

# Puget Sound's Symphony Orchestra

ANNA WITTSTRUCK, CONDUCTOR

*and*

# Pacific Lutheran University Symphony Orchestra

JEFFREY BELL-HANSON, CONDUCTOR



EST. 1888  
UNIVERSITY of  
**PUGET  
SOUND**

School of Music



**University of Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra and  
Pacific Lutheran University Symphony Orchestra**

Jeffrey Bell-Hanson and Anna Wittstruck, conductors

April 14, 2023 7:30 p.m.

Schneebeck Concert Hall

**PROGRAM**

blue cathedral (1999).....Jennifer Higdon  
(1962–present)

Jeffrey Bell-Hanson, conductor

*Sea Pictures*, Op. 37 (1899).....Edward Elgar  
II. In Haven (Capri) (1857–1934)  
IV. Where Corals Lie  
V. The Swimmer

Raine Filbert '23, mezzo-soprano  
Anna Wittstruck, conductor

INTERMISSION

*Tod und Verklärung*.....Richard Strauss  
(*Death and Transfiguration*), Op. 24 (1889) (1864–1949)

Anna Wittstruck, conductor

## Note from the Director

Welcome, and thank you for attending our concert! Tonight's combining of University of Puget Sound's Symphony Orchestra with the Pacific Lutheran University Symphony Orchestra is the result of collaborative planning that Dr. Jeffrey Bell-Hanson and I began nearly six years ago. We dreamed of bringing our two orchestras together, of fostering an intercollegiate exchange, and of using our combined strengths to create a musical experience that our students would find sublimely challenging and gratifying. Several years and a pandemic later, here we are.

This concert program embodies the Romantic sublime, in its unbridled exploration of the magnitude of natural phenomena, architectural scale, and emotional experience. Written in 1999, Jennifer Higdon's *blue cathedral* mediates through music the composer's grief and personal loss: the death of her brother from cancer. She writes,

As I was writing this piece, I found myself imagining a journey through a glass cathedral in the sky. Because the walls would be transparent, I saw the image of clouds and blueness permeating from the outside of this church...I wanted to create the sensation of contemplation and quiet peace at the beginning, moving towards the feeling of celebration and ecstatic expansion of the soul, all the while singing along with that heavenly music.

Higdon interjects the rich tapestry of her orchestral texture with intimate conversations between solo flute and solo clarinet – poignantly, the instruments she and her brother played.

Written a hundred years earlier, Edward Elgar's *Sea Pictures* (1899) turns to the ocean to reflect the depths of human love, longing, and loss. This song cycle comprises vignettes by five different British poets (including Elgar's wife, Caroline). Puget Sound's Symphony Orchestra will perform three of the five songs, featuring mezzo-soprano Raine Filbert, a graduating senior and one of our 2023 Concerto-Aria Winners.

After intermission, the orchestras will combine once more to perform Richard Strauss' early tone poem, *Death and Transfiguration* (1889). The young, 25-year-old Strauss was just beginning to establish his compositional voice through this highly programmatic, through-composed genre. Imagining an old man near death, Strauss embarks on a musical journey through a great battle between life and death, collage-like reflections of the man's life and memories passing before him, and ultimately the man's transfiguration to another state.

What a joy to host the students of PLU, and a great honor to share the stage with them as well as Dr. Bell-Hanson. My hope is that this is just the beginning of what will become an enduring partnership between two neighboring ensembles.

The April concert is a bittersweet one, as we give thanks and best wishes to our graduating seniors. These extraordinary young people have led the orchestra through the example of their artistry, commitment, and compassion. They will be sorely missed. Congratulations, Class of 2023! Thank you for your outstanding contributions to our musical community.

And on a personal note, this concert will be my last at University of Puget Sound. I have accepted the position of Associate Professor of the Practice at Boston College, where I will direct their orchestra and instrumental chamber music programs beginning this fall. It has been my inestimable privilege to be part of the Puget Sound community, and a great pleasure to work with our orchestra. Students: I will miss you dearly.

To our audience: thank you for supporting our students and concerts. We hope you enjoy the show!

—Anna Wittstruck

### **Congratulations, Class of 2023!**

Bennett Baynham, piano  
BA in music  
BS in computer science  
From Redmond, WA

Chris East, double bass  
BM in musical performance  
(Double bass)  
Minor in French and  
Francophone studies  
From Minneapolis, MN

Olivia Fross, trumpet  
BS in biology  
Minor in Spanish language  
From Boulder, CO

Maura Lake, violin  
BS in molecular and  
cellular biology  
From Grand Junction, CO

Holland Mueller, violin  
BA in music  
BA in environmental policy  
and decision-making  
From Santa Monica, CA

Christina Nguyen, violin  
BS in molecular cellular biology  
with emphasis in bioethics  
From Salem, OR

Dylan Petersen, percussion  
BM in musical composition  
From Portland, OR

Jules Tan, violin  
BM in musical performance (violin)  
Minor in communication studies  
From Boise, ID

# Pacific Lutheran University Orchestra

Jeffrey Bell-Hanson, conductor

## *Flute*

Blake Leahy\*  
Eva Reuter-crona  
Katherine Gunter  
Kade Levien

## *Oboe/English Horn*

Ainsley Fuerst\*

## *Clarinet/Bass Clarinet*

Caitlin Collins\*  
Brooklyn Sudnikovich-Eddy  
Curtis Ganung

## *Bassoon*

Tyler Woo\*  
Rorie Millward  
Adam Johnson

## *Horn*

Ben Birmingham\*  
James Gibson  
Ashley Lopez Mora  
Aleia Truman

## *Trumpet*

Jess Mason\*  
Jonathan Holder  
Kurtis Sacksteder

## *Trombone*

Sabien Kinchlow-  
McConnaughey\*  
Cody Nutter

## *Tuba*

Cassidy Stanhope

## *Timpani*

Evan Nakanishi

## *Percussion*

Quinn Rasmussen  
Cole Strichertz

## *Keyboard*

Henry Hossner

## *Violin I*

Naomi Southard\*  
Joy Han  
Marley Cochran  
Kirsten Iverson  
Kyla Rivera  
Gabriel Casey-Aguinaga  
Elizabeth Bankowski

## *Violin II*

Mya Sullivan\*  
Lydia Downs

Justin Singh  
Stan Piddubnyy  
Joan Fort  
Violet Albenesius  
Jess Mason

## *Viola*

Noatak Post\*  
Alyson Rake  
Virginia Arthur  
Marilyn Willis  
Taren Massey

## *Cello*

Madelynne Jones\*  
Elliot Capron  
Nathaniel Bratcher  
Marisa Robbins  
Jeffrey Beutow

## *Double Bass*

Campian Roberts\*  
Lexi Castillo\*  
Madeline Cline  
Taya Lovejoy  
Declan Long

\*Section principal/co-principal  
Librarian: Lexi Castillo

[www.plu.edu/symphony/](http://www.plu.edu/symphony/)

# UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Anna Wittstruck, conductor  
Jules Tan '23, orchestra manager

## *Violin 1*

Silvana Byram '25  
Ela Escobar '24  
Paige Franklin '26  
Ruby Gunter '26  
Katie Hayhurst '24  
Nikki Hindman '25  
Jackson Jay '26  
Maura Lake '23  
Else Mayo '24  
Christina Nguyen '23  
Jules Tan '23, concertmaster

Mandy Ausman '24  
Isabella Brady '24  
Avi Graf '25  
Seren Hawtrey '24  
Aiden Higgins '24  
Liam Kimball '24  
Angela Ronces-Cortes '24  
Phoenix Stoker-Graham '24  
Jordan Verkh-Haskell '25

## *Bass*

Chris East '23, principal

## *Violin 2*

Ethan Chythlook '26, principal  
Ashlyne Collado '26  
Eli Connolly '25  
Ashley Garman '26  
Liv Hauge '25  
Madison Hening '26  
Ayli Horvath '26  
Holland Mueller '23  
Hailey Yang '26

## *Harp*

Ellie Yamanaka, guest  
artist

## *Flute and Piccolo*

Jonah Kembel '26  
Eliza Koch '24  
Grace Playstead '24\*  
Julia Vahey '24  
Alex Westervelt '25

## *Viola*

Jadyn Barrio '26  
Amelia Calderon Henes '26  
Ryan Chernyavsky '25  
Kianna Davis '25  
Keola Tabisola '25, principal

## *Oboe*

Clara Gibbs '25\*  
Athena Schaefer '26

## *English horn*

Mariah Canton '24

## *Cello*

Liam Abbott '26  
Connor Adams '25, principal

## *Clarinet*

Hailey Matas '25\*  
Mireia Pujol '26  
Levi Walsh '24

## *Bass Clarinet*

Mireia Pujol '26

## *Bassoon*

Alex Kirner '26  
Sahaj Oliver '26  
Sara Ponsioen '26\*

## *Contrabassoon*

Sara Ponsioen '26

## *Horn*

Rachel Ball '24\*  
Rosa Dale-Moore,  
alumnus  
Nalin Richardson,  
alumnus

## *Trumpet*

Olivia Fross '23  
Abbey Hansen '24\*  
Wyatt Logan '25  
Alyssa Shane '25

## *Trombone*

Brock Salatino '25  
Elias Thiemann '24\*

## *Tuba*

Ian Dunlap '24

## *Timpani*

Dylan Petersen '23\*

## *Percussion*

Ray Carlsen '25  
Katie Hayhurst '24  
Skyler Hedblom '25

## *Piano and Celesta*

Bennett Baynham '23

\*Indicates section leader

## About the Performers

**Raine Filbert '23, mezzo-soprano** will graduate in May 2023 with a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance, and will be pursuing a master's degree in voice performance starting in the fall. She is a current student of Dr. Dawn Padula. During her time at Puget Sound, Raine has performed with the Adelphian Concert Choir, where she was the previous vice president and current social media manager, and has performed with Voci d'Amici. She is also one of the winners of this year's Concerto-Aria Competition. She has performed the role of Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance* and performed the roles of the Secretary from *The Consul*, Hansel from *Hansel and Gretel*, Oberon from *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, and Ilse from *Spring Awakening* in this year's opera theater production.

**Jeffrey Bell-Hanson** is in his 21st and final season as music director of the Pacific Lutheran University 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 Bulgaria. 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 14 years, the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra in Michigan. Dr. Bell-Hanson will retire at the end of the 2022-23 academic year.

**Anna Wittstruck** joined the University of Puget Sound School of Music in 2017 as assistant professor, director of orchestra. Before that, she spent two years at Stanford University as acting assistant professor, serving as interim music director and conductor of the Stanford Symphony Orchestra and Stanford Philharmonia. In 2019, she was appointed music director of the West Seattle Symphony Orchestra. She also has directed the Federal Way Youth Symphonies and served on the faculty of the Sitka Fine Arts Camp in Sitka, Alaska.



Wittstruck has conducted concerts across the United States, in Latin America, Europe and in Asia. She has served as a guest conductor with the Harbin Symphony in China, the Northwest Sinfonietta, the Federal Way Symphony and the Eastern Sierra Symphony. She conducted concerts at Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City and Teatro Nacional de Cuba in Havana, where she performed with Liza Alfonso Dance Cuba and the Chamber Orchestra of Havana. She has conducted concerts at the Rudolfinum in Prague and the Musikzentrum Augarten (home of the Vienna Boys' Choir) in Vienna, as well as concerts in Berlin, Bad Elster, and Teplice.

She received her Bachelor of Arts in music from Princeton University with certificates in orchestral conducting and creative writing, and her PhD in musicology from Stanford University. While a graduate student, she conducted the Summer Stanford Symphony Orchestra and directed the Stanford Wind Symphony, the Stanford New Ensemble, and the Stanford Chinese Ensemble. She also helped create the Stanford Youth Orchestra, an international program for advanced high school students, and taught courses through Stanford Pre-Collegiate Studies. At Princeton, she spent two years as assistant conductor of the Princeton University Orchestra and as associate conductor of the Princeton Sinfonia.

Wittstruck has attended the Pierre Monteux School of Conducting in Hancock, Maine, where she studied with Michael Jinbo, and the Conductor's Retreat at Medomak, where she studied with Kenneth Kiesler. Other conducting teachers include Michael Pratt, Ruth Ochs, Stephen Sano, Jindong Cai, and Edwin Outwater.

## UPCOMING SCHOOL OF MUSIC EVENTS

All events are free unless noted otherwise. Most performances are broadcast online at [PUGETSOUND.EDU/SCHNEEBECKLIVE](http://PUGETSOUND.EDU/SCHNEEBECKLIVE).

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

### **Byrd Ensemble**

1 p.m., master class | free

3 p.m., concert | tickets required | [pugetsound.edu/tickets](http://pugetsound.edu/tickets)

Kilworth Memorial Chapel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

### **School of Music Student Recitals**

Short performances by Puget Sound students

Schneebeck Concert Hall, Noon

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

### **Puget Sound Wind Ensemble**

Gerard Morris, conductor

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 and SUNDAY, APRIL 23

### **Chamber Music Concert I and II** (two different programs)

Alistair MacRae, director

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

### **Organ at Noon Series – All-Bach Recital**

Wyatt Smith, organ; Sheila Bristow, piano

Kilworth Memorial Chapel, Noon

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

### **Puget Sound Jazz Orchestra**

Tracy Knoop, director

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

All listings are subject to change. For the most current information about upcoming arts events and lectures, visit [pugetsound.edu/events](http://pugetsound.edu/events).

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## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge that this event 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.

The School of Music at University of Puget Sound, situated within a nationally recognized liberal arts university, prepares students to be broad-minded, creative, arts-aware social leaders. We attract highly engaged student musicians and empower them to create the diverse musical offerings and effective educational programs of the future.

From the classroom to the concert hall, we cultivate students' self-expression, cultural competency, and critical engagement. Through a wide variety of public offerings and a vibrant Community Music program, the School of Music enriches the cultural life of both the Puget Sound campus and surrounding communities.

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](http://pugetsound.edu/communitymusic) | 253.879.3575

