

Northwest High School Honor Band

Saturday, January 10, 2026 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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PROGRAM

Olympic Concert Band, 4:30pm
Henry Dorn, *conductor*

Program will be chosen from

The Cave You Fear	Michael Markowski (b. 1986)
The Grace in Being	Julie Giroux (b. 1961)
The Thunderer	John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)
	Ron Gerhardstein, <i>conductor</i>
Halle's Light	Ryan George (b. 1978)
A Hornet's Nest	Henry Dorn (b. 1988)

Cascade Concert Band, 4:30pm
Daniel Cook, *conductor*

Program will be chosen from

Fanfare Esprit	Carol Brittin Chambers (b. 1970)
Reminiscence	Katherine Salfelder (b. 1987)
Amparito Roca	Jaime Texidor (1884-1957) arr. Gary Fagan
	Matt Vegh, <i>conductor</i>
Lindbergh Variations	Robert Sheldon (b. 1954)
Caribana Afterparty	Omar Thomas (b. 1984)

Rainier Symphonic Band, 6:30pm

Courtney Snyder *conductor*

Program will be chosen from

Chester	William Schuman (1910-1992)
A Song for Tomorrow.....	Kevin Day (b. 1996)
A Little Tango Music	Adam Gorb (b. 1958)
	Ron Gerhardstein, <i>conductor</i>
In Two Places.....	Haley Woodrow (b. 1984)
Strange Humors	John Mackey (b. 1973)

About the Clinicians



Interlacing lived experiences with innate passion, **Henry Dorn** is a nationally recognized music composer and conductor renowned for his energizing rhythm, syntax versatility, and passion for creating storytelling sounds with larger picture meanings. Dr. Dorn's compositions encompass intimate narratives often told from the lens of being a musician and African American. He is passionate about developing immersive experiences while setting an example of his life signature – the path may not always be smooth or clear, but it will always be worth it. His works have earned him recognition and performances by distinguished ensembles across the country, including the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Music from Copland House, JACK Quartet, the Grammy-winning Harlem Quartet, Aizuri Quartet, Argento Ensemble, and the Dallas Wind Symphony. Dr. Dorn is Assistant

Professor of Conducting and Composition at St. Olaf College and is conductor of the award-winning St. Olaf Band. Prior to St. Olaf College, Dr. Dorn worked as an Assistant Director of the Memphis Area Youth Wind Ensemble and formerly served as Director to the Nu Chamber Collective. He has also worked with musicians of the United States Army Field Band, the United States Air Force Band, and has guest conducted the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own." Originally from Little Rock, Arkansas, Dr. Dorn's ardency toward composing sparked at an early age while he was surrounded by blues and the sounds of his father's vinyl records collection. He earned a Bachelor of Music in composition from The University of Memphis, a Master of Music in composition and wind conducting from Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in conducting, and DMA in composition from Michigan State University.



Daniel Cook is Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music Performance at Ithaca College. In this role, he leads the renowned Ithaca College Wind Ensemble, overseeing all aspects of the ensemble's performances, rehearsals, and artistic programming. His work at Ithaca includes teaching courses in music performance, conducting pedagogy, select components of the music education curriculum, and providing mentorship and supervision to student teachers. Cook earned Doctor of Musical Arts with program honors and Master of Music degrees in conducting from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he studied with Dr. Mallory Thompson. He graduated magna cum laude with the Bachelor of Music degree in music education from the University of Georgia in Athens. Prior to joining Ithaca College, Cook was a Lecturer in Wind Studies at the University of North Texas (UNT), where he directed the UNT Wind Ensemble and

the acclaimed 435-member Green Brigade Marching Band. His contributions at UNT extended beyond performance, as he taught both undergraduate and graduate students in conducting and music education, served on Faculty Senate, chartered the University's Kappa Kappa Psi chapter, and contributed to the robust Wind Studies program. Cook's dedication to music education is further reflected in his work with prominent organizations such as the Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps, where he serves as an Ensemble Specialist and Consultant. Cook's Drum Corps International background also includes music instructional positions with the Phantom Regiment and Blue Knights. Throughout his career, Cook has actively engaged in program development, establishing initiatives that benefit both students and the broader music community. At Ithaca College, he founded the Northeast Concert Band Festival, leads the Northeast Wind Conducting Symposium, and is a host of the CSI Northeast/NYSBDA collaboration, all of which have become meaningful platforms for the advancement of music education. Additionally, he curates and manages key endowments such as the Walter Beeler Composition Prize and the Arnald Gabriel Visiting Artist Endowment.



Courtney Snyder is Associate Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Conducting at the University of Michigan, where she conducts the Concert Band, teaches conducting, and conducts the Michigan Youth Symphonic Band. Under her artistic leadership, the Concert Band was invited to perform at the College Band Directors Association North-Central Division Conference. Previously, Snyder served as the Assistant Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at the University of Nebraska-Omaha where she conducted the “Maverick” Marching Band, conducted the Concert Band, served as Associate Conductor of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and taught courses in conducting, music education, and brass methods. While in Omaha, Snyder also served as Music Director for the Nebraska Wind Symphony, which, under her direction, was invited to perform at the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association annual conference. Prior to teaching at the

collegiate level, Snyder taught high school and middle school band and orchestra in the Michigan public schools. Dr. Snyder is an active guest conductor and clinician. She has presented at national and international conferences including the Midwest Clinic, World Association of Symphonic Band Ensembles, College Band Directors National Association, College Music Society, and Women Band Directors International. Her current projects include research in conducting movement kinesiology, promoting equity through programming and commissioning works by women and minority composers, and building a strong community of women band directors. She is President of Women Band Directors International and serves on the editorial board for The Woman Conductor journal. Snyder is published in *Music Educators Journal*, *The Instrumentalist*, several volumes of *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band*, *School Band & Orchestra Magazine*, *The Woman Conductor*, and *Association of Concert Bands Journal*. Her chapter: “Trailblazers: Five Pioneering Female Band Directors Recount Their Journeys Over the Last 50 Years,” in the book *The Horizon Leans Forward...Stories of Courage, Strength, and Triumph of Underrepresented Communities in the Wind Band Field* will be published in December 2020. In 2018 she received Tau Beta Sigma’s Paula Crider Award. She earned Second Place of the 2017-2018 American Prize in Conducting, Band/Wind Ensemble Division Competition and was given a Citation of Excellence award by the National Band Association. Dr. Snyder is a graduate of the University of Michigan (DMA – conducting), Baylor University (MM – conducting), and Indiana University of Pennsylvania (BME). She is a member of College Band Directors National Association, World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, Women Band Directors International, National Band Association, National Association for Music Education, College Music Society, Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, and Pi Kappa Lambda.

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. 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 as the Past-President.



Matt Vegh has served as the director of the PLU Concert Band since the fall of 2024. He 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 serves as the Director of Bands 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 the percussion ensemble frequently performs at the WIAA/WMEA State Ensemble Contest, and has performed as a guest ensemble with Pacific Lutheran University’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	Newport High School, Todd Mahaffey
Auburn Mountainview High School, Meredith Heinzmann	North Kitsap High School, Bryce Adams
Auburn Riverside High School, Meghan Wagner	North Mason High School, Chris Drewry
Bainbridge High School, Chris Thomas	North Thurston High School, Darren Johnson
Bellarmine Preparatory School, Casey Whitson	Olympia High School, Erik Curley
Bethel High School, Ryan Whitehead	Orcas Island High School, Darren Dix
Black Hills High School, Andrew Landowski	Orting High School, David Buroker
Bonney Lake High School, Brandon Cain	Peninsula High School, Megan Hilborn
Camas High School, Jarod Sorum	Prosser High School, Dan Norris
Cedarcrest High School, Nick Sasse	Puyallup High School, Eric Ryan
Charles Wright Academy, Brian Dean	Redmond High School, Cory Edwards
Curtis High School, Jeff Chang	Richland High School, Matt Larsen
Decatur High School, Chris Leslie	River Ridge High School, Ryan Brumbaugh
Ellensburg High School, Warren Murray	Rochester High School, Kelsey Kosin
Emerald Ridge High School, Scott Fry	Royal High School, Erich Mietenkorte
Enumclaw High School, Timothy Hager-Wentz	Selah High School, Kevin Madson
Fife High School, Ingrid Layton	Snohomish High School, Rich Carey
Franklin Pierce High School, Matthew Pelandini	Spanaway Lake High School, Bruce Leonardy
Governor John R Rogers High School, Stephen Pickard	Squalicum High School, Kay Reilly
Hanford High School, Cole Lobdell	St. Thomas More Collegiate, Christin MacLellan
Hockinson High School, Corey McEnry	Stadium High School, Justin Ehli
Hoquiam High School, Drew Shipman	Steilacoom High School, Matt Vegh
Ilwaco High School, Rachel Lake	Sultan High School, Jill Sumpter
Inglemoor High School, Charlie Fix	Sumner High School, Joe Carl
Juanita High School, Annemarie Smith	Tahoma High School, Matthew Cole
King's Way Christian Schools, Tim Ray	Tenino High School, Andrew Bowerly
Lakes High School, Tami Johnson	The Bear Creek School, Kelsey Thompson
Lakewood High School, Katy Trapp	The Northwest School, Erin Keeton-Howard
Lindbergh High School, Brittany DeLong	Toutle Lake High School, Jessica Erickson
Mark Morris High School, Regan Huffman	Tumwater High School, Peter Klinzman
Montesano Jr/Sr High School, Maria Hoffman	Washougal High School, Malcolm Stewart
Mount Si High School, Bill Leather	White River High School, Rich Kuntzelman
Mount Tahoma High School, Matt Wasson	Winlock High School, Jason Kochis
Mountain View High School, Mark Claassen	Woodinville High School, Loren Tanksley
Nestucca High School, Kathleen Serven	Yelm High School, Scott Plerson

PLU | SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE

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

FEBRUARY

7 Sunday, 7:30pm

Faculty Recital: Justin Lader with Guest David Helfand: Celtic Harp, Viola, and More, free admission

12 Thursday, 7:30pm

Choir of the West Tour Homecoming Concert

15 Sunday, 3pm

Faculty Recital: Jennifer Rhyne and Friends, free admission

8 Sunday, 3pm

Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series: Justin J. Murphy-Mancini, University Organist

28 Saturday, 2pm

Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble, free admission

28 Saturday, 5pm

Guitar Faculty Recital, free admission

MARCH

5 Thursday, 1:45pm

Nicholas May Saxophone Masterclass, free admission

5 Thursday, 7:30pm

Guest Artist Recital: Nicholas May, Saxophone. Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall, free admission

8 Sunday, 3pm

Choral Union

10 Tuesday, 7:30pm

Faculty Recital: Craig Rine, Clarinet, free admission

15 Sunday, 3pm

University Wind Ensemble

17 Tuesday, 7:30pm

Anat Cohen with the Pacific Lutheran University Jazz Ensemble. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center

19 Thursday, 7:30pm

University Symphony Orchestra: Student Showcase

21 Saturday

Pacific NW Trombone Symposium 2026, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

22 Saturday, 1pm

Rhythm Celebration concert. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center, free admission

APRIL

15 Wednesday, 7:30pm

Keyboard Students Recital, free admission

19 Sunday, 3pm

Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series: Stephen Price, Organist

21 Tuesday, 7:30pm

Steel Band, free admission

22 Wednesday, 7:30pm

Percussion Ensemble, free admission

26 Sunday, 3pm

University Singers & Knights Chorus

28 Tuesday, 7:30pm

University Chorale

29 Wednesday, 7:30pm

University Symphony Orchestra

30 Thursday, 7:30pm

Choir of the West

MAY

1 Friday, 3:30pm

Kayo Iwama Voice Masterclass. Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall, free admission

1 Friday, 7:30pm

Sølvvinden Flute Ensemble, free admission

MAY, Cont.

2 Saturday, 7:30pm

Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble, free admission

3 Sunday, 12pm

Evelina Bozhko, Piano - Forestine Wise Monsen Scholarship Recital, free admission

3 Sunday, 3pm

University Wind Ensemble

5 Tuesday, 6pm

Saxophone Quartets & Jazz Combos. The Cave, Anderson University Center, free admission

6 Wednesday, 7:30pm

Piano Ensemble, free admission

8-9 Friday-Saturday, 7:30pm and 10 Sunday, 2pm

Spotlight Series: *The Light in the Piazza the Musical*. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center

9 Saturday, 3pm

Woodwind Students Recital, free admission

9 Saturday, 4:30pm

Brass Students Recital, free admission

12 Tuesday, 7:30pm

University Concert Band

13 Wednesday, 7:30pm

University Jazz Ensemble. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center

14 Thursday, 6pm

Chamber Music Kaleidoscope, free admission

14 Thursday, 7:30pm

String Kaleidoscope, free admission

16 Saturday, 3pm

Mariachi del Pacifico. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center

16 Saturday, 7:30pm

Choral Union

17 Sunday, 3pm

Composers Forum, free admission

To view more detailed event information, please visit:
www.plu.edu/music/calendar (Updated December 23, 2025)