



Faculty of Fine Arts
Department of Music
Concert Series 2025-26

Ulethbridge Wind Orchestra
"Music of the Natural World"
November 26
7:30 pm
University Theatre

A collaboration with
Digital Audio Arts,
featuring images created
by students from ensemble
and the Department of Art.

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Music of the Natural World
November 26, 2025 | 7:30pm
University Theatre
University of Lethbridge Wind Orchestra

PROGRAM

River of Stars Barbara York (1949-2020)

Immersion Alex Shapiro (b. 1962)
 i. Depth
 ii. Surface
 iii. Beneath

City Trees Michael Markowski (b. 1986)

Diamond Tide Viet Cuong (b. 1990)

Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

*The Department of Music gratefully acknowledges the
support of the University Theatre Staff and faculty members*

PROGRAM NOTES

River of Stars – Barbara York

Canadian composer Barbara York wrote this dynamic piece in 2019 to images of the Milky Way and Van Gogh's "Starry Night," creating a soundscape meant to depict outer space. She sought to offer a perspective of the stars distinct from the twinkling and romantic clichés we're all familiar with and instead paint a vast, uncharted universe into the minds of the listeners.

It opens with a sparse texture of trills and bells that begin to populate the sound world, perhaps alluding to the night sky slowly taking over as the sun sets. It is fairly woodwind heavy with a few heroic lines from the brass hinting at grandiose. Before long, the piece accelerates into something march-like with an active snare and bassline accentuating each beat. The themes seem suddenly fitting of a science-fiction series, and we are propelled through galaxies unknown. Bold melodies pass between the different instruments and explode into soaring crescendos, reminiscent of supernovas or solar flares. York also offers more contemplative sections where the clashing cosmos give way to a moment of serenity in the form of soaring brass lines before breaking off into dissonance once more.

Listen for a moment during the second half of the piece where the themes from the introduction return, but are interrupted by fragments of the march, never letting the music enter a state of rest. It is a piece about constant movement, change, and expansive beauty that is fitting of encapsulating the flowing river of stars above.

- Charlie Peach, 3rd year composition major

Immersion – Alex Shapiro

Immersion is a piece written by contemporary composer Alex Shapiro and seeks to explore what she calls "the deepest unseen places we often neglect to consider". The piece is for band and electronics and will feature pre-recorded sounds. It is divided into three movements, each of which explores a different aspect of the ocean.

Depth: This movement is intended to evoke the ocean as habitat, one home to a wide array of creatures. Shapiro emphasizes that the human impact on ocean ecosystems was heavy on her mind during the composition of this movement. Depth is characterized by long chords which shift in timbre and color as they are passed around the band.

Surface: The second movement is a miniature percussion concerto. It is rhythmic and intense and is meant to depict a struggle between a harbor seal and a giant pacific octopus that the composer witnessed. It is full of intense, pulsing rhythms and sharp accents.

Beneath: The final movement is a mournful duet with a humpback whale. Beneath features four musicians performing improvised solos:

- Eva Gatner, flute
- Members of the percussion section
- Caleb Bell, trumpet
- Logan Rogers, bass clarinet

- Logan Rogers, 1st year clarinet major

City Trees – Michael Markowski

City Trees by Michael Markowski encapsulates ideas of resiliency, courage, and bravery through the metaphor of trees growing and prospering within an urban landscape. Markowski wrote this piece during a move from Arizona to New York and during this time he viewed the trees of New York as a sort of inspiration. In his own writing on the piece, he says: “As I pass beneath [the trees], they all seem to wave their leafy pom-poms in the wind, a thousand leaves applauding, cheering me on as if I had just returned from the moon”. Micheal praised the trees for their ability to prosper despite their surroundings relating it to his own search for success during a time of uncertainty.

The fast-paced rhythmic motif played first by the clarinets creates a sense of unsteadiness before it is joined by the lush chordal melody that gets repeated throughout the piece. These two contrasting melodic lines represent the feelings of worry and unknown and the opposing feelings of assuredness that everything will work out. The chordal line is really the bases of this composition and continues to develop and grow over the entire piece. This is where you can really hear both the struggles and successes of getting comfortable in new and everchanging situations. Markowski does an excellent job of guiding us through his journey with moments of extreme angst closely accompanied by beautiful passages that are sure to move the listener.

- Ty Bahl, 3rd year horn major

Diamond Tide – Viet Cuong

Diamond Tide was composed by Viet Cuong and commissioned by the TMEA Region 18 Middle School Bands in 2015. It takes inspiration from a scientific paper published in 2010 about the process of melting diamonds. Before they can melt, diamonds will typically reform into graphite, or sublime, turning directly into a gas form. However, if they are kept at a pressure of 100,000 atmospheres, they can be made to phase transition into a liquid at 4,000 degrees Celsius. This also requires an oxygen-less environment, otherwise the diamond will catch fire and burn like coal. Put together, these extreme conditions obviously require laboratories on Earth, but it's theorized that the planets Uranus and Neptune could host oceans of liquid diamond. (Chemically, without its crystal structure, this is the same thing as any other liquid carbon anyway, but it's still a cool idea.) Cuong plays with this rich imagery in his piece, using pitch-bending metallic percussion sounds and trombone slides. The percussion pitch slides are achieved using crotales being dipped into water, and crystal glasses filled with water being tipped. These unique sounds combine to make Diamond Tide a unique and entrancing experience.

- Tavis Dueck, 2nd year bass trombone major

About the University Bands

Instrumental ensembles have enjoyed steady growth during the past 30 years at the U of L. Originally a University/Community band, the Wind Orchestra is now comprised of 46 U of L students. Music majors make up the large percentage of the group with other students coming from various disciplines across campus. The group has an active performance schedule of local concerts on and off-campus, fall and spring convocations and tours. Many of the Wind Orchestra students are studying to be music educators; their knowledge and performance of quality composers and compositions is critical to their success. Other active ensembles include the Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Brass and Woodwind Choirs and numerous small chamber ensembles.

Dr. Holly De Caigny

Holly De Caigny is a contemporary saxophonist who strives to collaborate with a variety of artists. She has performed publicly across Canada, the United States, as well as in Slovenia, France, and Thailand. Most recently, she has toured Eastern Canada with Proteus Quartet, performed online and in person with Timepoint Ensemble, performed in free improvisation concerts with Secret Lady Project and Bug Incision, and has collaborated with composers including Colin Labadie, Vincent Ho, Jordan Nobles, and Laurie Radford. Holly maintains a busy teaching schedule at the University of Lethbridge and serves as Director of Music in the King's Own Calgary Regiment Band.

Holly earned a Doctor of Music degree with Dr William Street at the University of Alberta, a Masters degree from the University of Calgary, a Bachelors degree from the University of British Columbia, and two artist diplomas from the Conservatoire Regional de Rayonnement de Boulogne-Billancourt, France.

The Dr. Thomas Staples Wind Orchestra Leadership Award

<https://tinyurl.com/3wmtjbmj>

The Dr. Thomas Staples Wind Orchestra Leadership Award empowers undergraduate members of the Wind Orchestra at the University of Lethbridge, fostering their musical growth and leadership potential. This award, named in honour of Dr. Thomas Staples, former Professor of Music and Director of Bands, directly impacts students by recognizing their exceptional musical talent and dedication. Recipients are chosen based on their demonstrated musical ability and leadership within the Wind Orchestra, providing them with financial support to continue their studies and pursue their musical aspirations. By contributing to the Dr. Thomas Staples Wind Orchestra Leadership Award, donors directly support the next generation of musicians, ensuring that Dr. Staples' legacy of excellence and mentorship continues to inspire future generations of musical leaders.

University of Lethbridge Wind Orchestra 2025-2026

Director: Dr. Holly De Caigny

Assistant to the director: Veronique Fortier, Jenna Petker

Concertmaster: Cadence Krueger

Student Executives: Ian Saunders, Macy Lyon, Larissa Wright,
Luke Povhe, Niamh Beilby, Sonia Ahuja

Flute/Piccolo

Zachary Ficiur +	Coaldale, AB
Eva Gatner	Lethbridge, AB
Denny Huang	Calgary, AB
Lex Magnan	Calgary, AB

Oboe

Phoenix Keeler	Raymond, AB
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Clarinet

Cadence Krueger	Lethbridge, AB
Serina Polczer-Lum	Calgary, AB
Logan Rogers	Rocky Mountain House, AB
James Salumbides +	Brooks, AB
Kirsten Tannas	Cochrane, AB

Alto Saxophone

Cori Campbell	Ottawa, ON
Veronique Fortier	Airdrie, AB
Payge Laverdiere +	Didsbury, AB
Keandra Rondeau	Grande Prairie, AB

Tenor Saxophone

Erika Kobza	Glenwood, AB
Charlie Peach	Cochrane, AB

Baritone Saxophone

Alyssa Bates	Innisfail, AB
Rayden Wong	Cochrane, AB

Bassoon

Sissi Li	Calgary, AB
Rachel Wilkinson	Onoway, AB

+ Section Leader

Trumpet

Keaton Atherton	Moose Jaw, SK
Caleb Bell	Airdrie, AB
Seth Bushnell	Innisfail, AB
Alex Harlos	Sylvan Lake, AB
Macy Lyon +	Sylvan Lake, AB
Jenna Petker	Coaldale, AB

Horn

Ty Bahl	Okotoks, AB
Ashlee Dowdle +	Langdon, AB
Clara Sandy	Calgary, AB

Trombone

Tavis Dueck	Lethbridge, AB
Luke Povhe	Okotoks, AB
Gavin Quiring	Airdrie, AB
Larissa Wright +	Raymond, AB

Euphonium

Tyler Houlihan	Calgary, AB
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Tuba

David Rollick	High River, AB
Trudy Samuelson	Calgary, AB
Life Yulo-Tamana +	Calgary, AB

Double Bass

Ian Saunders	Calgary, AB
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Percussion

Sonia Ahuja	Calgary, AB
Niamh Bielby	Lethbridge, AB
Will Evanson	Taber, AB
Cheng-Wei Lin	Taipei, Taiwan
Jeran Lynnes +	Lethbridge, AB
Quinn Schmick	Carstairs, AB