

University Symphony Orchestra
Student Showcase

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:30pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Pacific Lutheran University
College of Professional Studies / Department of Music presents

University Symphony Orchestra

Student Showcase

Jeffrey Bell-Hanson, *conductor*

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Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

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

Welcome, in person and virtually, to Lagerquist Concert Hall for our Student Showcase. This is our opportunity each season to highlight some of the marvelous musical talent from across the Department of Music. Tonight, we feature three soloists and the premiere of a new work by a student composer. Read more about our young artists below.

Concerto for Horn and Orchestra, op. 91..... **Reinhold Glière (1875-1956)**
I. Allegro

Benjamin Birmingham, *French horn*

Violin Concerto No. 3 in B Minor, op. 61 **Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)**
I. Allegro non troppo

Naomi Southard, *violin*

INTERMISSION

Songs of the Sea.....**Carina Collier (b. 1998)**
World Premiere

Four songs from *Les nuits d'été (Summer Nights)*, op. 7..... **Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)**
Villanelle texts by Théophile Gautier

Le spectre de la rose

Absence

L'île inconnue

Rae Hyra, *mezzo-soprano*

Symphony No. 8, op. 88, B. 163.....**Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)**
IV. Allegro ma non troppo

Program Notes

Songs of the Sea by Carina Collier (*World Premiere*)

The general theme of the piece is the stories I used to imagine as a child while at the beach looking out over the water. I'm sure anyone else who grew up in Western Washington can say they did the same thing growing up. A lot of the piece is dramatic in a cinematic way that isn't very serious, to represent the childlike nature of these daydreams. However, there are some parts of the piece that are more serious sounding that are meant to show reverence to the child in us that often becomes lost as we grow up, and as a way to acknowledge that imagination can help children be resilient through difficult, serious things.

– Carina Collier

Four songs from *Les nuits d'ete (Summer Nights)*, op. 7 by Hector Berlioz

Villanelle (Country Song)

When the new season comes,
When the frosts have gone,
We two will go, my dearest,
To pick lilies-of-the-valley in the woods;
Scattering under our feet the dewdrops
One sees quivering each morn,
We'll go to hear the blackbirds
Call!

Spring has come, my dearest;
This is the month that lovers bless,
And the bird, preening its wing,
Sings poetry from the edge of its nest.
Ah! Come, then, to this mossy bank
To speak of our beautiful love,
And tell me in your sweet voice:
Forever!

Far, far away we'll wander from our path,
Startling the rabbit from his hiding-place
And the buck reflected in the spring,
Admiring his great lowered antlers;
Then home we'll go, all happiness and contentment,
Our fingers interlaced for baskets,
We'll return, bringing back wild strawberries
From the woods!

Le spectre de la rose (The Ghost of the Rose)

Open your eyelids,
Closed in a girlish dreams;
I am the ghost of a rose
Which yesterday you wore to the ball.
You picked me still pearled
With silver tears from the watering can,
And among the starry party
You took me for a walk all night long.

O you who brought about my death,
Without you being able to hunt it,

Every night my rose-ghost will come
And dance at your bedside.
But be not afraid – I demand
Neither Mass nor De Profundis;
This soft perfume is my soul,
And I come from Paradise.

My destiny was worthy of envy;
And for such a beautiful fate,
More than one would have given their life –
For on your breast I have my grave,
And on the alabaster where I rest,
A poet with a kiss
Has written: Here lieth a rose
Which all kings would envy.

Absence (Absence)

Return, return, my beloved!
Like a flower far from the sun,
The flower of my life is closed
Far from your golden smile!

What a distance between our hearts!
What an abyss between our kisses!
O bitter fate! O harsh absence!
O immense desire unappeased!

Return, return, my beloved!
Like a flower far from the sun,
The flower of my life is closed
Far from your golden smile!

From here to there, how many campaigns,
How many towns and hamlets,
How many valleys and mountains,
To wear out the horses' hooves!

Return, return, my beloved!
Like a flower far from the sun,
The flower of my life is closed
Far from your golden smile!

L'île inconnue (The Unknown Isle)

Tell me, young beauty,
Where do you want to go?
The sail swells its wing,
The breeze will blow!

The oar is of ivory,
The flag is of silk,
The rudder of finest gold;
For ballast I have an orange,
For a sail, an angel's wing,
For a cabin-boy, a cherub.

Tell me, young beauty,
Where do you want to go?
The sail swells its wing,
The breeze will blow!

To the Baltic,
To the Pacific Ocean,
To the Isle of Java?
Or is it to Norway
To pick snowdrops,
Or the flower of Angsoka?

Tell me, young beauty,
Where do you want to go?
Take me, said the beauty,
To that faithful shore
Where love endures forever.
That shore, my dear, is not known well
In the land of love. Where do you want to go?
The breeze will blow!

About the Artists

Listed in order of appearance

Benjamin Birmingham is a junior from Lakewood, Washington, studying horn performance with Dr. Gina Gillie. Ben has been playing horn for six years and brass instruments for ten years. As a student, Ben plays in the PLU Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and maintains two chamber groups. Ben also serves as the University Music Tutor and teaches horn in the Bethel School District.

Naomi Southard is from Portland, Oregon and began her violin studies at age five. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in violin performance at PLU and studies with Dr. Svend Rønning. Naomi has served as concertmaster of the PLU Symphony Orchestra and PLU opera pit. She also teaches private violin lessons at Tacoma Christian Music Academy and Capella Music Academy. Naomi has attended the Tateuchi Institute of Music where she studied with members of the San Francisco Symphony (2019). This past summer, she attended Meadowmount School of Music in Upstate New York where she studied with Dr. I-Hao Lee, professor at Juilliard and DePaul (2022). Last year, Naomi was voted by the PLU faculty and awarded the Mu Phi Epsilon scholarship. She was also named the 2022-2023 Music Department Presser Scholar based on a nomination and vote of the Music Faculty. This award entails that the recipient shows a high level of academic and musical accomplishment and embodies the qualities of leadership and citizenship.

Rae Hyra is a fifth-year mezzo-soprano, studying with Janeanne Houston and is majoring in vocal performance. She has participated in the PLU opera program throughout her undergraduate career, performed as a chorus member with Vashon Opera on several occasions, and will be involved in her first show with Tacoma Opera in the upcoming premiere of

Tacoma Method. In addition to operatic repertoire, Rae has a passion for art song, and is especially partial to music from the Medieval and Renaissance periods. As a masterclass participant, she has worked with tenor Thomas Cooley, as well as maestro Pierre Vallet. When she is not performing, Rae enjoys honing her skills in tap and jazz dance, as well as camping and backpacking in the wilderness of Washington.

Carina Collier is a third-year student from Lakewood, Washington majoring in music composition. While at PLU Carina has been a member of the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Steel Band, Sølvvinden Flute Ensemble, and University Singers. She currently studies classical and jazz composition with Dr. Gina Gillie and Dr. Cassio Vianna respectively. She favors a musical style reminiscent of neo-romantic film music, and has written for a variety of ensembles including saxophone quartet, wind ensemble, orchestra, and jazz ensemble.

About the Judges Panel

Allison Pohl's sparkling voice, vivacious stage presence, natural ability to connect with audiences and her honest musicianship have drawn enthusiastic responses across three continents. This season, Allison performs Mozart's *Requiem* and Bach's *Magnificat* with Harmonia Seattle, Dvořák's *Te Deum* with Bremerton Symphony, Musetta in *La Bohème* with SkyOpera, and Eva in the world premiere of *21st Century Romance* at Town Hall Seattle. She was Echo in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and next season she will perform Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Vashon Opera. In 2018, she made her Seattle Symphony debut as the soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah*. As a member of the chamber duo Soprello, she is regularly featured on the Listen Live at Lunch series and on the Classical Tuesdays in Old Town series.

Lynn Bartlett Johnson graduated from PLU in 1982 with a Master's in violin performance. She has been a member of the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra since 1992, a founding member of the Auburn Symphony and has played at the 5th Avenue Theater since the original production of *Hair Spray* in 2002. Bartlett Johnson has been a violin teacher since her graduation from PLU, where she studied with Ann Tremaine and Serge Kardalian. She continues to play as a freelancer throughout the Puget Sound and loves playing chamber music whenever she can.

Jonathan Wohlers has performed widely in the United States, Mexico, Europe, South Korea, and Japan, most recently playing at Opera City Concert Hall, Tokyo, and on the prestigious organ concert series at International Christian University, Tokyo. He is a former Dean of the Tacoma Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is the Director of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tacoma, and is Artist-in-Residence on the Paul Fritts & Co. organ at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Tacoma where in addition to playing on the church's concert series, he also engages in educational opportunities for children and adults about the organ and its repertoire. Dr. Wohlers holds degrees with honors from the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston, from the New England Conservatory of Music in performance and musicology, and from Southern Adventist University, and has engaged in extensive research on fugues in the early seventeenth century. His teachers include Judy Glass, Yuko Hayashi, William Porter, Christina Edelen, Matthew Dirst, and Robert Bates.

About the Conductor

Jeffrey Bell-Hanson is in his twenty-first and final season as Music Director of the PLU Symphony Orchestra and Professor of Music. He is a familiar presence in the Pacific Northwest as a conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and orchestral educator. Each year he works with school orchestras at all levels throughout the region and beyond, bringing to them the perspective of his long career as a conductor and scholar. He is a past national president of the College Orchestra Directors Association.

Dr. Bell-Hanson has conducted orchestras and wind ensembles throughout the United States and in Bulgaria and the Czech Republic, including the West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra, the Olympia Symphony, the Marquette Symphony Orchestra, the Vratza Philharmonic, and the Philharmonia Bulgarica. His long career on the podium and as a teacher has also included faculty appointments in Kansas, Louisiana, and Michigan where he won recognition for excellence in teaching both from Michigan Technological University and the State of Michigan. He has served as music director of both the Hutchinson Symphony Orchestra in Kansas, and for fourteen years, the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra in Michigan. Dr. Bell-Hanson will retire at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year.

University Symphony Orchestra

Jeffrey Bell-Hanson, *conductor*

Flute

Blake Leahy*
Eva Reutercrona
Katherine Gunter
Kade Levien

Oboe

Ainsley Fuerst*

Clarinet

Caitlin Collins*
Brooklyn Sudnikovich-Eddy
Curtis Ganung, *bass clarinet*

Bassoon

Tyler Woo*
Rorie Millward
Adam Johnson

Horn

Benjamin Birmingham*
James Gibson
Ashley Lopez Mora
Aleia Truman

Trumpet

Jess Mason*
Jonathan Holder
Kurtis Sacksteder

Trombone

Sabien Kinchlow-McConnaughey*
Cody Nutter

Bass Trombone

Cassidy Stanhope

Tuba

Cassidy Stanhope

Timpani

Evan Nakanishi

Percussion

Quinn Rasmussen
Ben Helgeson
Cole Strichertz
Andrew Sims

Keyboard

Henry Hossner

Violin I

Joy Han*
Marley Cochran
Justin Singh
Joan Fort
Kyla Rivera
Lydia Downs
Mya Sullivan

Violin II

Gabriel Casey-Aguinaga*
Kirsten Iverson
Stan Piddubnyy
Violet Albenesius
Naomi Southard (SR)
Elizabeth Bankowski
Jess Mason
Dr. Svend Rønning**

Viola

Noatak Post*
Virginia Arthur
Alyson Rake
Taren Massey

Cello

Jeffrey Buetow*
Marisa Robbins
Elliot Capron
Nathaniel Bratcher
Madelynn Jones

Double Bass

Campian Roberts*
Lexi Castillo*
Madeline Cline
Taya Lovejoy

*Section Principal/Co-principal

**PLU faculty member

Lexi Castillo, *librarian*