

JACOBSEN

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERIES 2025–26



The Girsky String Quartet

Natasha Bazhanov, violin; Timothy Christie, viola;
Artur Girsky, violin; Rowena Hammill, cello

with **Xiaohui Yang, piano**



Sunday, Oct. 26

Kilworth Memorial Chapel, 2 p.m.

JACOBSEN SERIES

Established in 1984, the Jacobsen Series features performances by School of Music faculty members, students, alumni, and guest artists for the university and the community. The series is named in honor of Leonard Jacobsen, professor of piano and chair of the piano department at Puget Sound from 1932 to 1965 and consists of theme-related concerts presented between September and April each academic year.

The Jacobsen Series Scholarship Fund awards annual music scholarships to outstanding student performers and scholars. This fund is sustained entirely by season subscribers and individual ticket sales. University of Puget Sound wishes to recognize and thank our many patrons whose support has assisted worthy students and has contributed to this successful series.

Jacobsen Series: The Girsky String Quartet

Natasha Bazhanov, violin; Timothy Christie, viola; Artur Girsky, violin;
Rowena Hammill, cello; with **Xiaohui Yang, piano**

Oct. 26, 2025

PROGRAM

Piano Quintet in G minor, Op. 57.....Dmitri Shostakovich
I. Prelude: Lento— Poco più mosso— Lento (1906–1975)
II. Fugue: Adagio
III. Scherzo: Allegretto
IV. Intermezzo: Lento
V. Finale: Allegretto

INTERMISSION

String Quartet in E minor, Op. 59, No. 2.....Ludwig van Beethoven
I. Allegro (1770–1827)
II. Molto adagio (*Si tratta questo pezzo con
molto di sentimento*)
III. Allegretto— *Maggiore – Thème russe*
IV. Finale. Presto

*All are invited to a reception following the program in the
Kilworth Memorial Chapel basement.*

BIOGRAPHIES

Born in Ekaterinburg, Russia, **NATASHA BAZHANOV** began playing violin at the age of five. After winning several regional youth competitions, she made her solo debut with Ural State Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of nine and later was invited to Moscow Central Music School to join the class of professor Belenky. She was one of five people chosen to participate in Sir Yehudi Menuhin's masterclass during his historic visit to Moscow.

After graduating with honors, Bazhanov was accepted to the Moscow conservatory and was touring extensively throughout Europe, taking part in festivals such as Schleswig- Holstein, Evian, Bonn, Schloss Ort.

After moving to the United States, she became a member of the Florida Orchestra's violin section and later the principal second violinist. In 2006, she relocated to Seattle to join the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra. She is currently a member of the Seattle Symphony and Seattle Opera Orchestras.

Born in Riga, Latvia, into a family of violinists, **ARTUR GIRSKY** began playing violin at age 5. He studied with Maya Glezarova at the Moscow Central Music School and with Felix Andrievsky at the Royal College of Music in London.

Girsky won Third Prize at the International Violin Competition of Naples and he served as Concertmaster of the Moscow Soloists chamber orchestra under the baton of world-renowned violist Yuri Bashmet.

In 1997, Girsky joined The Florida Orchestra as Principal Second Violin. He has been a member of the Seattle Symphony since 2006 and is also a member of the Girsky Quartet.

ROWENA HAMMILL is Associate Principal Cello of the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra. She divides her time between Los Angeles and Vashon Island, Wash., where she is the director of Vashon Chamber Music and the Vashon Island Cello Camp.

A graduate of the Indiana University School of Music, she was teaching assistant to Janos Starker before being appointed Professor of Cello at the University of Northern Iowa and later at California State Northridge.

She has played with the Girsky String Quartet since 2012 and has enjoyed curating the Beethoven Quartet project on Vashon Island and the Club Shostakovich concerts in the Seattle area.

Violinist and violist **TIMOTHY CHRISTIE** enjoys a multifaceted career as performer, teacher, public speaker, and recording artist. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival (WWCMF), a nonprofit organization in southeastern Washington presenting more than 40 public chamber music events annually. He also serves on the faculty of the School of Music at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, and was a member of the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra in Seattle for 15 years.

In demand as a recitalist and chamber musician, Christie regularly collaborates with some of the most exciting artists and ensembles in the industry, including Third Coast Percussion, PRISM Quartet, PROJECT Trio, Sybarite5, Turtle Island Quartet, the Harlem Quartet, and The Westerlies. The solo violist of new-music ensemble Brave New Works since the group's inception in 1997, Christie can be heard on recordings of William Bolcom's Piano Quintet and William Albright's Clarinet Quintet on AMP Records.

Christie earned dual undergraduate degrees in music and English literature at the University of Michigan, and a Master of Music degree, also from U of M. His principal teachers include Andrew Jennings and Paul Kantor (violin), and Yizhak Schotten (viola).

Christie occasionally dips a toe in the for-profit wing of the music business, having recorded countless film, television, and video game scores over the years. Away from music, Christie frequently dips a toe in cold mountain streams. His favorite fly in the box is a Parachute Adams. On land, Christie sometimes hits the ball straight. If you are his friend, you call his slice a "fade."

Chinese pianist **XIAOHUI YANG**, a winner of the 2017 Naumburg International Piano Competition has been hailed by the press as a "tastefully polished musician" (Haaretz, Israel) and "a magician of sound and virtuosity" (La Libre, Belgium). She has been featured in performances throughout four continents, including in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Ozawa Hall, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Tel Aviv Museum of Art and the Seoul Arts Center.

Yang has been a soloist with ensembles including the Louisiana Philharmonic, Milwaukee Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Acadiana Symphony, Curtis Symphony, Galveston Symphony and Poland's Capella Bydgosciensis. Solo and collaborative performances include recitals for Portland Piano International, Shriver Hall Concert Series (Baltimore), Union College Concert Series (Schenectady, NY), Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts (Chicago) and Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts (Katonah, NY).

A dedicated chamber musician, Yang has taken part in renowned North American festivals such as Marlboro, Tanglewood, Ravinia, Banff and Taos, and has performed with luminaries such as Peter Wiley, Charles Neidich and Roberto Diaz. Yang has been invited to perform on tours with Ravinia's Steans Music Institute and Curtis on Tour at concert halls in the United States, Korea, and Greece.

Yang is a graduate of Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with Ignat Solzhenitsyn and was a recipient of the Festorazzi Prize for the best graduating piano student. She earned her master's degree at The Juilliard School as a student of Robert McDonald, and currently is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at the Peabody Conservatory, under the tutelage of Boris Slutsky. Before moving to the United States, Yang studied at the Attached Music School of Shenyang Conservatory of Music with Danwen Wei, Xianwei Cheng and Rosemary Platt.

UPCOMING SCHOOL OF MUSIC EVENTS

All events are free unless noted otherwise. Most performances are broadcast at pugetsound.edu/schneebecklive. * Tickets available at tickets.pugetsound.edu, in the Logger Store, or at the door.

THURSDAY, OCT. 30

Keyboard Series: Pipes Spooktacular – A Halloween Organ Concert

Wyatt Smith, organ

Kilworth Memorial Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 1

Jacobsen Series: Duo Diorama

Minghuan Xu, violin; Winston Choi, piano

Kilworth Memorial Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets required, Free for students

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5

School of Music Noon Convocation

Student Recital Performances

Schneebeck Concert Hall, noon

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

Popular Music Ensemble

Dawn Padula and Rob Hutchinson, co-directors

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 14

Jacobsen Series: Faculty recital

Ronaldo Rolim, piano

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets required, free for students

*Ticketed events are not streamed live.

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

Puget Sound is committed to being accessible to all people. If you have questions about event accessibility, please contact 25Live@pugetsound.edu, or visit pugetsound.edu/accessibility.

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 | 253.879.3575

