The Twenty-Ninth Annual PLU Orchestra Festival

Friday, October 30, 2026
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

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

The Twenty-Ninth Annual PLU Orchestra Festival

James Welsch, Hsing-Hui Hsu, and Anna Edwards, *Clinicians*

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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 performance.
Use of cameras and recording equipment is not permitted in the concert hall.

Time	Event
8:00-8:30	Enumclaw High School String Orchestra ..... Timothy Hager-Wentz, *Director*
	Dakota Fiddle Hymn and Tune – Peter Ostroushko (1953-2021), arr. Bob Phillips
	Modus à 4 – Shirl Jae Atwell (b. 1949)
	Voyager – Soon Hee Newbold (b. 1974)
8:35-9:05	South Kitsap Consort ..... Keira Merwine, *Director*
	Symphony No. 1 in C Major – Felix Mendelsohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)
	Folk Tune and Fiddle Dance – Percy Grainger (1882-1961)
9:10-9:40	Todd Beamer High School Orchestra ..... Stephen Kennedy, *Director*
	Waltz of the Wicked – Kirt N. Mosier
	Slane – Irish ballad, arr. Percy Hall
	Legend – David O'Fallon
9:45-10:15	Curtis High School Philharmonic Orchestra..... Matthew Grenzner, *Director*
	Holberg Suite – Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) *I. Praeludium*
	Footprints – Chris Bernotas (b. 1969)
	Phantom Tangos – Brian Balmages (b. 1975)
10:20-10:50	Black Hills High School ..... Joshua Friedlander, *Director*
	The Four Seasons – Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741), arr. Brendan McBrien *II. Summer*
	Excerpts from the Ballet *Petrushka* – Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971), arr. Andrew H. Dabczynski

10:55-11:25 Spanaway Lake High School Chamber Orchestra ..... Martin Dimitrov, *Director*

Symphony No. 104 ("London") – Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), arr. Robert D. McCashin
I. Adagio—Allegro

Pagodas – Richard Meyer (1952-2012)

11:30-12:00 Newport Concert Orchestra ..... Barney Blough and Elizabeth Yuk, *Directors*

Symphony No. 44 ("Trauer") – Franz Joseph Haydn, arr. Todd Parrish

A Silent Promise – Aaron Soltis (b. 2003)

Gravitas – Soon Hee Newbold

12:00-12:30 Pacific Lutheran University Symphony Orchestra ..... James Welsch, *Director*

Mlada – Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)
Procession of the Nobles

Karelia Overture – Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

Symphony No. 2 ("Romantic") – Howard Hanson (1896-1981)
II. Andante con tenerezza
III. Allegro con brio

12:30-1:00 *From 12:30-1pm, we invite students and directors to enjoy a moment of connection and, conversation. Visit with our guest clinicians and PLU student musicians to exchange ideas, ask questions, and learn from one another. Representatives from PLU Admissions will also be available in the lobby from 12:30-1:30pm to answer questions about academic programs, campus life, and opportunities at PLU.*

1:00-1:30 The Overlake String Orchestra ..... Mark Lotz, *Director*

Overture to the Magic Flute – W. A. Mozart (1756-1791), arr. Jamin Hoffman

The Four Seasons – Antonio Vivaldi
IV. Winter

Ripcord – Aaron Fryklund

1:35-2:10 Olympia High School Symphonic Strings ..... Joe Dyvig, *Director*

Suite for Strings – Joan Trimble (1915-2000)
I. Prelude
II. Air
III. Finale

2:10-2:45 Mariner High School Orchestra ..... Robin Enders, *Director*

Symphony for Strings No. 1 – Jeffrey S. Bishop (b. 1970)

2:45-3:20 Heritage High School Chamber Orchestra.....Glenn Wilcott, *Director*

Adagio in C Minor, K. 546 – W. A. Mozart

Perseus – Soon Hee Newbold

Evil Eye and the Hideous Heart – Alan Lee Silva (b. 1964)

3:20-3:55 Meadowdale Chamber Orchestra..... Nathan Rengstorf, *Director*

Abdelazer Suite – Henry Purcell (1659-1695), Deborah Baker Monday
Rondeau

Romanian Folk Dances – Béla Bartók (1881-1945), arr. Deborah Baker Monday

Hyperion – Kathryn Griesinger (b. 1979)

3:55-4:30 Garfield High School Symphony Orchestra .....Jared Sessink, *Director*

Serenade for Strings in E-flat Major, op. 6 – Josef Suk (1874-1935)

Two Elegaic Melodies, op. 34 – Edvard Grieg

4:30-5:05 Kamiak Uber Kammerstreich .....Brian Steves and Grace Kwon, *Directors*

Concerto Grosso in D Minor, op. 3, no. 11, RV 565 – Antonio Vivaldi

Symphony No. 6 in G Major, op. 38 ("Symphonie spirituelle") – Asger Hamerik (1843-1923)
II. Allegro molto vivace

5:05-5:40 Port Angeles High School Symphonic Orchestra..... Nathan Rodahl, *Director*

Concerto for String Orchestra – Joly Braga Santos (1924-1988)
Movement I

Waltz No. 2 – Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975), arr. Paul Lavender

Danse Negre – Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912), arr. Deborah Baker Monday

5:40-6:15 A.C. Davis High School Chamber Orchestra .....Scott Goranson, *Director*

Yakama Variants – Richard Meyer

Molly on the Shore – Percy Grainger, arr. Sandra Dackow

About the Host and Clinician

James O. Welsch is a conductor, educator, composer, and arranger who serves as Director of Orchestral Studies at Pacific Lutheran University, Music Director of the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association and Kirkland Civic Orchestra, and Associate Conductor of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra. Welsch has held leadership and teaching positions with the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras, El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras, Stetson University, the University of Central Florida, and Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music, where he was named Outstanding Music Faculty Member in 2008. He is also the founding Music Director and Principal Conductor of Orquesta Filarmónica Juvenil México–USA "The Bridge," a binational youth orchestra connecting young musicians from Ciudad Juárez and El Paso, recognized in both countries, including by Yo-Yo Ma. As a conductor, Welsch champions the orchestral canon alongside works by underrepresented and overlooked composers, exploring connections between music, history, culture, and the human experience. He is active as a guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and masterclass teacher. Welsch holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in orchestral conducting from The University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Music in orchestral conducting from Syracuse University, and a bachelor's degree in theory and composition from Stetson University. A French horn player by training, he believes orchestras are communities where musicians learn to listen, collaborate, and create something greater than themselves.

About the Guest Clinicians

Hsing-Hui Hsu is the music director and co-founder of the Emerald City Chamber Orchestra, a Seattle-based ensemble specializing in string repertoire. She has been a guest assistant conductor with the Seattle Symphony, and has also guest conducted the Seattle Collaborative Orchestra, Saratoga Orchestra, Seattle Festival Orchestra, and Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra. She was a founding member of the Amazon Symphony Orchestra and served as Music Director, collaborating with other arts organizations in the Seattle area as well as charitable organizations such as Mary's Place. Hsing-Hui is currently in her second season as assistant conductor of Harmonia Orchestra and Chorus. In addition to conducting, Hsing-Hui is an active clarinetist. Last season, she served as acting principal clarinetist with the Yakima Symphony Orchestra, where she also serves as bass clarinetist. She has performed with the Seattle Symphony, Pacific Northwest Opera, Sustain Music Project, Tacoma Opera, Seattle Philharmonic, Philharmonia Northwest, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, and Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra. She received her Bachelor of Music in clarinet performance from Rice University, where she also served as Music Director of the Rice Light Opera Society.

Anna Edwards is a violinist, educator, and conductor dedicated to musical diversity and championing underrepresented composers. She serves as Music Director of the Seattle Collaborative Orchestra, Saratoga Orchestra, and Pacific Northwest Conducting Institute, and is an active guest conductor and clinician nationwide. Edwards is committed to innovative programming that balances the classical repertoire with works by women, underrepresented composers, and Northwest artists. In 2022, she launched Anna's Composer Database, a curated resource supporting diverse and engaging concert programming. She has commissioned and premiered works by numerous contemporary composers and lectures on music, gender, and leadership. A former professional violinist, Edwards performed with ensembles including Pacific Northwest Ballet, Northwest Sinfonietta, and Auburn Symphony. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in orchestral conducting from the University of Washington, along with degrees in music education and violin performance.

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 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. Degree programs include Bachelor of Arts (music and liberal arts), Bachelor of Musical Arts (music combined with an outside field), Bachelor of Science in Music Therapy, and Bachelor of Music (in performance or composition). The Bachelor of Music Education is offered for those intending to become music teachers in the public schools. For additional information, please call (253) 535-7602 or e-mail: music@plu.edu. Scholarship auditions for the 2027-2028 academic year will be held in February 2027.

You may see the Pacific Lutheran University Symphony Orchestra, along with PLU's Choir of the West, and the University Chorale in our annual Christmas concert series, this year entitled, *Light Beyond Shadow.* Online ticket sales begin November 4, 2026. For more information visit www.plu.edu/christmas.

Visit the PLU Orchestra online at www.plu.edu/symphony