

# JACOBSEN

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SERIES 2025-26



## Celebrating Puget Sound Composers

*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Leroy Ostransky Day in Tacoma*



**Friday, Oct. 24**

**Schneebeck Concert Hall, 7:30 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: Celebrating Puget Sound Composers and the  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Leroy Ostransky Day in Tacoma**

Oct. 24, 2025

**PROGRAM**

*The Lonesome Trees*.....Leroy Ostransky '48 (1918–93)

Members of the Adelpian Concert Choir

Remarks by Carter Fouts '27

*Theme and Variations for Piano*.....Leroy Ostransky

Kim Davenport, piano

*Expanse of My Soul*.....Scott Ordway '06

- 1. Your voice
- 2. Blindfold
- 3. Sighs become breath

Dawn Padula, mezzo-soprano  
Kim Davenport, piano

**INTERMISSION**

*in memoriam ALR*.....Lawrence Ebert (1932–2000)

Joyce Ramée, viola

*Cold Blue Jasper* (world premiere).....Forrest Pierce '94

Maria Sampen, violin

*Bereavement*.....Brianna Babin '27

II. *A Las Estrellas, from Avellaneda Songs*.....Robert Hutchinson

*Cloths of Heaven*.....Katy Hassing '23

Dawn Padula, mezzo-soprano  
Kim Davenport, piano

*A Compass Pointing North*.....Greg Simon '07

*Virgil Meets Venus*.....Leroy Ostransky

*Leroy and Larry*.....Robert Hutchinson

Bennett Harper '26, piano  
Robert Hutchinson, bass  
Sarah Beacock '26, drums

*All are invited to a reception following the program in the  
Schneebeck Concert Hall lobby.*

## Members of the Adelpian Concert Choir

Steven Zopfi, director

### *Soprano*

Sophia Haynes '27  
Annie Hochberg '25, MAT '26  
Abby Jennings '27

### *Tenor*

Miles Bourgeois '26  
Teagan McMonagle '28  
Alex Vogel '28

### *Alto*

Lucy Ferguson '27  
Amelia Stiles '27  
Teresa Youngman '28

### *Bass*

Tate Halbert '28  
Rory Morgan '28  
Liam Watt '29

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Gwynne Kuhner Brown '95** is Distinguished Professor of musicology at the University of Puget Sound. She is a proud Puget Sound alumna, graduating with a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance. Dr. Lawrence Ebert's courses were so enjoyable that she went on to pursue a master's degree in music theory from Indiana University. She edited the 2023 G. Schirmer edition of William Levi Dawson's *Negro Folk Symphony*; a recording of that piece by the Philadelphia Orchestra received a Grammy nomination in 2024. Her biography of Dawson was published by the University of Illinois Press in 2024; it is a good read and can be purchased at the Logger Store. She was delighted to serve as advisor for Carter Fouts's wonderful summer research project on Leroy Ostransky.

**Brianna Babin '26** is a flutist from Whittier, Calif., pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in music with a focus in composition and a minor in business. She is a student of Tracy Doyle and Rob Hutchinson. *Bereavement* is an art song written for voice and piano based on the poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822). Written in 1808, Shelley writes from the perspective of someone comforting a man after the death of a loved one. The man smiles in reminiscence of his love and the singer reassures him that he'll meet his love again in another life.

**Sarah Beacock '26** is a business administration major and music minor. She studies percussion with Jeffery Lund and performs with the Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble. She hopes to continue playing music while pursuing a career in business post-grad.

**Kim Davenport** is a pianist dedicated to bringing underrepresented voices to the concert stage and recording studio. Her performances and albums highlight the music of Black composers, including her 2022 recording of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Twenty-Four Negro Melodies, Op. 59*, and 2025 album collaborations with bass clarinetists Sarah Watts and Mélanie Bourassa. In 2024, she premiered Kevin Oldham's *Piano Concerto, Op. 14* in a new transcription with the Tacoma Concert Band. Based in Tacoma, Washington, Davenport performs frequently as a soloist and collaborator, and her research and teaching explore music's power to connect histories and communities.

**Carter Fouts '27** is a percussionist studying with Jeffery Lund. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in music with an interdisciplinary humanities emphasis. This past summer he conducted research on the life and music of Dr. Leroy Ostransky; studying archival materials and engraving a series of unpublished works. On campus, he serves as the principal timpanist for the Symphony Orchestra, and performs with the Wind Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble.

**Bennett Harper '26** is double majoring in psychology and music. He studies jazz piano with David Joyner and performs with the University of Puget Sound Jazz Orchestra. His goals after college are to pursue graduate school for counseling or social work and to keep playing music.

**Katy Hassing '23** is a local composer and vocalist with a Bachelor of Music in Music Composition from University of Puget Sound, where she studied under Robert Hutchinson. Katy has been active in the music world of Tacoma her whole life, having had several compositions performed at University of Puget Sound and at her high school, Tacoma School of the Arts, ranging from choral pieces to chamber music to art songs. Currently, Katy is performing in Symphony Tacoma Voices under the direction of Geoffrey Boers,

working on private commissions and building her portfolio for her next steps.

**Robert Hutchinson** is an award-winning professor of music theory and composition at the University of Puget Sound. He received his Ph.D. in music composition from the University of Oregon. He has received commissions for orchestra, band, string quartet, and brass quintet from the Northwest Sinfonietta, the Tacoma Youth Symphony, the Tacoma Concert Band, the Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival, and the Gewandhaus Brass Quintette among others. His music for orchestra, band, chamber winds, and voice has been performed throughout the United States and Europe. Hutchinson is also a jazz bassist and performs professionally in the Seattle-Tacoma area, most frequently with the jazz-fusion group Velocity.

**Scott Ordway '06** is a composer and multimedia artist whose widely acclaimed work spans music, text, photography, and film. His compositions have been presented at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Lincoln Center, Stanford Live, and major festivals in the US, Europe, and Asia. Rooted in the classical tradition but radically open in form and tone, his compositions fuse text, sound, image, and memory to evoke a sense of longing, loss, and connection to the natural world and to one another. Praised for their “arresting originality” (Gramophone) and hailed as “an American response to Sibelius” (Boston Globe), his music has been performed by leading orchestras and ensembles worldwide. Ordway is Associate Professor and Head of Composition at Rutgers University.

**Leroy Ostransky '48** (1918–1993) was born in New York City to Russian immigrants. He described his rough upbringing in his 1991 memoir, *Sharkey's Kid*. During World War II, Ostransky was drafted into the army and stationed at Fort Lewis, serving as the music arranger for War Bond shows from 1944 to 1945. After the war, he married and enrolled at the College of Puget Sound. His talents were quickly recognized and he was hired as an assistant in music theory from 1946 to 1948. After graduating with honors from Puget Sound in 1948, Ostransky attended New York University where he earned a master's degree in 1951 and later his Ph.D. at the University of Iowa. In 1952, he joined the faculty at the University of Puget Sound.

He was a pioneer of jazz as a worthy topic for higher education, and in 1975, *People* magazine named him one of the nation's 12 outstanding teachers. On Oct. 23, 1975, Ostransky's Symphony No. 4 "American" was performed by the Seattle Symphony with the Puget Sound Adelpian Concert Choir and the Pacific Lutheran University Choir. The date was recognized as "Leroy Ostransky Day" by Tacoma Mayor Gordon Johnston and the City Council. Upon acceptance of the proclamation, Ostransky commented, "I don't deserve it, but I'll take it." He retired from Puget Sound in 1983.

**Dawn Padula**, mezzo-soprano's (<https://dawnpadula.com>) recent opera engagements include the roles of *Carmen* (Bellevue Opera), Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance* (Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dame Quickly in *Falstaff* (Pacific Northwest Opera), Azucena in *Il Trovatore* (Puget Sound Concert Opera), and the roles of Dryade in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Maddalena in *Rigoletto* (both with Vashon Opera). Notable recent concert work includes performing as the mezzo-soprano soloist in Verdi's *Requiem* with Yakima Symphony Orchestra, and in De Falla's *El Amor Brujo* with Symphony Tacoma and Olympia Symphony Orchestra.

Padula is Director of Vocal Studies at the University of Puget Sound School of Music where she chairs the Vocal Studies Area and co-directs the Songwriting major.

**Joyce A. Ramée**, viola, joined the Puget Sound faculty as viola professor in 1987, and has trained hundreds of students since. She is a founding member of Pacific Northwest Ballet and Auburn Symphony and an active soloist. Ramée enjoyed a long friendship with Puget Sound's eminent Composition Professor Lawrence Ebert. In Memoriam A.L.R. was written for her in 1997 upon the death of her father, Allan L. Ramée, who was a friend of Lawrence Ebert and a faithful attendee at School of Music events for the last ten years of his life.

**Maria Sampen** is Professor of Violin and Chair of the String Department at the University of Puget Sound, and violinist in the Puget Sound Piano Trio. She enjoys a vibrant musical career as a soloist, chamber musician, recording artist, and teacher. Equally at home with repertoire ranging from classical to avant-garde to popular



styles, Sampen delights audiences with her eclectic programs, passionate performance style, and highly expressive playing. She has commissioned and premiered recent concertos for violin and orchestra by composers David Glenn, Marilyn Shrude and Robert Hutchinson. Additionally, she has commissioned and premiered over 20 chamber works, including music by Marcos Balter, Andrew Mead, Robert Morris, Nico Muhly and Forrest Pierce.

**Greg Simon '07** is a composer and jazz trumpeter from California, by way of Oregon and Colorado. His works have been performed by ensembles and performers around the world, including the Nu Deco Ensemble, the Cavell Trio, Alarm Will Sound, the Fifth House Ensemble, and the Playground Ensemble. He has won awards for composition from the Zodiac International Music Festival, NACUSA, the Esoterics, and others; and was a second-prize winner in the Moscow Conservatory's New Classics Competition. Greg studied jazz improvisation and composition with Bill Lucas, Ellen Rowe, and Brad Goode, and is an active freelancer in the Omaha-Lincoln area. Greg is Associate Professor of Composition and Jazz Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and he teaches at the Brevard Music Center. He received a D.M.A. in composition from the University of Michigan.

**STEVEN ZOPFI** is Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at the University of Puget Sound where he oversees four choirs, teaches conducting, applied voice, and conducts the award-winning Adelphian Concert Choir. Prior to his appointment at Puget Sound, he served on the faculties of Penn State University, the University of Washington and Pacific Lutheran University. Choirs under his direction have been invited to sing at the local and regional conventions of the American Choral Director's Association, the National Association for Music Education, the Society of Composers, Inc., the Colorado Early Music Society, and other professional organizations. He is in constant demand as a conductor, adjudicator, and clinician. Critics have hailed his work as "magical" and "superb." He has performed with the Prague Philharmonic, the Colorado Symphony, the New Jersey Symphony, and the Pazardzhik Symphony and is the founder and past artistic director of the Foundling Hospital Singers, the Boulder Schola Cantorum, the Grace Chamber Orchestra, and The Portland Sinfonietta. Zopfi is the founder and artistic director of the Tacoma Bach Festival.

## UPCOMING SCHOOL OF MUSIC EVENTS

All events are free unless noted otherwise. Most performances are broadcast at [pugetsound.edu/schneebecklive](https://pugetsound.edu/schneebecklive). \* Tickets available at [tickets.pugetsound.edu](https://tickets.pugetsound.edu), in the Logger Store, or at the door.

SUNDAY, OCT. 26

**Jacobsen Series: Girskey String Quartet with Xiaohui Yang**

Kilworth Memorial Chapel, 2 p.m.

Tickets required, free for students

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**

Concerto-Aria Spotlight

Schneebeck Concert Hall, noon

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

**Popular Music Ensemble**

Dawn Padula and Rob Hutchinson, co-directors

Schneebeck Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.

\*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](https://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](mailto:25Live@pugetsound.edu), or visit [pugetsound.edu/accessibility](https://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](https://pugetsound.edu/communitymusic) | 253.879.3575



