammerstreich Brian Steves, <i>Director</i>
	Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV – J. S. Bach (1685-1750) <i>I. Allegro</i>
	Ukrainian Suite – Quincy Porter (1897-1966) <i>I. Largo</i> <i>II. Allegro Moderato</i> <i>III. Andante</i> <i>IV. Presto</i>
2:05-2:35	Hazen High School Philharmonic Orchestra Christopher Coy, <i>Director</i>
	Symphony No. 5 – Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), arr. Bud Caputo <i>II. Andante con moto</i>
	Westridge Overture – Richard Meyer
2:40-3:10	Olympia High School Chamber Orchestra Joe Dyvig, <i>Director</i>
	Suite for Strings – Christopher Wilson (1874-1919) <i>I. Prélude</i>
	Elégie – Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
	“Hoe Down” from <i>Rodeo</i> – Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

- 3:15-3:45 Meadowdale Chamber Orchestra..... Nathan Rengstorf, *Director*
- Andante and Alla Breve – G. P. Telemann (1681-1767), arr Mark Hellem
- Air for Strings – Norman Dello Joio (1913-2008)
- Incantations – Richard Meyer
- 3:50-4:20 Bethel High School Chamber Orchestra.....Rebecca Pelandini, *Director*
- Sinfonia No. 3 – Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1947)
Mvt. I
- Halloween Dance Party – arr. Michael Hopkins
- 4:25-4:55 Enumclaw High School Orchestra..... Timothy Hager-Wentz, *Director*
- Griot’s Dance – Kirt Mosier
- Overture to *The Barber of Seville* – Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868), arr. James McCleod
- Into the Storm – Robert W. Smith (1958-2023)
- 5:00-5:30 Richland High School Chamber Orchestra.....Sarah Berglund, *Director*
- Suite for Strings – John Rutter (b. 1945)
I. They Are A-Roving
II. I Have a Bonnet Trimmed with Blue
III. O Waly Waly (The Water Is Wide)
IV. Dashing Away
Victor Zinchuk and Brylee Cullen, *violins* • Lena Olson, *viola*

About the Host and Clinician

Thomas Taylor Dickey is a conductor and educator whose work is marked by energy, musical depth, and a deep commitment to connecting people through orchestral music. He currently serves as Director of Orchestral Studies at Pacific Lutheran University, where he conducts the PLU Symphony Orchestra and leads the university's orchestral program with a focus on mentorship, artistic excellence, and community engagement. Thomas's conducting career has taken him around the world. He has led performances with professional orchestras across North America, Europe, and Asia, including the Bucharest Symphony, Shenyang Symphony, Danube Symphony Orchestra, Belgrade Chamber Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Tulsa Symphony, Naples Philharmonic, and many others. Equally at home in the educational sphere, he has conducted all-state and honors orchestras in more than 35 U.S. states, inspiring young musicians with his enthusiasm and clarity on the podium. A passionate advocate for musical excellence, Thomas has been recognized with several international awards, including the Gold Prize at the 2022 World Classical Music Awards and Second Prize at the 2019 Mozart & Tchaikovsky International Conducting Competition. Critics have described his work as "dynamic and exciting" and praised his performances as being "imbued with aplomb, energy, and pathos." Before arriving at PLU, Thomas held faculty and conducting appointments at Oklahoma State University, the University of Wisconsin–Platteville, and the University of Evansville, shaping the next generation of conductors and orchestral musicians. His academic journey began at Eastern Illinois University, continued with a master's at Louisiana State University, and culminated in a Doctor of Musical Arts in orchestral conducting from the University of Georgia. Along the way, he has studied with renowned conductors including Jin Wang, Jorma Panula, Carl Topilow, Christopher Zimmerman, and Gustav Meier, and has refined his craft in masterclasses at institutions such as the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Prague Academy of Performing Arts, and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Whether on the podium, in rehearsal, or working one-on-one with students, Thomas is guided by a core belief: that orchestral music is a powerful tool for expression, learning, and human connection.

About the Guest Clinicians

Violinist **Svend Rønning** enjoys a distinguished career as an artistic director, chamber musician, concertmaster, educator, and soloist. He serves as Professor of Music and Coordinator of String Studies at PLU, where he is also a member of the International Honors (IHON) faculty. His previous teaching appointments include the Eastern Music Festival, Shenandoah Conservatory, and the University of Virginia. One of the Pacific Northwest's most active performers, Dr. Rønning is Concertmaster of Symphony Tacoma and Artistic Director of the Second City Chamber Series, Tacoma's award-winning presenter of chamber music concerts and educational programs. His performance activity also extends to early music, including work on period instruments with the Puget Sound Consort. As a performer, Dr. Rønning has appeared at major venues and festivals including the Aspen Music Festival, Spoleto U.S.A., Pacific Music Festival (Japan), Jerusalem Winter Classics, and the Wintergreen Music Festival. He has served as Concertmaster of the San Jose Symphony, Spoleto U.S.A. Chamber Orchestra, Charlottesville Symphony, and Tacoma Opera Orchestra, and has appeared as soloist with the Prague Radio Symphony, Arctic Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Tacoma, Orchestra Seattle, and numerous regional ensembles. His solo repertoire encompasses both the established canon and works by Alban Berg, Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Miklós Rózsa, as well as concertos composed expressly for him by Jerry Kracht and Walter Ross. An active chamber musician, Dr. Rønning has performed in concert series and festivals across the United States and abroad, including Berlin's Leo Kestenberg Musikschule, the Methow Music Festival, the Mostly Nordic Chamber Series in Seattle, and the Washington State Governor's Mansion Chamber Series. He has appeared in residencies at major universities and conservatories worldwide and has taught at the University of Oxford as part of PLU's IHON–Oxford study abroad program. Dr. Rønning's teaching has produced a studio of distinguished alumni whose careers reflect his broad and rigorous musical vision. His former students have pursued advanced studies at leading institutions such as Indiana University, DePaul University, the Yale School of Music, the Manhattan School of Music, Boston University, the University of Washington, and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. They hold positions in professional ensembles including the Virginia Symphony, Lexington Philharmonic, Roanoke Symphony, and Symphony Tacoma, and serve on the faculties of universities and schools throughout North America. Others have applied their musical training to diverse disciplines such as film, arts administration, law, medicine, and urban planning. Reflecting on his pedagogical philosophy, Dr. Rønning notes, "I'm deeply proud of the students who have come through my studio and now carry our shared musical values into the world—whether as orchestral musicians, educators, or creative professionals in fields as varied as law, medicine, and the arts. The PLU community is an ideal place to pursue music passionately, professionally, or both, and I admire my students who do so much through music to shape the lives and communities of the future." A

native of the Pacific Northwest, Dr. Rønning holds degrees from PLU and Yale University, where he studied with Syoko Aki, Sidney Harth, Jaap Schröder, and Ann Tremaine. Svend Rønning on YouTube: www.youtube.com/@ViolinAxioms.

Montana native **Korine Fujiwara** 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. She is a lecturer of violin and viola at PLU. She served for many years on the music faculty of Ohio Wesleyan University and is in great demand for master classes and clinics throughout the United States. Korine's students have been accepted into the performance programs of such institutions as Indiana University, Cincinnati College Conservatory, and Northwestern University to continue their musical studies. 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. Her musical language encompasses a wide range of influences, including classical, folk, jazz, and rock and roll. Her diverse artistic collaborations have helped to infuse her work with a rhythmic power and intensity. 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;" "Contains a very rare attribute in contemporary classical music: happiness," (*Fanfare Magazine*); "She knows how to exploit all the resources of string instruments alone and together; her quartet writing is very democratic, with solos for everyone; her solo violin writing is fiendishly difficult," (*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... While each 'room' has its own musical personality, the poignant sections in which characters in different periods actually sing together—a trio, a sextet, and even an octet—dovetail perfectly. The dramatic arc builds persuasively to the climactic moments, shifting with increasing speed between scenes to the culminating revelation," (*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 the composition of *The Flood*, an award-winning opera with Stephen Wadsworth, librettist, premiered by Opera Columbus and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra in February 2019. Ms. Fujiwara is a gifted performer on both the violin and viola, and holds degrees from The Juilliard School and Northwestern University, where she studied with Joseph Fuchs and Myron Kartman, respectively. Her other mentors include Harvey Shapiro, Robert Mann, and Joel Krosnik. Ms. Fujiwara is a member of the music honorary society Pi Kappa Lambda. Korine began her orchestral career with the Brooklyn Philharmonic and served as a principal player and soloist with the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra of Columbus. She is also a former 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.

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), Bachelor of Science in Music Therapy, 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 2026-2027 academic year will be held in February 2026.

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, *All Shall Be Well*. Online ticket sales begin November 4, 2025. For more information visit www.plu.edu/christmas.

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