

**Anat Cohen with the
Pacific Lutheran University Jazz Ensemble**

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 7:30pm
Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center

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

Pacific Lutheran University Jazz Ensemble
Cassio Vianna, *director*

Guest Artist: Anat Cohen, *clarinet*

*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 concert.
Use of cameras, recording equipment, and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

PROGRAM

Okay, Alright, You WinSid Wyche (1922-1983) & Mayme Watts
arr. Sammy Nestico

Max Minjares, *trombone* • Angel Rodriguez Gil, *baritone sax*
Kyle Gough, *vibraphones* • Justin Mendoza, *trumpet*

Samba de Orfeo/Struttin' with Some Barbecue Luis Bonfá (1922-2001) & Lil' H. Armstrong (1898-1971)
arr. Oded Lev-Ari

Steven Blankenship, *alto sax* • Max Minjares, *trombone* • Martin Teague, *tenor sax*
Devin Bianchi-Rivera, *trumpet* • Sabien Kinchlow-McConnaughey, *trombone*

In the Spirit of BadenAnat Cohen (b. 1975)
arr. Jim McNeeley

Cassio Vianna, *keyboard*

La Comparsa Ernesto Lecuona (1895-1963)
arr. Oded Lev-Ari

Oh! Baby Owen Murphy (1893-1965)
arr. Mel Powell/adapt. Oded Lev-Ari

Eleanor Sherry, *piano* • Jaden Pulido-Hughes, *trombone* • Martin Teague, *tenor sax*
Justin Mendoza, *trumpet* • Ben Hegge, *drums*

Cry Me a RiverArthur Hamilton (1926-2025)
arr. Oded Lev-Ari

Tiger Rag Nick LaRocca (1889-1961)
arr. Oded Lev-Ari

Devin Bianchi-Rivera, *trumpet* • Steven Blankenship, *alto sax*
Cas Stanhope, *tuba* • Mark Ivester, *drums*

ImaAnat Cohen
arr. Alex Annan

Madelyn Mitchell, *tenor sax* • Sabien Kinchlow-McConnaughey, *trombone*
Ben Hegge, *drums* • Angel Rodriguez Gil, *baritone sax*

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*
Cameron McLennan, *bass*
Jarin Szewczyk, *bass*
Ben Hegge, *drums and percussion*
Kyle Gough, *vibraphone and drums*

with special guests

Kade Levien, *piccolo*
Clipper Anderson, *bass*
Mark Ivester, *drums*

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 Bamberger.

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

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.

2026 PLU Weathermon Jazz Festival Featured High Schools

Graham-Kapowsin High School Jazz Band I, directed by Dan Hendrick
Governor John R. Rogers High School Jazz Band, directed by Stephen Pickard
Auburn High School Jazz Band, directed by Colton DeCarteret
North Thurston High School Jazz Band, directed by Darren Johnson
Curtis Junior High School Jazz Band, directed by Corinne Smith
Tahoma High School Jazz Ensemble, directed by Matthew Cole
Peninsula High School Jazz Ensemble I, directed by Meghan Hilborn
South Whidbey High School Jazz Ensemble, directed by Catherine Balestrasse
Juanita High School Jazz Ensemble, directed by Annemarie Smith
Gig Harbor High School Jazz Band I, directed by Eric Swanson
Bonney Lake High School, Panther Jazz Band, directed by Brandon M. Cain
Mount Rainier High School, Rainier Jazz, directed by Ashley La-Nolasco
Roosevelt High School Jazz Band II, directed by Michael Van Bebber
Decatur High School Jazz Band, directed by Chris Leslie
Auburn Riverside High School Jazz Band I, directed by Meghan Wagner
Steilacoom High School Jazz Band, directed by Matt Vegh