

# **PLU Invitational Band Festival**

Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7, 2026  
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

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

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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

**Friday, March 6, 2026**

**8:00am**..... **Auburn Mountainview High School**

Meredith Heinzmann, *director*

Chasing Sunlight (Cait Nishimura)

A Hymn for Band (Hugh Stuart)

Elements (Brian Balmages)

*I. Air*

*II. Water*

*III. Earth*

*IV. Fire*

**8:45am**..... **Frontier Middle School**

Gianna DeBolt, *director*

Into the Blue (Cait Nishimura)

Greenwillow Portrait (Mark Williams)

Black Forest Overture (Michael Sweeney)

**9:30am**..... **Steilacoom High School**

Matt Vegh, *director*

Kirkpatrick Fanfare (Andrew Boysen, Jr.)

Shenandoah (Frank Ticheli)

Variations on a Korean Folk Song (John Barnes Chance)

**10:15am**..... **Aspire Middle School**

Jerry Huff, *director*

March Diabolique (Brian Balmages)

There Will Come Soft Rains (Robert Sheldon)

Great Locomotive Chase (Robert W. Smith)

**11:00am**..... **Auburn Riverside High School**

Meghan Wagner, *director*

Early Light (Carolyn Bremer)

Adoration (Florence Price, trans. Cheldon Williams)

California (David Maslanka)

Proud of Me (Michele Fernández)

**11:45am.....Pacific Lutheran University Wind Ensemble**  
Ron Gerhardstein, *director*

***Program to be selected from:***

Prelude in E-flat Minor, op. 34 (Dmitri Shostakovich, arr. H. Robert Reynolds)

Divertimento for Band (Vincent Persichetti)

*Prologue*

*Song*

*Dance*

*Burlesque*

*Soliloquy*

*March*

Fantaisie for Flute and Band (Georges Hüe, arr. John R. Bourgeois) – Dr. Jennifer Rhyne, *faculty soloist*

E Ala Ē: Arise and Awaken (James David)

*Haleakalā Praeludium*

*Flowers from Paoakalani*

*Hana Highway*

En Mi, Familia (Ivette Herryman Rodriguez)

Run to the Light (Ivan Trevino) – Ben Hegge and Adrian Ragil, *student soloists*

**1:00pm.....Hazen High School**  
Christopher Coy, *director*

Where Eagles Soar (Steven Reineke)

As Summer Was Just Beginning (Larry Daehn)

The Liberty Bell (John Philip Sousa, arr. Keith Brion and Loras Schissel)

**1:45pm.....Liberty Middle School**  
Tristan Roush, *director*

Songs of Scotland (arr. Mark Williams)

Country Wildflowers (Larry Daehn)

African Marching Song (John O'Reilly)

**2:30pm.....Lewis and Clark High School**  
Heidi Hanes, *director*

Dedicatory Overture (Clifton Williams)

One Life Beautiful (Julie Giroux)

Espana Cani (Pascual Marquina, arr. Robert Longfield)

**3:15pm.....Hockinson High School**  
Corey McEnry, *director*

Joy (Joseph Curiale)

Allerseelen (Richard Strauss, arr. Albert O. Davis)

Incantation and Dance (John Barnes Chance)

**4:00pm.....Hanford High School**  
Cole Lobdell, *director*

Unveiling (Brian Sadler)

Riften Wed (Julie Giroux)

First Suite in E-flat (Gustav Holst)

**4:45pm.....Union High School**  
Adam Morrell, *director*

Children's March (Percy Grainger)

Heart on Fire (Viet Cuong)

Traveler (David Maslanka)

**5:30pm.....Meadowdale High School**  
Christine Eisenmenger, *director*  
AYO (Katahj Copley)  
Cajun Folk Songs II (Frank Ticheli)  
Kirkpatrick Fanfare (Andrew Boysen, Jr.)

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**

**8:00am.....Orcas Island High School**  
Darren Dix, *director*  
Darklands Legends (Randall Standridge)  
Evocation (Ryan Nowlin)  
Crush (Robert W. Smith)

**8:45am.....Glacier View Junior High School**  
Lucas Cook, *director*  
In Your Wildest Dreams (Tyler S. Grant)  
Longford Legend (Robert Sheldon)  
Viva! (Jack Wilds)

**9:30am.....North Thurston High School**  
Darren Johnson, *director*  
Fantastic Dreams (Frank Ticheli)  
Slava! (Leonard Bernstein, trans. Clare Grundman)

**10:15am.....White River High School**  
Rich Kuntzleman, *director*  
K2 – The Savage Mountain (Julie Giroux)  
Beautiful Evening of Prairie (Wang Hesheng)  
Arabesque (Samuel Hazo)

**11:00am.....Richland High School**  
Matt Larsen, *director*  
Shepherd’s Hey (Percy Grainger, ed. Mark Rogers)  
Give Us This Day (David Maslanka)

**11:45am.....Pacific Lutheran University Wind Ensemble**  
Ron Gerhardstein, *director*

***Program to be selected from:***

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Divertimento for Band (Vincent Persichetti)

*Prologue*

*Song*

*Dance*

*Burlesque*

*Soliloquy*

*March*

Fantaisie for Flute and Band (Georges Hüe, arr. John R. Bourgeois) – Dr. Jennifer Rhyne, *faculty soloist*

E Ala Ē: Arise and Awaken (James David)

*Haleakalā Praeludium*

*Flowers from Paoakalani*

*Hana Highway*

En Mi, Familia (Ivette Herryman Rodriguez)

Run to the Light (Ivan Trevino) – Ben Hegge and Adrian Ragil, *student soloists*

- 1:00pm**..... **Stadium High School**  
Justin Ehli, *director*
- So Wondrous Bright (Carol Brittin Chambers)  
Second Suite in F (Gustav Holst)
- 1:45pm**..... **Curtis School**  
Jeff Chang, *director*
- Esprit de Corps (Robert Jager)  
One Life Beautiful (Julie Giroux)  
Vesuvius (Frank Ticheli)
- 2:30pm**..... **Moses Lake High School**  
Kevin White, *director*
- Sol y Sombra (George Gates)  
Sheltering Sky (John Mackey)  
Arabesque (Samuel Hazo)
- 3:15pm**..... **Selah High School**  
Kevin Madsen, *director*
- Rocketship! (Kevin Day)  
A Time to dance (Julie Giroux)  
On this Bright Morning (David Maslanka)  
Strange Humors (John Mackey)
- 4:00pm**..... **Black Hills High School**  
Andrew Landowski, *director*
- Halcyon Hearts (Katahj Copley)  
Afterlife (Rossano Galante)  
Slavia (Jan Van der Roost)
- 4:45pm**..... **South Whidbey High School**  
Catherine Ballestrasse, *director*
- Exordium (James Swearingen)  
Peer Gynt Suite (Edvard Grieg, arr. Charles Sayre)  
    *I. Morning Mood*  
    *II. The Death of Ase*  
Rondo for Winds and Percussion (John Edmondson)

## About the Clinicians

**Ron Gerhardstein** is the Director of Band Studies and Associate Professor of Music Education 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 teaches coursework in the music education curriculum, including: Conducting, Band Repertoire and Rehearsal, Woodwind Labs I/II, PLUS 100: Transitions to PLU, and he assists with the supervision of student teachers. 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 a two-year term as WMEA President.

**John Falskow** is Director of Instrumental Music at Tacoma Community College, where he also has served as Chair of the Music Department and as the Dean of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Division. As a tenured professor of music, and director of instrumental music, John conducts the TCC Orchestra, TCC Symphonic Band, and teaches a wide variety of classes in the college music curriculum. In addition to duties at TCC, John is the conductor of the Seattle Wind Symphony, Puget Brass, Brass Band Tacoma, and other ensembles in the region. Falskow is active as a conductor, music educator, and trumpeter.

University of Washington alumna **Erin Bodnar** is currently serving as director of the University of Washington concert bands in a one-year appointment following the recent retirement of longtime director Timothy Salzman. While earning her DMA in wind conducting at the UW, Bodnar studied with Salzman and assisted with direction of the UW Wind Ensemble, as well as co-leading with other graduate student conductors the UW's Concert and Campus Bands. In order to accept the UW opportunity, Bodnar took a one-year leave from her position at the University of North Florida (UNF), where she is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands. Prior to her appointment at UNF, Bodnar served four years as Director of Bands at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa. During 2013-2014, she conducted the Wind Symphony and Orchestra at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand. She maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician, traveling to Argentina, Thailand, Indonesia, and throughout the United States and Canada. Her research interests include conducting pedagogy and motor cognition, and her articles have been published in the *Journal of Music Teacher Education* and *Music Perception*. An avid runner, Bodnar has completed 60 marathons to date. This summer, she is participating in Run Across Alberta (220 miles), a fundraising initiative to end Multiple Sclerosis. At the UW, she currently conducts the UW's top auditioned wind bands, the UW Wind Ensemble and the Symphonic Band, and oversees graduate student conductors and their work with the non-auditioned Campus and Concert Bands, which represent musicians throughout the UW's degree programs.

## 2025-2026 Pacific Lutheran University Wind Ensemble

### Flute

Heta Honanie  
*Olympia, WA – Music Therapy, '28*  
Iris Lee  
*University Place, WA – Music Education, '27*  
Kade Levien  
*Monroe, WA – Music Performance, '26*  
Michelle Owen  
*Puyallup, WA – English/Creative Writing, '26*  
Annalise Sackreiter  
*Monterey, CA – Music Education, '29*

### Oboe

Sara Atwood  
*Sacramento, CA – Criminal Justice, '26*  
Gabrielle Guerrero  
*Steilacoom, WA – Music Education, '29*  
Jayden White  
*Rochester, WA – Music Education, '27*

### Bassoon

Angel Rodriguez Gil  
*Auburn, WA – Music Education, '29*  
Syd Thayer-O'Brien  
*Auburn, WA – Music Education, '27*  
Rameses Unat-Almanza  
*Federal Way, WA – Music Education, '29*

### Clarinet

Meaghan Austin-Cortez  
*Puyallup, WA – Music Education, '27*  
Katelyn Hight  
*Tacoma, WA – Political Science, '26*  
Bethani Juarez  
*Silverdale, WA – Music Education, '28*  
Alena Kwon  
*Honolulu, HI – Kinesiology, '29*  
Andrew Lee  
*Olympia, WA – Computer Science, '26*

### Bass Clarinet

Abigail Caprye  
*Spokane, WA – Music Education, '27*

### Saxophone

Lawrence Balajadia  
*Olympia, WA – Music Education, '29*  
Conor Beach  
*Beaverton, OR – Music Education, '27*  
Lucas Chabaud  
*Maple Valley, WA – Nursing, '29*  
Steven Blankenship  
*Bonney Lake, WA – Music Education, '27*

### Trumpet

Devin Bianchi-Rivera  
*Dupont, WA – Music Performance, '26*  
Gaje Dequis  
*Parkland, WA – Music Education, '28*

Allison Howes  
*Tacoma, WA – Music Education, '28*  
Justin Mendoza  
*Auburn, WA – Music Education, '29*  
Elizabeth Williams  
*Auburn, WA – Music Education, '29*

### French Horn

Ben Coats  
*Puyallup, WA – Music Composition, '26*  
James Gibson  
*Duvall, WA – Music Performance, '26*  
Cameron Holden  
*Buckley, WA – Kinesiology, '27*  
Ashley Lopez Mora  
*Auburn, WA – Political Science/Hispanic Studies, '26*  
Micaiah Tinkler  
*Federal Way, WA – Music Performance, '29*

### Trombone

Lola Chargualaf  
*Oak Harbor, WA – Environmental Studies, '27*  
Sabien Kinchlow-McConnaughey  
*Spanaway, WA – Music Performance, '26*  
Max Minjares  
*Olympia, WA – Music Performance, '28*  
Jaden Pulido-Hughes  
*Auburn, WA – Computer Science, '28*

### Euphonium

Josh Green  
*Buckley, WA – Music Education, '27*  
Cody Nutter  
*Lake Tapps, WA – Computer Science, '26*

### Tuba

Preston Hill  
*Puyallup, WA – Music Education, '29*  
Cassidy Stanhope  
*Federal Way, WA – Music Performance, '26*

### String Bass

Kindra Gonsalves  
*Fox Island, WA – Music Education, '27*

### Percussion

Laura Bahrt  
*Steilacoom, WA – Biochemistry, '29*  
Kyle Gough  
*Seattle, WA – Music Performance, '26*  
Ben Hegge  
*Steilacoom, WA – Music Performance, '28*  
Makayla Lu  
*China – Music Composition, '28*  
Evan Nakanishi,  
*Happy Valley, OR – Music Performance, '26*  
Adrian Ragil  
*Steilacoom, WA – Nursing, '28*  
Ronin Schoolcraft  
*Rochester, WA – Music Education, '27*

## 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 Sunday, 1pm**  
Rhythm Celebration concert. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center, free admission

## APRIL

- 11 Saturday, 10:30am**  
Mehrddad 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
- 7 Thursday, 7:30pm**  
Composers Forum, 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