"And" can be as simple as, "I will have a scoop of strawberry and a scoop of chocolate," or as versatile as, "I am a musician who can perform Mozart and can improvise and learn by ear."

The leading music schools in the U.S. are all asking the same question: How can we best prepare our students for careers of the future? I attended the National Association of School of Music (NASM)* Annual Meeting in St. Louis this past November. The spirit of optimism and change I experienced was palpable, and it was a vibrant thread woven throughout every session. NASM President Michael Wilder stated in his address, "Our jobs are to remove barriers to music-making, to study music, to invite others to further develop their music skills and understanding, to celebrate music, to harness it, to admire it, and to champion the making of music. Lots of it. Music-making for all people in all places."

Jeffrey Sharkey, principal of the Royal Conservatory of Scotland, as the representative of the European Association of Conservatoires, spoke of the conservatory history:

But we began to divide up the whole person with much focus on faithful and accurate recreation. Composers were on one side, performers on the other. Art music on one side, popular or folk on the other. Applied studies on one side, academic on the other. Performance on one, teaching and pedagogy on the other. Whose music got played, how it was played, and for whom it was played was decided by a few... The professions are evolving to need the whole person and the whole musician—so our education must work to help lead the way in partnership with professional organizations.

We are a conservatory-style School of Music and we are situated within a nationally recognized liberal arts university. The School of Music has made great strides in evolving to meet the needs of our students, preparing them to be broad-minded, creative, arts-aware social leaders and professionals. As we continue to examine our curriculum and pedagogy to assure its currency and relevance, the power and potential of “&” can be our guiding light.

*The University of Puget Sound is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music. NASM is an organization of schools, conservatories, colleges, and universities with approximately 633 accredited institutional members. It establishes national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials for music and music-related disciplines, and provides assistance to institutions and individuals engaged in artistic, scholarly, educational, and other music-related endeavors.
“Music is a source of joy, connection, expression, and humanity… In my teaching, I strive always to keep joy at the center.”

These are the words of Dr. Gwynne Brown, professor of musicology and music theory here in the School of Music. Her teaching is a pillar of the unique musical culture present on the Puget Sound campus, and so we wanted to share more about her musical background, instruction methods, and current projects.

Dr. Brown has been part of the School of Music community for a long time—she received her undergraduate degree from Puget Sound! Her liberal arts experience helped her hone her skills in flexible and creative thinking, strong communication, and time management, and the intimate class sizes and close relationships with faculty bolstered her self-confidence. These tools made it easier for Dr. Brown to navigate graduate school at Indiana University and transition from piano performance to music theory and musicology.

Just like learning proper rhythm, intonation, and other foundational musical techniques, having a musicology perspective is an integral aspect of becoming a well-rounded musician.

“Studying musicology…helps musicians to be curious, knowledgeable, and endlessly fascinated by the music they create,” said Dr. Brown. “That is, it improves their musical lives.”

As an educator, Dr. Brown says she greatly values being able to engage with other people through music, which she referred to as “a ridiculous, gorgeous gift.” She also appreciates assisting students in any way—whether it’s a smaller thing such as teaching them something new, or a bigger thing like helping them discover who they want to be or what they want to do in their lives.

In the past few years, the ethnomusicology and historical musicology course requirements for music majors have shifted.

“I’m very proud of the changes we’ve made,” said Dr. Brown. “We moved boldly away from requiring a chronological sequence focusing on canonic Western art music, and [we] transitioned to a curriculum that introduces disciplinary approaches that can be applied to a wide range of music. This offers students more choices.”

While she is happy with the current state of musicology at Puget Sound, Dr. Brown is always looking to expand the course options in the coming years and find new ways for students to express themselves in the classroom.

In terms of musicology projects, Dr. Brown is at an exciting moment! She very recently completed her book manuscript about the amazing African American composer and educator William L. Dawson. After over a decade of research and writing, Dr. Brown’s efforts have finally paid off—her book will be [continued on next page]
Faculty Spotlight, cont.

published by the University of Illinois press this year! Dr. Brown is also currently the consulting editor for the music publishing company G. Schirmer on a new version of William L. Dawson’s “Negro Folk Symphony” (1934), a piece which has gained significant recognition as of late.

“It’s a tremendous work, and it’s a real privilege to help create an edition that will facilitate it getting many more performances,” Dr. Brown told us.

Her next venture will be a chapter about the solo keyboard works of Florence B. Price, written for Cambridge Companion, an upcoming volume on Price by Samantha Ege and Douglas Shadle. Dr. Brown is eager to collaborate with the talented musical artist Joe Williams for the project.

We look forward to reading Dr. Brown’s upcoming work!

YOUNG ARTIST SPOTLIGHT
Tia-Jane Fowler

Tia-Jane Fowler is a senior in high school from the Bremerton area who is involved in the University of Puget Sound community in numerous ways. Tia-Jane is a violinist, pianist, and cellist, and she studies violin through the Community Music program with Dr. Maria Sampen. Tia-Jane also participates in various extracurricular activities, including teaching violin through her own club, playing in orchestras, and sailing.

Tia-Jane got the inspiration for starting her violin lessons club after she returned to her high school orchestra in person post-quarantine. Attendance in her orchestra class had dropped sharply after the pandemic. Tia-Jane figured that matters were likely even worse in lower level orchestras, since she knew that her district’s elementary school music programs had been cut during quarantine. She reached out to her middle school orchestra teacher to see what she could do to help, and she discovered that the virtual learning format during the pandemic had caused many students to develop improper playing techniques that were challenging to correct without private lessons. Since private lessons are often too expensive for families to afford, Tia-Jane began to teach free weekly lessons at the middle school. She enlisted the help of other musicians from her high school and created the cleverly named “Instrumentoring Club” to teach...
Younger musicians. The club has grown to include over a dozen members!

“\(\text{My favorite part of being a musician has been interacting with wonderful people, some of whom have played pivotal roles in my life.}\)" Tia-Jane told us.

Tia-Jane credited Dr. Sampen for helping her to grow as a person, musician, and teacher, and for inspiring her to continue music beyond high school. Tia-Jane is also thankful for the relationships she shares with her peers in the Tacoma Youth Symphony and Kitsap Philharmonic.

Music isn’t the only program Tia-Jane is involved in on the Puget Sound campus. Last summer, she worked in the Psychology department with Dr. Erin Colbert-White and Dr. Alexa Tullis, where she learned about Dr. Colbert-White’s canine cognition project on how oxytocin influences dogs’ social behavior. Inspired by the project, Tia-Jane grew curious about whether or not the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown had an effect on dogs’ social habits. Tia-Jane received some helpful data from Dr. Colbert-White, which she used to begin a statistical analysis study, drawing upon scholarly literature and using tools she’d learned from an AP Statistics class. At the end of her study, Tia-Jane found that one of her tests indicated that the sex of a dog has a statistically significant impact on how it behaves in certain social settings. She remarked that her project helped her better understand scientific procedures and research methods in a real-world analytical setting.

It can be difficult for Tia-Jane to manage her various extracurricular activities in conjunction with her AP course load, and she is still learning how to balance everything. She says she has found ways of making the most of her time, such as doing homework in the car on the way to sailing practice. She also acknowledges that she has had to prioritize playing violin over piano and cello, but she still enjoys practicing those instruments when she has the chance.

Tia-Jane plans on continuing to contribute to the greater South Sound community as both a music teacher and sailing instructor for youth. Academically speaking, she is currently considering pursuing a double major in music and research science, thanks in part to her experiences here at the University of Puget Sound.

We wish Tia-Jane the best of luck in her future, and we would like to thank her for her commitment and dedication to her local community!
Jonah was previously a high school teacher in his home state of Minnesota, where he was in charge of the program’s managerial aspects in addition to rehearsal planning and concert preparation. He told us he feels lucky to be supported by all our staff and student workers so he can devote more of his time to serving students.

During his first semester at Puget Sound, Jonah has appreciated connecting with those around him and contributing to the welcoming environment in the School of Music. He has also enjoyed bringing the variety of students in Chorale and Dorians together for music-making. Additionally, he has been able to take advantage of his flexible schedule to do guest-clinic work with local high schools, which has been deeply rewarding.

This past December, the Chorale and Dorians choirs performed in the concert “Winter of Life: Joy and Celebration.” The concert featured a variety of pieces including arrangements by Jonah’s predecessor Ed Hughes, as well as “a Malaysian folk song involving movement, a piece in Hebrew with klezmer clarinet, South African songs with uplifting messages, and pieces by contemporary composers,” according to Jonah. In terms of rehearsing, it was a bit of a quick turnaround after the Fall Festival of Choirs, but Jonah said the choirs were up to the task.

As Jonah’s career moves forward, he aims to continue helping others and forging positive connections, something which is made easier by his flexibility as an adjunct faculty member.

“I would love to conduct and travel for honor choir events, explore the possibility of an LGBTQ+ choir for the Tacoma area, and potentially explore more graduate studies down the line,” Jonah said. “Teaching is my first love, and I look forward to working with both college- and high school-aged students for years to come!”
Clockwise from upper left-hand corner: Connor Adams ’25 and the cello section at a Collage rehearsal, Dr. James Doyle rehearsing with the Symphony Orchestra for the Collage concert, Luka Kitamura ’23 playing a taiko, violinists Ethan Chythlook ’26 and Paige Franklin ’26 rehearsing before the Chamber Music Concert, Natalie Worthy ’25 and Jordan Steinhart ’26 preparing for the Collage Concert.
This winter, we connected with alumna Clara Fuhrman, who recently completed her graduate studies and just began a job with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Clara began her musical career at the age of five, when she began taking violin lessons. Though some of her family members were musicians, Clara was the first violinist in the family! She studied with her initial teacher, Nancy Poppe, for 13 years, and then she began studying with Dr. Maria Sampen when she enrolled in Puget Sound. During junior high and high school, Clara played with the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association (TYSA), where she developed an appreciation for playing in an orchestra.

After she graduated from Puget Sound, Clara went on to receive her Masters at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and her Doctorate from the University of Oregon. During her graduate studies, Clara also attended summer orchestra festivals such as Aspen Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival, and Brevard Music Center Summer Festival.

Clara began working with the Los Angeles Philharmonic (LA Phil) this past November as the Senior Coordinator of Major Gifts, and she has been quickly getting familiar with the various parts of her job. She provides support and resources for the orchestra’s Major Gifts Officers and Directors, and she plays an important role in entering and analyzing data related to fundraising. She also frequently collaborates with other departments within the LA Phil to organize fundraising events.

“Every day is something different, and I get to work with amazing, inspiring people in order to support my favorite orchestra in the world. So far, I am loving this role!” Clara enthused.

Though she enjoys her job, it is important to Clara that she maintains her violin playing. She plans to start subbing with Southern Californian professional orchestras, including the Long Beach, Pasadena, and Santa Barbara symphonies. She also hopes to play chamber music from time to time with friends.
Since Clara recently completed her graduate studies, we asked her if she had any helpful tips for undergraduates looking to continue on with their education. Her response was detailed and informative! Clara told us that she highly recommends setting aside some alone time to plan out your goals and evaluate “what lights a fire” in you.

“I think [it is] important…to really get to know yourself, and [to] make…choices based on your own dreams and visions,” Clara said. “Make decisions that you truly believe will make you a happy person.”

While Clara advocated for the helpfulness of planning out your goals, she emphasized that it is totally natural for your plans to change shape, and that you should never be afraid to switch paths to pursue doing something you love!

Clara told us that in the coming years she wants to continue maintaining a healthy balance between performing as a violinist and working as an arts administrator. She expressed a deep love of music and philanthropy, and concluded with a positive outlook on her future.

“If my days continue to be filled with supporting local arts groups, music education, and world-class ensembles…., [then that’s] all I can ask for out of life,” she said.

Introducing our new SOM Operations Manager, Anna Mondschean!

Anna Mondschean joined the School of Music Team in January as our new Operations Manager! Anna is a violist and alumna, and has been working at the University for over a year, supporting the Race & Pedagogy Institute and the Academic Dean’s Office. As an undergrad, she double majored in African American Studies and Gender & Queer Studies, minoring in Education, and has really enjoyed her work in Higher Ed doing logistics coordination and event management. She is grateful to be working with such a great team of faculty, staff, and students, and she is excited to be surrounded by music again!
Larissa Gaulke ’24 is a junior in the School of Music, studying voice under Dr. Dawn Padula. Larissa says she feels “very lucky” to attend Puget Sound because it provides a wide array of music classes such as music theory and ethnomusicology that invite students to fully engage in learning. She expressed deep gratitude for Dawn Padula and her tutelage, which have helped her grow immensely as a vocalist during her time here. One of Larissa’s favorite things about the School of Music is when the different music departments collaborate, such as instrumentalists playing alongside the Adelphian Concert Choir. She values the opportunity to perform with and listen to other musicians who she usually wouldn’t have the chance to be around.

“We all work so hard, so it’s always great to…collaborate to really appreciate that [effort] and dedication!” Larissa said.

Last spring, Larissa got the chance to play Mabel in Puget Sound’s production of The Pirates of Penzance. She told us that while she’s had lead roles before, this was her first one in an opera. One of the things she loved most about the experience was preparing each night before their performances, including tying each other’s corsets and helping each other into their bustles and dresses.

“Being Mabel on stage was so fun because I got to be a no-nonsense, elegant but outgoing protagonist,” said Larissa. “I wouldn’t be doing the experience justice if I didn’t mention the amazing and wonderful Sam Crosby-Schmidt ’22. Their [character] Frederic made playing Mabel an absolute blast, and I’ll never forget it!”

Larissa informed us that she plans on participating in Puget Sound Opera Theater in Spring 2023. She also hopes to find theater opportunities outside Puget Sound, too, to broaden her horizons and provide her with more experience.

“There’s no feeling like post-show adrenaline!” she told us.

Outside of Puget Sound, Larissa is involved as a choral scholar at Christ Episcopal Church here in Tacoma. Her whole family is very musically inclined, and she loves to make music together with them, especially her brother, a talented vocalist and pianist.

During the rest of her time at Puget Sound, Larissa told us she would love to participate in more competitions such as Concerto-Arias or NATs. She also would love to collaborate with other student musicians to make music. After she receives her degree from Puget Sound, Larissa plans to get her Masters degree, hopefully from somewhere on the East Coast!
From top left to bottom right: Jazz Orchestra performing with Byron Stripling; members of Adelphians preparing for the Fall Festival of Choirs; students from the School of Music and PT department working together for the annual Musician’s Health and Posture Screening; MUS 168 students learning how to play the recorder under the direction of Dr. Tina Huynh; William Lum with guest artists-in-residency Misa and Steven Mead; Misa and Steven Mead coaching the collegiate brass quartet; prospective students, current students, and faculty performing at our Music Day Event in November
Jessica Hall is one of our amazing collaborative pianists here at Puget Sound! She has been with us for two years as of this January! She began her musical career as a performance major at the University of Washington, but she was not overly fond of playing solo recitals.

“I had a hard time memorizing music, [and] I don’t like being the center of attention in general, so a solo piano recital was basically my worst nightmare!” she said.

It was in an accompanying class that Jessica found what she loved—playing with other musicians, particularly vocalists. After attending the Operafestival di Roma, she “fell in love with all things opera,” which led her to earn an MM and a DMA in Keyboard Collaborative Arts from the University of Southern California. During grad school, Jessica learned a variety of great skills such as understanding French, German, and Italian operatic diction rules, how to be a vocal coach, and other useful tools for being an opera pianist. She joined the Minnesota Opera’s young artist program upon graduating, where she spent three years before leaving to freelance with opera companies. Now she is happy to be working here at Puget Sound with the vocal students of Dr. Dawn Padula and Dr. Steven Zopfi!

Outside of Puget Sound, Jessica works as a tech executive assistant, which means her days are quite busy between her two jobs. Still, she finds moments to play music in her spare time. For instance, last fall she performed “The Falling and the Rising” with Intermountain Opera Bozeman, which she had played a few years earlier in Seattle and Memphis.

Jessica’s favorite part of her job is connecting musically with a range of different people. “I love the spontaneity that comes from rehearsing and performing a piece of music with someone... It allows for a sort of magic to happen where you’re both tuned into each other, making music in your own part but also responding and reacting to your [fellow musician’s] part.”

Practicing as a collaborative pianist is very different from practicing as a solo pianist. Of course, one must learn their own part, but they also must know the part of whomever they are accompanying. In Jessica’s case, she says it helps her greatly to be able to play her own part and sing the vocal part as well. That way she can know important things she might otherwise not perceive, such as when a singer needs to take a breath. She also pays extra attention to learning the words if they are not in English so she can help students with pronunciation and diction. If the singer’s piece is originally from an opera, Jessica says she emulates the orchestral sound as best she can in order to prepare the student for their eventual time with a full orchestra accompaniment. Furthermore, since she has many students, Jessica needs to be familiar with a wide range of pieces. It helps that she knows much of the repertoire already, but what she doesn’t know, she learns very quickly using the sight-reading skills she has practiced and honed for years.

A common tip for learning music quickly and accurately is to play it very, very slowly at first. Jessica backs this method up, stating that difficult pieces click much faster if she learns them in an almost painstakingly slow fashion. This allows her to find ways of handling challenging passages instead of blowing through them at tempo and hoping to get lucky—which is often a bad practicing habit we develop as musicians.

“I guarantee that spending 5-10 minutes of focused, slow practice will have more consistent, accurate results than 30 minutes of repetitive practice up to tempo... Slow practice is the way to go!”
Thank you to the student staff who are vital in making our events go off without a hitch!

**Carina Bunch (she/her) '25**
- **From:** Santa Cruz, CA
- **Major:** History
- **Schneebeck Job Title:** Lead Technical Production Manager
- **Hobbies Include:** Theatre, reading, walks on the beach, and overanalyzing movies and TV shows

**Bennett Harper (he/him) '26**
- **From:** Madison, WI
- **Major:** Undecided, looking at psychology
- **Schneebeck Job Title:** Technical Production Manager (I work lights, video, and audio for our streams on Schneebeck Live)
- **Instruments:** Piano
- **Hobbies:** Cooking and movies

**Charlie Latkowski (he/him) '25**
- **From:** Seattle, WA
- **Major:** Undecided
- **Schneebeck Job Title:** Lead Usher
- **Instrument:** Trumpet (and a little bit of trombone and saxophone)
- **Hobbies:** Transcribing and arranging brass funk music, reading fantasy such as Tolkien and Brandon Sanderson, and baking

**Coda Scott '25**
- **From:** Anchorage, AK
- **Major:** Undeclared
- **Schneebeck Job Title:** Stage Manager
- **Instrument:** Trombone
- **Hobbies:** Drawing, gaming, and reading

**Quinn Fafard (he/him) '26**
- **From:** Santa Cruz, CA
- **Major:** Undeclared
- **Schneebeck Job Title:** Stage Manager
- **Instruments:** Saxophone and percussion
- **Hobbies:** Making music, hiking, scuba diving, and having too many pets

**Jackson Jay (he/him) '26**
- **From:** Vancouver, WA, just across the Columbia River from Portland
- **Major:** Music Education
- **Schneebeck Job Title:** Technical Production Manager (I work lights, video, and audio for our streams on Schneebeck Live)
- **Instrument:** Violin
- **Hobbies:** Video games, watching movies with friends, and trying new restaurants

**Sara Orozco (she/her) '24**
- **From:** Windsor, CO
- **Major:** Double major in English and Art History
- **Schneebeck Job Title:** Lead Stage Manager
- **Hobbies:** Reading a lot (for class but also for fun)

**If you see them at a show, be sure to say hello!**
In addition to providing quality education for our student musicians, our faculty create and participate in a variety of other musical projects both within and outside the university. Here are some of their projects and activities!

Collaborative Pianist Sheila Bristow has a new choral composition premiered on the PARMA label. “I Arise” was recorded by the Kühn Choir of Prague, under the direction of Lenka Navrátilová, and can be found on “Voices of Earth and Air: Vol. IV.”

In October 2022, Kim Davenport released her recording of the complete Twenty-Four Negro Melodies Op. 59 of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor for solo piano. Coleridge-Taylor’s celebration of melodies of both African and African-American origin are a profound addition to the late-Romantic piano repertoire. The album is just the third recording of the complete opus, and it continues Kim’s focus on performing and recording music by Black composers, past and present.

In December 2022, Kim Davenport shared a solo recital titled “Listen Children,” which celebrated piano works by black composers. The program, shared at First United Methodist Church in Tacoma, included the Pacific Northwest premiere of Adolphus Hailstork’s “Wounded Children,” as well as the world premiere of “Fram di Pliegroun,” (From the Playground), a 2022 work which Kim commissioned from Jamaican composer Mikhail Johnson, alongside works by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, William Grant Still, and Eric Dolphy.

Dr. Maria Sampen, the professor of violin studies, has been active in various projects in the School of Music. Here are the things she has been up to this past semester:
- Sep. 11: Music for Martha, Jacobsen Series
- Sep. 30: Collage Concert at UPS
- Oct. 18-22: Puget Sound Trio tour to Anchorage, AK; educational concerts at West Anchorage High School, Government Hill Elementary School, Dimond High School, Polaris K-12 School, South Anchorage High School and the Alaska Youth Orchestras. Concert on Oct. 21 at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts
- Oct. 28: Solo recital with Xiaohui Yang, Jacobsen Series
- Nov. 8: Solo performance for Classical Tuesdays in Old Town, PNW Composers Concert
- Nov. 11: Puget Sound Trio on Seattle King FM’s NW Focus Live
- Nov. 12: Puget Sound Trio performance with the Orchestra Recital Series of Tacoma
- Nov. 13: Puget Sound Trio, Jacobsen Series
Dr. Dawn Padula, the director of vocal studies, has had a very busy half year! Here is a list of the many things Dawn has done since summer 2022:

- Portrayed Dame Quickly in Giuseppe Verdi’s opera “Falstaff” with Puget Sound Concert Opera in Bellevue and Seattle in June.
- Performed at Vashon Opera’s annual gala at Froggsong Gardens on Vashon Island in June.
- Performed chamber works for mezzo-soprano by J. S. Bach and Barbara Strozzi at the inaugural Tacoma Bach Festival in Tacoma in July.
- Portrayed Ruth in Gilbert and Sullivan’s operetta “The Pirates of Penzance” at the Seattle Repertory Bagley Wright Theater for 12 performances with the Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society in July. The production was nominated several times for the 2022 Broadway World Seattle Awards for regional theatre, and Dawn herself was nominated for ‘Best Performer.’
- Portrayed Dryade in Richard Strauss’ opera “Ariadne Auf Naxos” with Vashon Opera at the Vashon Center for the Performing Arts in early September.
- Performed a set of songs with SOM alumna and harpist Margaret Shelton-Betts, composed for them by Dr. Rob Hutchinson at the Classical Tuesdays in Old Town concert featuring works by local composers in November.
- Traveled to San Antonio, TX to judge the finals of the Rosalind Phillips Vocal Artistry Competition and to give a master class in November.
- Performed the mezzo-soprano solos in George Frideric Handel’s oratorio “The Messiah” with The Opera Project at the Icicle Creek Center for the Arts in Leavenworth, WA on December 23 and 24.
- Sung with the Seattle Opera Chorus in their performances of Camille Saint-Saëns’ opera “Samson et Dalila” at McCaw Hall in Seattle this January.

Dr. James Doyle performed with Grays Harbor Symphony Orchestra, director Dr. Bill Dyer, and other faculty at Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen, WA this past November. They performed “Fantasy of Japanese Woodprints” by Alan Hovhaness for xylophone and orchestra and “Xylophonia” by Joe Green.
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