

Saturday
FEB 3
7:30 pm

Prairie Winds Festival with The Westerlies

Featuring multiple wind ensembles and
a genre-defying brass quartet



Sponsored by



Cherry Hill Properties is pleased to partner with the Lied Center to bring the Prairie Winds Festival with The Westerlies to the stage. Enjoy tonight's performance.



PROGRAM

There will be no intermission during this performance.

KU Trumpet Ensemble

Festive OvertureDmitri Shostakovich (1906–1975)
 Trans. Caleb Hudson
 Adapted by Steve Leisring

Crossroads Wind Symphony

Paul W. Popiel, conductor

Astra KatahJ Copley (b. 1998)
 Bravura Charles E. Duble (1884–1960)
 Give Us This Day David Maslanka (1943–2017)
 I. Moderately Slow
 II. Very Fast

KU Wind Ensemble

Matt Smith, conductor

Matthew Clark, guest conductor

Noisy Wheels of Joy Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)
 Aurora Awakes John Mackey (b. 1973)
 Harlem River from *This is Water* Andy Clausen (b. 1992)
 Featuring The Westerlies Arr. Tom Davoren
 Symphony No. 5, finale Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–1975)
 Matthew Clark, guest conductor Trans. Jay Bocook

Prairie Winds Festival Honor Band

Matt Smith, conductor

Emily Rossin, conductor

Hurry KatahJ Copley (b. 1998)
 Ghost Tale Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)
 Saro Traditional, adapted by the The Westerlies
 Featuring The Westerlies Arr. Tanner Porter
 Overture to *Semiramide* Gioacchino Rossini (1792–1868)
 Arr. Jim Mahaffey

Program is subject to change.

The Westerlies

The Westerlies, “an arty quartet...mixing ideas from jazz, new classical and Appalachian folk” (*The New York Times*) is a New York-based brass quartet founded by childhood friends from Seattle and including: Riley Mulherkar and Chloe Rowlands on trumpet, and Andy Clausen and Addison Maye-Saxon on trombone. From Carnegie Hall to Coachella, The Westerlies navigate a wide array of venues and projects with the precision of a string quartet, the audacity of a rock band and the charm of a family sing-along.

Formed in 2011, the self-described “accidental brass quartet” takes its name from the prevailing winds that travel from the west to the east. “Skilled interpreters who are also adept improvisers” (NPR’s *Fresh Air*), The Westerlies explore jazz, roots and chamber music influences to create the rarest of hybrids: music that is both “folk-like and composesly, lovely and intellectually rigorous” (NPR Music).

The ensemble has produced numerous critically acclaimed albums of genre-defying music. 2022 saw the release of the EP *Songbook Vol. 2* on Westerlies Records, the ensemble’s in-house record label. The previous year was a prolific year for the ensemble, with the release of *Fireside Brass: A Westerlies Holiday* (Westerlies Records), *Songbook Vol. 1* (Westerlies Records), and *Bricolage* (Westerlies Records), a collaborative album of improvisations with pianist/composer Conrad Tao. 2021 also saw the release of *This Land*, the ensemble’s collaboration with Grammy-nominated vocalist Theo Bleckmann. Sought-after collaborators, The Westerlies are also featured on recordings by Fleet Foxes (Nonesuch), Big Red Machine (Jagjaguwar), Vieux Farka Touré (Six Degrees Records), Common (Lakeshore) and Dave Douglas (Greenleaf).

Education and community engagement are core elements of The Westerlies’ mission. In 2021, the group was named the inaugural small ensemble-in-residence at the School of Jazz and Contemporary Music at The New School. The Westerlies also produce an annual music festival in Seattle called Westerlies Fest, which combines evening performances featuring numerous guest artists, an all-day open-to-the-public creative music jamboree, and workshops in local public schools. The Westerlies have engaged students of all ages and abilities around the country with their innovative assemblies and masterclasses, promoting the values of cooperation and inclusion through music. As a 501(c)(3) organization, members of The Westerlies are on a mission to amplify unheard voices, paint new sonic landscapes and cultivate a global community. They are committed to dismantling racism, sexism and economic inequality in their field, and aim to reflect their values of diversity and inclusion in the music they make and the spaces they occupy.

Crossroads Wind Symphony

The Crossroads Wind Symphony is an adult wind band under the direction of Paul W. Popiel, and is comprised of Missouri and Kansas musicians, most of whom are music educators. Crossroads Wind Symphony began in 2016 with more than a year of planning the discussion to provide performance opportunities for busy musicians and directors to play their instruments, make great music together and perform the highest quality repertoire. In 2018, the Crossroads Wind Symphony became a reality. The band rehearses just twice before each concert and performs four to five concerts each year. They have performed side-by-side concerts with numerous area high schools as well as benefit concerts for Band of Angels. In 2020, the band was selected to perform at the Kansas Music Educators Association In Service Workshop in Wichita, Kansas and at the 2023 Kansas Bandmasters Association summer convention.

KU Wind Ensemble

Described by *The New York Times* as “one of America’s most esteemed concert bands,” the KU Wind Ensemble (KUWE) is the premier wind band at the University of Kansas and is conducted by Paul W. Popiel. The group has several highly acclaimed performance credits for commercial CDs on the Klavier, Naxos, Ecstatic, Summit, Cantaloupe and Mark Custom labels. Their Carnegie Hall debut in 2013 was pronounced by *Feast of Music* as “showing amazing chops in their transitions and an impressive range of dynamics.” Besides Carnegie Hall, KUWE has performed for President Obama in 2015, the national convention of the College Band Directors National Association in 2017, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2018, the Milan, Italy Festival of Bands in 2022, the American Bandmasters Association national convention in 2023 and was recently recognized as the 2023 college/university recipient of The American Prize in Band/Wind Ensemble Performance.

Prairie Winds Festival Honor Band

Each year, students from across the United States converge on the historic KU campus to take part in this unique musical opportunity, the Prairie Winds Festival. The festival, now in its 21st year, encourages the musical growth of high school musicians of all levels and provides advanced instruction for high school wind and percussion performers in a supportive and fun environment.