

University of Puget Sound School of Music

2022 EARTH DAY CONCERT Celebrating life on our planet

Friday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.
Schneebeck Concert Hall

Puget Sound Concert Band
Gerard Morris, conductor
Minna Stelzner, guest conductor

PROGRAM

Nature Sounds; birds, rain, and jungle ambiance

Earth (b. 4.543 billion years ago)

Whirr, Whirr, Whirr (2001)

Ralph Hultgren (b. 1953)

Lasting Light (2018)

Viet Cuong (b. 1990)

Tahoma (2019)

Emilio José González (b. 1994)

Minna Stelzner, guest conductor

Wilderness (2021)

Cait Nishimura (b. 1991)

On This Bright Morning (2013)

David Maslanka (1943–2017)

Land Acknowledgement Statement

This evening's performance takes place on the ancestral territory of the Puyallup Tribe and the Lushootseed-speaking people, whose relationship with the land continues to this day. We respectfully acknowledge and honor the history and presence of Indigenous students, staff, and faculty here at Puget Sound. We who are guests on this land offer our gratitude for the opportunity to make music together here. The School of Music strives to recognize, include, and respect all of the peoples and musical traditions that make up our community.

Excerpt from *Pale Blue Dot*

Carl Sagan (1934–1996)

Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there—on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds.

Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.

It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.

Carl Sagan, *Pale Blue Dot*, 1994

PROGRAM NOTES

Whirr, Whirr, Whirr (2001)

Hultgren

Program note by Ralph Hultgren

Can you feel that sensation as you mentally juggle the demands of emotion, profession and family, and each concern barks at you for attention and demands its need be satisfied and you can sense the priority in them all but you know and feel your lack of time and your diminishing grace and patience to deal with them all?!

Can you feel that sensation in your heart and mind when you are led to something that might be on the edge of what you feel comfortable with but you still want to go there and you know that going there will jeopardize your everyday situation but you still want to go there?!

Can you feel the sensation that wells up in you as you desperately search for the right answer in a situation that has no turning back, no sense of ambiguity can prevail, and no hope of satisfying all the competing emotional interests seems possible?!

Your mind spins, duck and dives, leaps and plunges and seems to *Whirr, Whirr, Whirr!!!*

Lasting Light (2018)

Cuong

Program note by Viet Cuong

Lasting Light was inspired by a trip I took to the Grand Canyon with my family. I wanted to write a work that would reflect the sunset over the canyon, followed by the lingering sunlight, then the hazy greyish blue light of dusk, and then the light of the stars.

Tahoma (2019)

González

Program note by Emilio José González

The great white mountain that towers over western Washington has been known by many different names. To refer to the mountain as Tahoma, or another indigenous language name, is to recognize that this mountain was woven into the fabric of other people's culture and had other names before it was called "Mount Rainier." Using the name Tahoma recognizes that we occupy land that belonged to the Puyallup, the Muckleshoot, the Duwamish, the Tulalip.

Recognizing the truth in these statements is acknowledging indigenous peoples and their enduring stewardship of the land; that we are still their guests and they are still our hosts. Tahoma is meant to honor the great white mountain and those who were first inspired by it.

Wilderness (2021)

Nishimura

Program note by Cait Nishimura

My fascination with the natural world began in childhood, and it wasn't long before I learned about the harmful impacts of human activity on the environment. Old growth forests and essential ecosystems like wetlands were being replaced by housing developments and highways. As a child, I felt helpless about it all; now, as an adult, I know that there is so much we can all do to be part of the solution. Sometimes, we just need to feel empowered first, and I believe art is one of the most effective ways to inspire others.

This piece was commissioned by the Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic in celebration of their 75th anniversary. *Wilderness* celebrates and honors Earth's remaining wild spaces and the people who fight to protect them. Through this music, I explore the range of emotions I experience as an environmentalist, and I express my gratitude for all that nature has given me. This piece is a call to action for all of us to do our part in spreading awareness about climate change, to reflect on our relationship with nature, and to deepen our respect for the stewards of this land.

On This Bright Morning (2013)

Maslanka

Program note by David Maslanka

There are times of stability in life, and times of significant transition. Transitions can be upsetting, often provoked or accompanied by physical or emotional troubles. They are times of uncertainty and unknowing, but also the times of greatest creative change.

On This Bright Morning acknowledges the struggle, and the feelings of pain and loss in times of transition, but embodies the pure joy of realizing the bigger life. On this bright morning, life is new, life is possible.

The following is from a Bill Moyers interview with poet Jane Kenyon, who suffered from chronic depression and died of leukemia at age 48:

Yes, there are things in this life that we must endure that are all but unendurable, and yet I feel that there is a great goodness. Why, when there could have been nothing, is there something? How, when there could have been nothing, does it happen that there is love, kindness, beauty?

Jane Kenyon, December 2013

BIOGRAPHIES

Professor **Gerard Morris** earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Western Michigan University, a Master of Music Education degree from University of Colorado at Boulder, a Doctor of Music degree in conducting from Northwestern University, and currently serves as director of bands and department chair of winds and percussion at the University of Puget Sound School of Music.

In addition to serving as artistic director and conductor of the esteemed Tacoma Concert Band, Morris's credits include appearances at The Midwest Clinic, College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Western/Northwestern Division Conference (Reno, NV and Tacoma, WA), Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA) State Conference, and California Music Educators Association (CMEA) Bay Section Conference. He has also appeared as guest clinician at CBDNA National Conference, WMEA State Conference, CMEA Bay Section Conference, University of North Carolina at Greensboro New Music Festival, and guest artist in residence on numerous university campuses across the United States, as well as at the American Community School (Abu Dhabi and Dubai, United Arab Emirates). Morris's career is informed by years of professional performing experience as principal euphonium with Boulder Brass and United States Marine Corps Band, Hawai'i. With these organizations he toured the United States, Australia, and Costa Rica as both an ensemble member and soloist.

Minna Stelzner (she/her) currently serves as the Engagement Manager for the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association. With a passion for providing opportunities and access to quality music education for young musicians, she has spent two years teaching band in public schools throughout Washington state. Prior to her current role, she was the graduate assistant for the University of British Columbia wind conducting program, where she oversaw logistics for the band program, conducted the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Concert Winds, and taught undergraduate conducting courses. As a conductor, she has also made appearances with the Tacoma Music Teachers' Association Orchestral Recital Series and the Puget Sound Youth Wind Ensemble. Additionally, she works as a woodwind coach for local schools and programs and maintains a private lesson studio.

Stelzner received the Master of Music degree in wind conducting from the University of British Columbia, where she studied with Robert Taylor, and the Master of Arts in Teaching and Bachelor of Music in Music Education degrees from the University of Puget Sound, where she studied conducting with Gerard Morris and saxophone with Fred Winkler. In addition to her studies, she has participated in conducting symposia with Mallory Thompson, Jerry Junkin, Kenneth Kiesler, Craig Kirchhoff, Gillian MacKay, Travis Cross, and Rodney Dorsey.

Concert Band Personnel

Gerard Morris, conductor

Adam Cornell '25, librarian

Flute/Piccolo

Emily Johnson, community music

Nicole Mannix '24

Jasmine Mikesell '22

Grace Playstead '24

Paige Saller '24

Bailey Ulrich '22

Oboe

Clara Gibbs '25

John Salmon, community music

Bassoon

Forrest Milam '25

Clarinet

Jane Beacock '24

Graysen Coyle '22

Julia Deak '25

Sarah Dormer '22

Layne Jacobson '25

Caitlyn Kadooka '24

Mia Stenberg '24

Bass Clarinet

Maddie Johnson '24

Sid Whaley, community music

Alto Saxophone

Tenley Thompson '25

Julia Vahey '24

Tenor Saxophone

Ella Slattery '25

Baritone Saxophone

Jael Rodas '25

Trumpet

Olivia Fross '23

Charlie Latkowski '25

Alyssa Shane '25

Levi Walsh '24

Mya Woods '25

Horn

Rachel Ball '24

Iraniel Gonzalez Molina '25

Trombone

Sam Dosa '25

Maia Nilsson '25

Brock Salatino '25

Jordan Scott '25

Bass Trombone

Miguel Ledezma '22

Euphonium

Adam Cornell '25

William Lum '23

Tuba

Gemma Bertain '25

Aidan Sjorhun '25

Sam Snow '23

Piano

Layne Jacobson '25

Percussion

Ally Davey '24

Skyler Hedblom '25

nc Krantz-Fire '22

Austin Mangle '22

Abby Pierson '25

UPCOMING SCHOOL OF MUSIC EVENTS

All events are free. Masks and proof of vaccination required for in-person attendance.

Or join us online via Schneebeck LIVE

pugetsound.edu/schneebecklive

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Student Chamber Music, Concert I

Alistair MacRae, director

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Student Chamber Music, Concert II

Alistair MacRae, director

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Organ at Noon Series: Pictures and Impressions

Wyatt Smith, organist

Kilworth Memorial Chapel, Noon

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Symphony Orchestra featuring Cuban pianist Aldo López-Gavilán with Jasmine Mikesell '22, flute

Anna Wittstruck, conductor

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

R.S.V.P. for in-person attendance at pugetsound.edu/mymusic.

All listings are subject to change. For the most current information about upcoming arts events and lectures, visit pugetsound.edu/events.

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The School of Music at University of Puget Sound is dedicated to training musicians for successful music careers and to the study of music as a liberal art. Known for its diverse and rigorous educational program, personalized attention to students, the stature of its faculty, and superior achievements in scholarship, musicianship, and solo and ensemble performance, the school maintains the highest professional standards while providing academic and performance opportunities to all university students. Through faculty, student, and guest artist colloquia, workshops, performances, and a vibrant Community Music Department, the School of Music enriches the cultural life of the campus and community. pugetsound.edu/music | 253.879.3700

Community Music, a division of the School of Music, welcomes people of all ages and skill levels to participate in music lessons and classes throughout the year. pugetsound.edu/communitymusic | 253.879.3575

