

PLU Weathermon Jazz Festival
Guest Artist: Anat Cohen

Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center

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

PLU Weathermon Jazz Festival

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*Ms. Cohen's appearance is sponsored by the
Richard and Helen Weathermon Joyful Noise Endowment for Jazz Studies.*

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Welcome to Eastvold Auditorium.

Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the performance.
Use of cameras, recording equipment, and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

Time	Event
8:10-8:25am	Graham-Kapowsin High School Jazz Band I..... Dan Hendrick, <i>director</i>
8:40-8:55am	Governor John R. Rogers High School Jazz Band Stephen Pickard, <i>director</i>
9:10-9:25am	Auburn High School Jazz BandColton DeCarteret, <i>director</i>
9:40-9:55am	North Thurston High School Jazz BandDarren Johnson, <i>director</i>
10:10-10:25am	Curtis Junior High School Jazz BandCorinne Smith, <i>director</i>
10:40-10:55am	Tahoma High School Jazz Ensemble..... Matthew Cole, <i>director</i>
11:10-11:25am	Peninsula High School Jazz Ensemble Megan Hilborn, <i>director</i>
12:00-12:45pm	University Jazz Ensemble with Anat Cohen / Q&A Cassio Vianna, <i>director</i>
1:10-1:25pm	South Whidbey High School Jazz Ensemble..... Catherine Ballestrasse, <i>director</i>
1:40-1:55pm	Juanita High School Jazz Ensemble.....Annemarie Smith, <i>director</i>
2:10-2:25pm	Gig Harbor High School Jazz Band IEric Swanson, <i>director</i>
2:40-2:55pm	Bonney Lake High School (Panther Jazz Band) Brandon M. Cain, <i>director</i>
3:10-3:25pm	Mount Rainier High School Jazz Band..... Ashley La-Nolasco, <i>director</i>
3:40-3:55pm	Roosevelt High School Jazz Band II.....Michael Van Bebber, <i>director</i>
4:10-3:25pm	Decatur High School Jazz Band.....Chris Leslie, <i>director</i>
4:40-4:55pm	Auburn Riverside High School Jazz Band I Meghan Wagner, <i>director</i>
5:10-5:25pm	Steilacoom High School Jazz BandMatt Vegh, <i>director</i>

UNIVERSITY JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Saxophones

Steven Blankenship
Syd Thayer-O'Brien
Martin Teague
Madelyn Mitchell
Angel Rodriguez Gil

Trumpets

Devin Bianchi-Rivera
Justin Mendoza
Joshua Green
Danielle Poulin
Elizabeth Williams

Trombones

Sabien Kinchlow-McConnaughey
Max Minjares
Jaden Pulido-Hughes
Cas Stanhope, *bass trombone*

Rhythm Section

Eleanor Sherry, *piano/Festival Assistant Manager*
Cameron McLennan, *bass*
Jarín Szewczyk, *bass*
Ben Hegge, *drums and percussion*
Kyle Gough, *vibraphone and drums/Festival Assistant Logistics Manager*

Anat Cohen

“Anat does what all authentic musicians do: She tells stories from her own experiences that are so deeply felt that they are very likely to connect listeners to their own dreams, desires and longings.” – Nat Hentoff

Ever charismatic, prolific, and inspired, Grammy-nominated clarinetist-saxophonist Anat Cohen has won hearts and minds the world over with her expressive virtuosity and delightful stage presence. Anat has been declared Clarinetist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association every year since 2007, and has also been named the top clarinetist in both the readers and critics polls in *DownBeat* for multiple years running. That’s not to mention years of being named Rising Star in the soprano and tenor saxophone categories in *DownBeat*, as well as Jazz Artist of the Year. In 2009, ASCAP awarded Anat a Wall of Fame prize for composition and musicianship, among other honors. As *The Chicago Tribune* has said about Anat, “The lyric beauty of her tone, easy fluidity of her technique and extroverted manner of her delivery make this music accessible to all.”

In 2009, Anat became the first Israeli to headline at the Village Vanguard, the setting for perhaps the most celebrated live recordings in jazz history; the occasion yielded the 2010 release *Clarinetwork: Live at the Village Vanguard*, which captured the leader paying tribute to Benny Goodman and leading a hard-swinging combo with all-stars Benny Green, Peter Washington, and Lewis Nash. Calling Anat “one to watch,” *NPR* underscored the contemporary approach the group took to the Goodman book: “Cohen and company treat 1920s and ’30s material with a relatively free hand; when they get rolling in *Sweet Georgia Brown*, her rhythm section echoes the thunder of John Coltrane’s quartet.”

However easy Anat makes it seem onstage, the mastery of any great art is a long, elusive challenge, and she teaches the fine points of jazz and the music of Brazil to budding students across North America, including recent residencies at Stanford, Oberlin, Michigan State University, University of California-San Diego, the Centrum Choro Workshop, and California Brazil Camp. About her experiences onstage, in the classroom, or just engaging with her listeners, Anat says: “Any day when I get to share music with people – other musicians, an audience – feels like a celebration to me.” – Bradley Bambarger

For more information on Anat Cohen, including tour dates, music samples, photos, video, and more, go to www.anatcohen.com.

About the Clinicians

Mark Taylor is one of the most in demand saxophonists and educators in the Pacific Northwest. A Seattle native, Mark’s expressive tone, stylistic versatility, and compelling improvisations have been a significant presence in the jazz community for over 30 years. He has played a key role in several prominent groups, from his long tenure with the Jim Knapp Orchestra and Seattle Repertory Jazz Orchestra, to extensive collaborations with Thomas Marriott, Matt Jorgensen, Jay Thomas, Marc Seales, Wayne Horvitz, Steve Korn, Randy Halberstadt, Cassio Vianna, and Tom Varner, as well as performing locally with artists ranging from Ray Charles, Ernestine Anderson, Quincy Jones, Branford Marsalis, Christian McBride, Joshua Redman, Maria Schneider, to Kenny Rogers, Bob Newhart, Doc Severinsen, Seattle Symphony, and Pacific Northwest Ballet. Named “2008 NW Jazz Instrumentalist of The Year” (*Earshot Jazz*), Mark has three acclaimed releases on Origin Records as a leader. As an educator, Mark has worked extensively as a guest artist and clinician at high schools and colleges all over the United States, and

has served on the faculty of Cornish College of the Arts, Pacific Lutheran University, and currently works with middle and high school music students at Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences. He holds a BM from the University of Washington (1994), and MM from the Manhattan School of Music (2000) in New York City, where his performance credentials include appearances with the Grammy Award winning Vanguard Jazz Orchestra.

Kate Olson is an improvising saxophonist and music educator based in Seattle, Washington. Since moving to Seattle in 2010, she has done her best to infiltrate the local, regional, and international improvised music scenes. She can be heard performing with her own projects KO SOLO and KO ELECTRIC, and as a collaborator with the Royal Room Collective Music Ensemble and Electric Circus (led by Wayne Horvitz), Birch Pereira and the Gin Joints, Battlestar Kalakala (formerly West Seattle Soul/the Pulsations), and with such Seattle staples as the Seattle Men's and Women's Choruses, and cabaret producers Can Can Presents, and Verlaine & McCann. Kate has a BA in music (jazz emphasis) from the University of Wyoming and an MM in improvisation from the University of Michigan, and currently teaches jazz saxophone and improvisation at Pacific Lutheran University. Kate's international resume continues to grow, including performances in Russia, Latvia, Turkey, Switzerland, South Korea, Cuba, and Slovakia. Kate was nominated in 2011 and 2013 for the Earshot Golden Ear Award in the Emerging Artist category, and in 2014 and 2016, she was nominated for the Best NW Instrumentalist Category, and in 2016 her band KO Ensemble was also nominated as best NW Alternative Group. In 2020 the KO Ensemble won the Golden Ear Award for best NW Instrumental Group, and in 2022 KO Electric was nominated for Best Alternative Group.

Maria Wulf is an in-demand drummer and educator known throughout the Pacific Northwest. She is no stranger to the Seattle jazz scene performing in such venues as The Earshot Jazz Festival, Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, The Triple Door, The Seattle Art Museum, and Tula's. As a bandleader her groups have been featured at the Portland Jazz Festival, the North Bend Jazz Walk, and Edmonds Jazz Walk. Maria is also an in-demand educator adjudicating jazz festivals and making guest appearances at local colleges, in addition to presenting at state and national conferences. Her original compositions have been featured on KPLU's Jazz Northwest and she can be heard as a guest artist and mentor on KPLU's *School of Jazz Volumes 6, 7, and 10*. Formerly, she was director of the Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra, and has served as instrumental jazz and percussion faculty at Pacific Lutheran University and South Puget Sound Community College. To learn more about Maria visit mariawulf.com

Ryan Wagner is an active performer and educator throughout Washington state with extensive performance experience in classical, jazz, and pop music. He graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with a Bachelor's of music education and the University of Washington with a Master's of trombone performance. Ryan is Principal Trombonist of Olympia Symphony, Federal Way Symphony, and Seattle Rock Orchestra. He is also the trombonist for Kalimba: The Spirit of Earth, Wind, and Fire. Since 2000, Ryan has been an active freelance musician throughout the state of Washington performing with groups such as Tacoma Symphony, Tacoma Ballet, Yakima Symphony, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, Northwest Sinfonietta, Lyric Opera Northwest, and Bellevue Philharmonic. He has performed and taught throughout the U.S., Europe, and Japan, and is a founding member of the Left Coast Brass, and Oly Chamber Brass. Ryan is also in demand as an educator. In addition to maintaining a private low brass studio, he is Lecturer of Trombone at Pacific Lutheran University, and an adjunct trombone professor at Saint Martin's University.

Jake Bergevin is the Director of Bands and Department Chairperson at Edmonds-Woodway High School. He earned his Master's Degree and teaching credentials at Central Washington University. He keeps a steady schedule of performances as both a clinician and performer as trumpeter, vocalist, and band leader. Recently Mr. Bergevin was a quarter finalist for Educator of the Year from the Grammy Foundation. He has been selected twice by *SBO Magazine* as one of their "50 Directors that Make a Difference". He has taught for 29 years in Washington, 21 of which have been at Edmonds-Woodway High School. Under his direction the Edmonds-Woodway jazz program has earned national recognition as five-time finalists in the prestigious Essentially Ellington Contest. Jake has received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities with a focus on Duke Ellington. He has served as the Jazz Curriculum Chairperson for the Washington chapter of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), and as Vice President for Washington's chapter of the IAJE. He lives in Everett, Washington with his wife Christina. For more about Mr. Bergevin's recording and performing life visit www.jakebergevinmusic.com.

About the Director

Cassio Vianna is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at PLU, where he directs the University Jazz Ensemble and teaches jazz classes and lessons. A native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Vianna is a pianist, music educator, scholar, and a Latin Grammy-nominated composer. His compositions and arrangements for jazz ensemble have received international recognition, including awards from the Latin Recording Academy (LARAS), National Band Association, Jazz Education Network, Ithaca College Jazz Composition Competition, and the International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers (ISJAC). His works for jazz big band have been performed by artists such as Chris Potter, Eric Marienthal, Ernie Watts, Martha

Reeves, the United States Army Field Band (Jazz Ambassadors), and the Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra, among others. Vianna has been featured as a lecturer, adjudicator, and performer at festivals and conferences in the U.S., Latin America, and China. Vianna holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Rio de Janeiro, a Master of Music degree from Western Oregon University, and a Doctor of Arts degree in jazz studies from the University of Northern Colorado.

About the University Jazz Ensemble

The University Jazz Ensemble (UJE) is the critically-acclaimed large ensemble representing jazz and creative music at Pacific Lutheran University. The ensemble performs four concerts per season on the PLU campus. Every four years, the UJE takes an international tour with the University Wind Ensemble and University Symphony Orchestra. Past tours have included Scandinavia, China, Australia, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland. The ensemble repertoire includes traditional jazz big band works from all eras of the music, as well as new compositions and arrangements by contemporary composers and PLU students.

The Richard and Helen Weathermon Joyful Noise Endowment for Jazz Studies at PLU

The Richard and Helen Weathermon Joyful Noise Endowment for Jazz Studies Fund was established by Dr. Richard H. (Dick) Weathermon (PLU, 1950) in October of 2016. Dick shared with the university: "Much of what has been good in my life can be connected back to PLC. At PLC I received my education and learned my vocation; met Helen, with whom I raised two wonderful daughters; and found my faith and was baptized. I have been loyal Lutheran and loyal Lute ever since." This endowment recognizes Dick and Helen's mutual love of jazz as well as their attachment to PLU. Both relished the "joyful noise" of jazz. The Weathermon family is very pleased now to share their love of jazz and of learning with new generations of high school and PLU students.

Dr. Richard Weathermon passed away in February of 2019, but daughter Karen Weathermon '83 and grandson Peter Weathermon Smith continue to support the endowed fund and are very pleased to share their family's love of jazz and of learning with new generations of high school and PLU students.

Contributions to the Richard and Helen Weathermon Joyful Noise Jazz Endowment may be made through the Office of Advancement at Pacific Lutheran University, 12180 Park Ave, Tacoma, WA 98447 or at plu.edu/advancement or by contacting Lauralee Hagen at hagen@plu.edu or 253-535-7203.

Find out more about jazz studies at PLU at www.plu.edu/jazz, www.plu.edu/professional-studies/weathermon-joyful-noise/, or on Facebook: Pacific Lutheran University Jazz Studies.

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**
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
- 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
- 11 Tuesday, 7:30pm**
PLUtonic/Gold Rush. The Cave, Anderson University Center, 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