



## PROGRAM

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SMETANA  
*Arr. Vaclav Nelhybel*

*Fanfares from Libuse*

GRAINGER

*The Power of Rome and the  
Christian Heart*

Kristen Lawrence, organ

MICHAEL MARKOWSKI

*Brooklyn Air*

MICHAEL MARKOWSKI

*City Trees*

~INTERMISSION~

LARRY TUTTLE

*The Information Age*  
(World Premiere)

HINDEMITH  
*Arr. Keith Wilson*

*Symphonic Metamorphosis*

*Mvt. 1: Allegro*

*Mvt. 2: Turandot (Scherzo)*

*Mvt. 3: Andantino*

*Mvt. 4: March*

## ABOUT PSYWE

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Established in 2007, the Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble (PSYWE) has quickly become the premier youth wind ensemble in Orange County, California. As one of only a handful of youth wind ensembles connected to a group one professional symphony orchestra (Pacific Symphony) in the United States, PSYWE is a high-level, pre-professional wind ensemble for dedicated and talented high school wind, brass, and percussionists from throughout Southern California.



## COLLABORATIONS

Monday, Mar. 11, 2024 @ 7 p.m.

Dr. Gregory X. Whitmore, conductor  
Kristen Lawrence, organ  
Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Hans and Valerie Imhof, S.L. and Betty Huang, Patrick Chen, and Elaine Sarkaria for their generous support of this program and the entire PSYWE organization. Your dedication to nurturing young talent is truly the cornerstone of our success and growth.

Performance at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts  
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

# Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble

Dr. Gregory X. Whitmore • Music Director

Jonathan Bergeron • Youth Wind Ensemble Manager

## FLUTE

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Amy Choi, *principal*  
Ceren Altintas  
Siyu (Chelsea) Jiang  
Jia Kim  
Nicole Kim  
Antonia Park  
Lauren Peng  
Hyeyun (Hannah) Rhim  
Ouyue (Alice) Yu  
Emily Zhao

## OBOE

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David Wong, *principal*  
Joshua Lee  
Teadora Grimberg

## CLARINET

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John Yang, *principal*  
Ian Cho  
Luc Eldridge, *alumni*  
Matthew Hsieh  
Seongwon (Wonny) Jang  
Matthew Kim  
Kaden Lee  
Ken Liu  
Daniel O'Grady  
Nicholas Park  
Euan Park  
Meitong (Annie) Song  
Garrett Walker  
Sean Yu

## BASS CLARINET

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Steven Ngo, *principal*  
Dylan Rosen

## BASSOON

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Shannon Liu, *principal*  
Sohrab Zarin

## ALTO SAXOPHONE

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Thomas Zhao, *principal*  
River Bridson  
Noah Chang  
Megan Chou  
Edward (Ben) Curley  
Vincent Nguyen  
Luke Toner  
Jared Wang  
William Wu

## TENOR SAXOPHONE

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Edward Kim, *principal*  
Sophie Nguyen

## BARITONE SAXOPHONE

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Jacobo Herrera Monteon, *principal*

## HORN

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Andrew Fung, *principal*  
Ian Cheng  
Yujia (Aurora) Li  
Devon Pope  
Michael Prunean  
Cameron Rhees  
Viget Vuong  
Samuel Wang

## TRUMPET

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Myles Sanjuro, *principal*  
Matthew Huerta  
Matthew Morikawa  
Jayden Peng  
Ian Yoon  
Bryson Young  
Eric Zhu

## TROMBONE

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Licheng (Jerry) Xu, *principal*  
Marie Bocanegra  
Kecheng (Kenneth) Gong  
Sierra Greany  
Caroline Hsu  
Kaden Kwak  
Parker Medvitz

## BASS TROMBONE

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Harrison Chiang, *principal*  
Ryan Kim

## EUPHONIUM

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Hsin-Ju (Lucy) Wu, *principal*  
Tehmina Zarin

## TUBA

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Bishop Plaza, *principal*  
Yosef (Violet) Dif

## PERCUSSION

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Audrey Lee, *co-principal*  
Savannah Tweedt, *co-principal*  
Matthew Blam  
Momoka Hayashibe  
Oliver Shiwota  
David Wong

## PIANO

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Ziyuan (Steven) Mo, *principal*

## HARP

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Amber Chui, *principal*

## PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

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Arnold O. Beckman High School  
Capistrano Valley High School  
Crean Lutheran High School  
Cypress High School  
Diamond Bar High School  
Eleanor Roosevelt High School  
Fairmont Preparatory Academy  
Fountain Valley High School  
Irvine High School  
Legacy Magnet Academy  
Los Altos High School  
Marina Highschool  
Mission Viejo High School  
Northwood High School  
Orange County School of the Arts  
Portola High School  
Richard Gahr High School  
Sage Hill School  
San Marcos High school  
Santa Monica High School  
Santiago High School  
University High School

# ABOUT THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

**Gregory Xavier Whitmore is Conductor of the University Symphonic Winds at California State University Fullerton (CSUF).**

In addition to this artistic responsibility, Dr. Whitmore is an Assistant Professor of Instrumental Music Education and serves as Area Coordinator of the CSUF Music Education Department. Dr. Whitmore is also in his 10th season as Music Director of the Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble, one of only a handful of youth wind ensembles connected to a group one professional symphony orchestra (Pacific Symphony) in the United States.

Dr. Whitmore's previous appointments in higher education include tenure as Director of Bands at Irvine Valley College (Irvine, CA), Mt. San Antonio College (Walnut, CA), and College of the Desert (Palm Desert, CA). Prior to his work in higher education, Dr. Whitmore spent 13 years as Director of Bands at Cathedral City High School (Cathedral City, CA).

A proud Midwesterner and native of Ann Arbor, Michigan; Dr. Whitmore earned his bachelor's degree in instrumental music education from The University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance. While a student at Michigan, Dr. Whitmore performed in the University of Michigan Symphony and Concert Bands; and led the University of Michigan Marching Band as "Michigan's Man Up Front" - Drum Major - from 1999 to 2001 - becoming the second Black Drum Major in the history of the University of Michigan. Dr. Whitmore received his master's degree in music with an emphasis in wind conducting from California State University, Fullerton. Dr. Whitmore holds a master's degree, and a doctorate in music and music education from Columbia University (Teachers College) in the city of New York.

A Second Place Winner of the 2017 American Prize in Conducting, Dr. Whitmore has conducted ensembles around the world in such notable concert venues as The Golden Hall of The Musikverein (Vienna), The Wiener Konzerthaus (Vienna), The MuTh (Vienna), Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall (Costa Mesa), Symphony Hall (Chicago), The Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.), Carnegie Hall (New York City), Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles), Meng Hall (Fullerton, California), Holy Trinity Church (Stratford, England), St. John's Smith Square (London), Chateau Vaux le Vicomte (Paris), and Heidelberg Castle (Germany). Under Dr. Whitmore's direction, the Cathedral City High School Symphony Band was selected to perform as the showcase ensemble during the 2008 California Band Directors Association Annual Convention. Dr. Whitmore is a conductor for the World Strides Honors Performance Series.

With a research interest in music educator values as operationalized into pedagogy, in addition to investigating the concert band as an artistic medium; Dr.



Whitmore has presented research at music education symposia in the United States and abroad. Dr. Whitmore's research has been published in *Visions of Research in Music Education*. Dr. Whitmore has been recognized in four editions of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* and he has been included in the 2005-06 Edition of the National Honor Roll's *Outstanding American Teachers*. Dr. Whitmore was selected to represent the State of California by *School Band and Orchestra Magazine* in the 2008 edition of "50 Band Directors Who Make a Difference."

Dr. Whitmore belongs to professional organizations that include College Band Directors National Association, Kappa Kappa Psi Honorary Band Fraternity, Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society, The National Association for Music Education, Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association, and the California Music Educators Association. Learn more about Dr. Whitmore at [gwhitmore.com](http://gwhitmore.com)

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

**Classically trained pipe organist Kristen Lawrence has been called the Queen of Halloween for writing and producing elegant, fun, and melodic music for the Halloween season—but enjoyed all year by fans.**



*Rue Morgue Magazine's* music editor described Lawrence's music this way: "With sweeping string arrangements, handsome lyrics and layers of her own graceful voice, Lawrence spins ethereal tales with a balance of macabre elements and kid-friendly whimsy ... that give her creations an instantly classic, fun-for-all-ages feel."

Lawrence's music and lyrics are unique and eclectic, colored by the diversified influences of Bach, Tori Amos, Loreena McKennitt, Elfman & Bartek, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Nightwish. Kristen incorporates these folk, classical, and rock genres to create her Halloween Carols.™ If Christmas has its carols, why not Halloween!

In addition to her original compositions, Lawrence has researched traditional folk songs and arranged them for organ. Her two versions of the English "Souling Song" are based on the older roots of Halloween traditions—one from pagan Samhain and the other from the Christian tradition of soul cakes that evolved into trick-or-treating. Her two versions of the American folk tune "Ghost of John" are loved by kids and their parents who sang it in grade school. Because of this research, Lawrence was asked to write about the music of Halloween for Halloween history expert Lesley Bannatyne's book, *Halloween Nation: Behind the Scenes of America's Fright Night*.

An accomplished musician, she has been guest organist for *Halloween Spooktaculars* as well as many of Pacific Symphony's family programs, writing an accompanying *Jurassic Park* organ score for their *Dinosaurs!* program to highlight the 4322-pipe "monster" concert organ.

Lawrence was also commissioned to compose organ music to accompany the Lon Chaney silent film classic, *Phantom of the Opera*, playing her counterpointed themes live on the oldest pipe organ in Orange County. Her musical setting of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" for strings and organ reflects her serious analysis of Poe's famous poem and has been called "exquisite" by Poe scholars. It has been featured for the National Endowment of the Arts' *THE BIG READ: Short Stories and Poetry of Edgar Allan Poe*.

A *Keyboard Magazine* review, reporting about Lawrence's elegant use of pipe organ, harpsichord, piano, and vocals in her Halloween carols, foretold a spooky coincidence by stating, "If the Halloween Town of Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* had a resident keyboardist, it would be Kristen Lawrence." Who would have guessed that the planets would align so that Steve Bartek—orchestrator for *Nightmare* and other Danny Elfman film music—would be playing guitar with Kristen's latest music projects! Spooky good, indeed! Some of these most recent songs show the "rock" side of Kristen, and feature special guest performers Steve Bartek (Danny Elfman, Oingo Boingo), John Avila (Oingo Boingo), Jeff Friedl (Devo, A Perfect Circle), MB Gordy (Doobie Brothers), Monte Pittman (Madonna), and other magical musicians.

## PROGRAM NOTES

Widely considered the "father" of Czech music, **Bedřich Smetana** (1824-1884) became a symbol of the "sound" of Czech music, and even the entire Czech nation itself.

*Libuše* is the composer's fourth opera. The opera's title character Libuše is the queen of Bohemia; the **fanfares** are used in her formal royal procession.

Born in Australia, **Percy Grainger** (1882-1962) was one of the 20th century's most idiosyncratic composers. Grainger's magnum opus, *The Power of Rome in the Christian Heart* draws on music composed between 1918 and 1943. A powerful anti-war statement, the work laments the twentieth century's violent political history.



**Michael Markowski** (b. 1986) received his bachelor's degree in film practices from Arizona State University; he graduated magna cum laude in 2010. His *City Trees*, composed in 2012, reflects how, in his own words, "these trees have learned how to brave the concrete jungle, and it gave me solace knowing that they had flourished in such a challenging environment."



Composer and performer **Larry Tuttle** studied piano and double bass since childhood and has frequently performed with various orchestras. Tuttle calls his 2024 piece *Information Age* a "symphonic invention," which according to the composer is "a musical portrait of a fast-moving, hyper-active futuristic society, overflowing with melodies and intricate passage-work."



Composed in 1943, *Symphonic Metamorphosis after Themes by Carl Maria von Weber* by **Paul Hindemith** (1895-1963) is based on music by Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826). The piece uses a Chinese melody Weber encountered in Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Dictionnaire de Musique* (published in 1767).



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*Joshua Grayson, Ph.D., is an historical musicologist and graduate of the USC Thornton School of Music, and the program note annotator for Pacific Symphony Youth Ensembles.*