

PLU Honor Orchestra for Strings
Antoine T. Clark, *guest conductor*

Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 6pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

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

PLU Honor Orchestra for Strings

Antoine T. Clark, *guest conductor*
Sam Weiser and Marisa Ishikawa, *violins*
Korine Fujiwara, *viola*
Ariana Nelson, *cello*
Todd Gowers, *bass*

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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

Ruslan and Ludmilla OvertureMikhail Glinka (1804-1957)
arr. Robert Sieving

From *Four Novelletten*, op. 52 Samuel Coleridge Taylor (1875-1912)
Larghetto
Allegro molto

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Sunsets, Like Childhood (2022)..... Korine Fujiwara

String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor, op. 13..... Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Adagio – Allegro vivace

Carpe Diem String Quartet
Sam Weiser and Marisa Ishikawa, *violins* • Korine Fujiwara, *viola* • Ariana Nelson, *cello*

Erotik..... Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)
from *Lyric Pieces*, op. 43, no. 5 arr. Max Spicker

Asturias.....Isaax Albéniz (1860-1909)
arr. Stephen Chin

Symphony No. 1 Vasily Kalinnikov (1866-1901)
Andante Commodamente arr. Caryn Wiegand Neidhold

Blue-Fire Fiddler Soon Hee Newbold (b. 1974)

PLU Honor Orchestra
Antoine T. Clark, *conductor*

About the Guest Conductor



American conductor **Antoine T. Clark** is recognized for compelling interpretations, imaginative programming, and a dynamic artistic vision rooted in community, collaboration, and access. A committed advocate for musical excellence and equity in the arts, he is the Founding Artistic and Music Director of the Worthington Chamber Orchestra in Ohio, where he leads innovative performances that highlight diverse voices, American musical heritage, and cross-disciplinary partnerships. Praised for his expressive clarity and refined musical leadership, Dr. Clark has shaped the ensemble into a vibrant cultural force known for its adventurous spirit and deep community engagement. Dr. Clark's professional career includes significant appointments and guest appearances with orchestras across the United States. He most recently served as Associate Conductor of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, following

two seasons as Assistant Conductor, and has held important artistic posts with the Chicago Sinfonietta, Gateways Music Festival Orchestra, and university orchestras throughout the Midwest. His recent and upcoming guest conducting engagements include the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Walla Walla Symphony, South Carolina Philharmonic, Lima Symphony Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, Symphony Tacoma, Spartanburg Philharmonic, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Dayton Philharmonic, Opera Columbus, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, and the Long Bay Symphony. He has also served as a cover conductor for the Lancaster Festival Orchestra, Dayton Philharmonic, and New Jersey Symphony under the direction of Xian Zhang. His performances have earned critical notice, including acclaim from the *Chicago Tribune* for the poised and expressive leadership he brought to a world premiere with the Chicago Sinfonietta. A dedicated educator, Dr. Clark conducts the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra – Concert Orchestra and serves on the Columbus Symphony Orchestra's Education Committee. In 2024, he founded the Music Academy of Worthington, a community-centered school providing high-quality musical instruction to students of all ages and backgrounds. He previously led the Philharmonia Orchestra of the Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra, guiding the ensemble to a featured performance at the 2025 Ohio Music Education Association Conference. His work as an educator, mentor, and clinician reflects a broad commitment to cultivating the next generation of musicians and strengthening access to meaningful musical experiences. A strong champion of new music, Dr. Clark regularly commissions and premieres works for symphonic and chamber ensembles. He has collaborated with composers including Korine Fujiwara, Ben Shirley, Aaron Quinn, Mark Lomax II, Ching-chu Hu, Linda Kernohan, and Evan Williams, championing works that explore a wide range of cultural and musical perspectives. Dr. Clark has participated in distinguished conducting programs, including the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, Monteux School and Music Festival, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra Conducting Workshop, and the International Conducting Workshop and Competition. His honors include First Place in Orchestral Conducting, Second Place in Orchestral Performance, and Third Place in Programming in the 2025 The American Prize (Professional Division); Third Place at the 2024 Los Angeles Conducting Workshop and Competition; the 2024 Columbus Symphony Music Educator Award; and recognition as the 2022 Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra MAC Music Innovator.

About the Clinicians

One of the most unique and sought-after ensembles on the concert stage today, the **Carpe Diem String Quartet** is a boundary-breaking ensemble that has earned widespread critical acclaim for its performances of traditional repertoire, new music, genre-bending collaborations, and community engagement. The Quartet appears regularly on traditional concert series stages like Carnegie Hall in New York City, Jordan Hall in Boston, The National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, The Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, National Library Concert Hall in Beijing, and The BinHai Performing Arts Center in Tianjin, as well as in unconventional venues like Poisson Rouge in NYC, the Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society of Half-Moon Bay, CA, and the Mug & Brush in Columbus, OH. Carpe Diem defies classification with programming and collaborations that encompass and blend new and old classical, tango, folk, pop, rock, jazz, and multicultural music. The Quartet has contributed to and premiered works by composers from a variety of backgrounds and traditions, including Korine Fujiwara, Jonathan Leshnoff, Reza Vali, and Erberk Eryilmaz. Carpe Diem has also appeared in concert playing original charts by folk icons Jeff Midkiff and Jayme Stone, and rock singer-songwriter Willy Porter. Devoted to expanding the reach and impact of community engagement, Carpe Diem has been awarded six transformative outreach grants from the PNC Foundation ArtsAlive Awards. The Quartet's outreach performances incorporate diverse and eclectic repertoire tailored to specific audience demographics; use cameras, video, and artistic contributions to enrich presentations visually; rely on communication from the stage to



introduce music and engage the audience; and explore fun, imaginative, and thought-provoking themes to connect audiences to chamber music. These carefully crafted performances have allowed the Quartet to reach underserved audiences including The Apache Nation, Ohio Women's Reformatory residents, and families at the Columbus Museum of Art.



Sam Weiser, violin, formerly a member of the award-winning Del Sol Quartet, is a lifelong chamber musician and advocate of contemporary music. Sam has performed all over the country, from the Herbst Theater and the Kennedy Center to a raft floating along the Yampa River. He has premiered over 150 new works by composers such as Vijay Iyer, Huang Ruo, and Chen Yi. Sam is the violinist in sfSound, a member of One Found Sound, and the Assistant Concertmaster of the California Symphony. He studied with Ian Swensen, Lucy Chapman, James Buswell, and Patinka Kopec. He holds bachelors' degrees from Tufts University (computer science) and the New England Conservatory (violin), as well as a master's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (chamber music).

Marisa Ishikawa is a performer, entrepreneur, and educator located in Houston, TX. She serves as the second violinist of the internationally recognized Carpe Diem String Quartet. She has performed nationally in venues such as Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, and Jordan Hall, and internationally in Italy, Switzerland, and China. With degrees in both music and business administration, she co-founded the nonprofit chamber music organization Austin Camerata. Since 2016, Austin Camerata has been dedicated to broadening the audience for chamber music through creative artistic collaborations, performing in unique venues, and inclusive concert experiences. She is also the co-founder of Opus 1 Chamber Music School, Houston's chamber music program for pre-college and adult students. Dr. Ishikawa holds music and business administration degrees from the University of Colorado Boulder and University of Texas Austin. In her free time, Dr. Ishikawa enjoys yoga and cooking her favorite recipes from NYT Cooking.



Korine Fujiwara is professor of violin, viola, and composition at Pacific Lutheran University. 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. She 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. 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. 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," (*Fanfare Magazine*); "She knows how to exploit all the resources of string instruments alone and together" (*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," (*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 her award-winning composition *The Flood*, with Stephen Wadsworth, librettist, premiered in full production by Opera Columbus and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra in February 2019. Ms. Fujiwara holds degrees from The Juilliard School and Northwestern University and began her orchestral career with the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra of Columbus. She was also a 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. Outside of her musical endeavors, she enjoys chocolate, ramen, and geocaching.



Ariana Nelson, cellist, is a member of the Carpe Diem String Quartet. Based in Arlington, VA, she frequently performs with the National and Baltimore Symphonies and the Washington National Opera, maintains a private teaching studio, and is a coach for the Crescendo chamber music program and the American Youth Philharmonic. Ariana is an avid proponent of new music and loves experimenting with different styles, including improvisation and folk music. A native of Seattle, Washington, Ariana was steeped in chamber music as a child. Family influences in music extend three generations back to her grandfather, Alan Iglitzin, who was the founding violist of the Philadelphia String Quartet. Her mother Karen was the first violinist of the quartet before she started her own chamber music organization in Seattle, called Chamber Music

Madness. Ariana is passionate about bringing the joy of music to others in her community. Ariana has been an artist faculty member at the Charles Ives Music Festival, a week-long program for young students, where she teaches private lessons, chamber music, and performs several concerts featuring new and contemporary music in Danbury, Connecticut. Additional summer appearances include the Grand Teton Music Festival, Strings Music Festival, Fontainebleau Conservatoire Américain, Spoleto Festival USA, Tanglewood Music Center, Aspen Music Festival and School, Le Domaine Forget Chamber Music Festival, the Olympic Music Festival, and the Zephyr International Chamber Music Festival in Italy. Ariana received her Master of Music degree at the Juilliard School in May of 2017 where she studied with Darrett Adkins. She completed her Bachelor of Music degree at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, where she graduated cum laude in May of 2015. There she had the privilege of studying cello with Norman Fischer of the Concord Quartet.

Todd Gowers, double bassist, has been performing and teaching the double bass for over 30 years. Formerly a member of the Northwest Chamber Orchestra and principal bassist with Tacoma Symphony, he has performed, toured, and recorded with the Seattle Symphony as a substitute bassist for 25 years. He has been first call bassist for Broadway tours and productions at the 5th Avenue and Paramount Theaters in Seattle since 1995. As a recording bassist, Todd has played on hundreds of movie soundtracks, and with artists such as Dave Matthews and Evanescence, some of which have won Grammy Awards. He has performed with every major ensemble in Seattle, including Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Northwest Sinfonietta. Other artists he has performed and worked with are: The Who, The Eagles, Yes, Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, The Moody Blues, Philip Glass, The Bolshoi Ballet; and Weird Al Yankovic. Todd also plays jazz and has been part of Seattle's Earshot Jazz Festival. As of Fall 2026, after nearly thirty years of teaching at Seattle Pacific University, Todd Gowers has returned to his alma mater as PLU's newest string faculty member in double bass.



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 SMTD offers Music degrees in performance (instrumental, organ, piano, vocal), music education (K-12 band, choir, and orchestra), music therapy, composition, musical arts, and liberal arts in music, plus BFA degrees in theatre (acting/directing, design/technical) and musical theatre. 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. For additional information, please call (253) 535-7602 or email music@plu.edu.

The PLU Orchestras (the University Symphony Orchestra and KammerMusikeren, a chamber orchestra) provide a valuable training ground for orchestral musicians, preparing students for all aspects of orchestral performance. Through more than a dozen performances each season, they help celebrate important campus events, preserve and perpetuate the rich cultural tradition of our university and region, and enliven the campus-wide pursuit of the larger questions that face our students and members of our community. For more information about orchestral and string study at PLU, visit these web sites: www.plu.edu/symphony, www.plu.edu/strings, and follow the PLU Orchestras at [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/pluorchestras).

PLU Honor Orchestra 2026

Members (listed alphabetically in sections)

Violin 1

Coen Camp
Lakes High School
 Karter Copeland
Auburn Mountainview High School
 Brylee Cullen
Richland High School
 Emily Dai
Lake Washington High School
 Christian Fallis
Emerald Ridge High School
 Somika Heng
Curtis High School
 Ishaan Khanuja
Bellarmino High School
 Chloe Le
Kentwood High School
 John Luu
Mariner High School
 Jack Newhouse
Bellarmino High School
 Bailey Noble
Emerald Ridge High School
 Lilly Olson
Richland High School
 Zoe Tambara
Heritage High School
 Angelina Vaughn
Shorecrest High School
 An-Thien Vo
Tahoma High School
 Tiger Yan
Bellarmino High School
 Xin Yi Yang
Auburn Riverside High School

Violin 2

Sophia Foley
Bethel High School
 Jherielle Fundan
Auburn Mountainview High School
 Kaelee Ignacio
Auburn Mountainview High School
 Cameron Jamil
Shorecrest High School
 Melvin Johnson
Enumclaw High School
 Payten Johnson
Shorecrest High School
 Olivia Kendall
Tahoma High School
 Clay Kerr
Enumclaw High School
 Lily Kuchenik
Mount Si High School
 Allie Nelson
Emerald Ridge High School
 Felicity Puryear
Tahoma High School

Colin Raymond
Kentwood High School
 Kamryn Raybell
Tahoma High School
 Shanaz Shamdeen
Auburn Mountainview High School
 Manas Sankalp
Kentwood High School
 Thomas Stovall
Spanaway High School

Viola

Atticus Allison
Shorecrest High School
 Jacob Antonio
Curtis High School
 Sage Cole
Tahoma High School
 Noah Cook
Spanaway High School
 Antonio Cuellar
Black Hills High School
 Mack Demaray
Emerald Ridge High School
 Nora Gesing
Kentwood High School
 Kayleigh Green
Curtis High School
 Naomi James
Bethel High School
 Eros Kraus
Mariner High School
 Lillian Mitchell
River Ridge High School
 Lena Olson
Richland High School
 Hyein Park
Auburn Riverside High School
 Caelum Peterson
Tahoma High School
 Ginan Jaerell Rabena
Enumclaw High School
 Zoey Sulenes
Curtis High School
 Ava Yu
Auburn Riverside High School

Cello

Zoe Chao
Bellarmino High School
 Tiernan Flynn
Curtis High School
 Eugene Fort
Lakes High School
 Teagan Foster
Curtis High School
 Dominick Goar
Ferucci Junior High School
 Jiovoni Guevara
Mariner High School
 Shae Hrivnak
Emerald Ridge High School

May Kirkhart
Lakes High School
 Brylee Krasner
Glacier View Junior High School
 Romy Ludy
Bethel High School
 Gracie Maxson
Richland High School
 Sarahjoy Maza
Auburn Mountainview High School
 Aiden Ramirez
Kentwood High School
 Charlotte Riendeau
Enumclaw High School
 Genevieve Thorum
Enumclaw High School

Double Bass

Jasime Abiva
Bethel High School
 Emma Aladejare
Tahoma High School
 Clara Bentz
Bethel High School
 Hunter Downing
Black Hills High School
 Nolan Eastwood
Curtis High School
 Justin Hovey
Auburn Mountainview High School
 Nadine Jensen
River Ridge High School
 Olivia Jensen-Koontz
Silas High School
 Sawyer Kleinberg
Enumclaw High School
 Kaylynn Means
Enumclaw High School
 Selasey Mordo
Auburn Mountainview High School
 Aidan Parker
Bellarmino High School
 Simon Piburn
Tahoma High School
 Colin Roberts
South Kitsap High School
 Natalie Swanes
Bellarmino High School
 Jady Washington
Bethel High School

Nominating Teachers

John Heintz
Auburn Mountainview High School
 Melinda Wharton
Auburn Riverside High School
 Tauvia Eggebroten
Bellarmino High School
 Rebecca Pelandini
Bethel High School
 Joshua Friedlander
Black Hills High School
 Matthew Grenzner
Curtis High School
 Michael Berry
Emerald Ridge High School
 Timothy Hager-Wentz
Enumclaw High School
 Christine Perkins
Ferrucci Jr High
 Michael Berry
Glacier View Junior High
 Glenn Wilcot
Heritage High School
 Nathan Harrison
Kentwood High School
 John Northey
Lake Washington High School
 Tami Johnson
Lakes High School
 Robin Enders
Mariner High School
 Robbie Rutherford
Mount Si High School
 Sarah Berglund
Richland High School
 Austin Schlichting
River Ridge High School
 Gillian Malacari
Shorecrest High School
 Mike Herb
Silas High School
 Martin Dmitrov
Spanaway Lake High School
 Matthew Cole
Tahoma High School