

Faculty Recital

**Justin Lader with Guest David Helfand:
Celtic Harp, Viola, and More**

Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 7:30pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

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

Faculty Recital

Justin Lader with Guest David Helfand: Celtic Harp, Viola, and More

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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

Cello Suite No. 2 in D Minor, BWV 1008.....J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

IV. Sarabande

V. Minuet I

Original works by David Helfand arranged with Justin Lader

From a Distant Time

from From a Distant Time: Inspirations from the Celtic Lands (2013)

Remember

from Callings from the Quiet Grove (1997)

At the Edge of the Cornish Sea – Part 1

from At the Edge of the Cornish Sea (2002)

Cornish Sea – Part 2

from At the Edge of the Cornish Sea

Elven Home at the Chapel Halls

from At the Edge of the Cornish Sea

Waiting by the Shores of Tomorrow

from After the Rain (2012)

Caravan

from Beyond the Sea of Reeds (2000)

Nomads

from Mythic Sky (1995)

Simba's Dance

from From a Distant Time: Inspirations from the Celtic Lands

Spanish Castle

from First Light (2009)

Movin' On

*Unreleased

Mandorian Jig

from *From a Distant Time: Inspirations from the Celtic Lands*

Program Notes

J. S. Bach's Sarabande and Minuet I have been some of my all-time favorite movements of the *Cello Suites*. There is an accompanying Minuet II that I have intentionally decided not to perform. The Minuet II is in the joyous key of G major providing a contrast to the thematically dark and frantic Minuet I. I interpret there to be a unique pairing between the Sarabande and Minuet I, which draws on mystery and emotional intensity. For this reason, I chose not to perform Minuet II despite the original intention of Bach. This dark, magical intrigue sets the stage for the collection of original works that follow.

All subsequent works are original compositions by David Helfand that have been arranged with Justin Lader, with the one exception of ***Movin' On***, which was composed by Justin Lader and arranged with David Helfand. The selections chosen draw on folk traditions from around the world – namely Celtic, Middle Eastern, and Caribbean influences. It is important to note that there are few contemporary composers for the Celtic Harp. While most Celtic harpers specialize in performing traditional repertoire, David Helfand brings a fresh take to the instrument, showcasing its potential to complement many genres. In the piece ***Simba's Dance***, the Celtic harp is prepared with strips of paper that create a buzzing sound reminiscent of the Zimbabwean mbira. Furthermore, traditional Celtic music involves the use of fiddle (violin) and by performing on viola instead of the violin, the difference in timbre changes expectations. The unique pairing of Celtic harp and viola provides overlap in frequency range that evokes the sense of heartfelt warmth and yearning found in our collaborative repertoire.

– Justin Lader

About the Performers



Justin Lader is Assistant Professor and Director of Music Education at Pacific Lutheran University. He has taught music to all ages from toddlers to elders. He researches how musicians form motor memories but is also devoted to including philosophical dialogue in music education. He holds a PhD in music and human learning from UT Austin, a master's degree in viola performance from the University of Oregon, and bachelor's degrees from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music. Since 2010, Lader has composed, improvised, recorded, and toured with Celtic harper and multi-instrumentalist, David Helfand. Together the duo has released three albums: *Through the Portal* (2016), *From a Distant Time: Inspirations from the Celtic Lands* (2013), and *After the Rain* (2012). As a freelance musician, Lader has

recorded and performed with Jake McNeillie on his albums: *Dream Country* (2015) and *Delirium: A Southern Gothic Fable* (2016), as well as recorded with This Patch of Sky, We Have A Ghost, and singer-songwriter Albert Howell. Additionally, Lader has done outreach work with CardioStart International, performing live to support the organization's mission to provide free heart surgeries in developing countries.



David Helfand is a multi-instrumentalist who composes and performs lush and vibrant original instrumental music on Celtic harp, mandocello, octave mandolin, guitar, and keyboards. He has performed with extraordinary violinists, violists, and his wonderful band, The Majestic Ensemble for many years. David's music is an eclectic blend of original multi-cultural inspired music of passion and transcendence, with inspirations from the Celtic lands, the Middle East, pentatonic meditation music, space music, and progressive rock. He and Justin Lader have performed throughout the Northwest and the San Francisco Bay area, released three albums together to date, and given special concerts in various Northwest planetariums with an incredible visual show of their album *Through the Portal* live in its entirety. From 1996 to 2009,

David recorded six previous albums as a solo artist and with ensembles. David has a degree in recreation therapy and has worked professionally in the field of special education, creating a special music program for adults with developmental disabilities for the Eugene Adaptive Recreation Department, in Eugene, Oregon that has been running for twenty-seven years.

FEBRUARY

7 Sunday, 7:30pm

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

8 Sunday, 3pm

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

12 Thursday, 7:30pm

Choir of the West Tour Homecoming Concert

15 Sunday, 3pm

Faculty Recital: Jennifer Rhyne and Friends, free admission

28 Saturday, 2pm

Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble, free admission

28 Saturday, 5:30pm

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

11 Saturday, 10:30am

Mehrdad Gholami Flute Masterclass, Mary Baker Russell Music Center Room 334, free admission

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

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