**PROGRAM BIOS FOR MUSIC ENSEMBLE DIRECTORS: 2024-25**

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**PHILIP BALDWIN**

**Philip Baldwin** is director of string studies and professor of violin and viola at Whitworth University. His career has spanned the spectrum of string teaching and conducting. He earned a DMA at The Ohio State University, where he received the Distinguished Dissertation Award for his work on the violin sonatas of William Bolcom. His violin teachers include Rafael Druian, Raphael Hillyer, Yuri Mazurkevich, Andrew Jennings, Alan Bodman and Michael Davis. He received a fellowship to

attend the Conductor’s Institute of South Carolina and worked with distinguished conducting teachers such as Paul Vermel, Kate Tamarkin and Donald Portnoy.

Baldwin is the concertmaster and associate conductor of the Coeur d’Alene Symphony and serves as the artistic director of the Spokane Youth Symphony. He is a former member and frequent substitute violinist with the Spokane Symphony and previously the principal viola of the LaCrosse Symphony, and section violinist with the Tacoma, Akron, Canton and Columbus symphonies. He has appeared as

a recitalist and soloist and has recorded a CD of trios by Khachaturian, Ives and Bolcom with clarinetist Michael Dean and pianist Carol Stivers.

A dedicated artist-teacher, Baldwin’s students have won concerto competitions and earned scholarships to prestigious graduate schools and summer programs such as the Meadowmount School. Several of his former students have performed with the Spokane Symphony, and one is now a contract member. He has also trained many successful teachers who are now influencing the next generation of string players.

Baldwin has twice served as president of the Washington chapter of the American String Teachers Association and has chaired the group’s state solo competition and certificate-program examinations and is now the director of the Birch Bay String Teacher’s workshop. He has presented lectures at nine ASTA conventions and presented at the Texas Music Educators Association convention and the Arkansas

Music Educators Association. He has given violin master classes in England and Ireland and throughout Washington, Oregon, Maryland and Utah.

**JARED HALL**

Trumpeter, composer and educator **Jared Hall**, DMA,hails from Spokane, Wash. He studied at Whitworth University, the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and the University of Miami’s Frost School of Music, where he received the degree doctor of musical arts in 2015. His primary teachers include Terence Blanchard, Joey Tartell, Dan Keberle, Whit Sidener, David Baker and Brian Lynch, under whom he pursued his doctoral studies. Hall is the winner of the 2013 National Trumpet Competition – Jazz Division, and has performed and recorded with Paquito D’Rivera, Bob Hurst, John Daversa, Arturo Sandoval, Maria Schneider, Vincent Herring, Peter Erskine, Dave Liebman, Alan Pasqua, Brian Lynch, Ira Sullivan, Jeff “Tain” Watts, Terence Blanchard, Rick Margitza, Wycliffe Gordon, David Binney, Johnny Mathis, George Benson, Gloria Estefan, Fred Hersch, Shelly Berg, the South Florida Jazz Orchestra and the Frost Concert Jazz Band.

Hall’s recording credits include his albums *Seen on the Scene* (Origin Records, 2021) and *Hallways* (Hollistic MusicWorks, 2017). Other recordings include *Inventions* (OA2 Records, 2021), *Cheap Thrills: The Music of Rick Margitza* (Summit, 2020), *North By Freaking Northwest* (Skymuse, 2019), *Jazz & The Philharmonic* (OKeh, 2014), *With Love* (Jeremy Fox, 2014), *Inspiration: A Tribute to Nat King Cole* (George Benson, 2013) and others.

Hall’s quintet performed regularly at Tula’s Jazz Club, the 2018 Gene Harris Jazz Festival, 2019 Puget Sound Jazz Combo Festival, 2021 Bellevue Jazz Festival and 2023 Leavenworth Jazz Festival. *The Piano Grip System: An Approach to Learning Jazz Harmony*, a book co-published by Hall and Whit Sidener in June 2020, has been welcomed as an essential guide to learning jazz harmony and theory for non-pianists.

In 2022, Hall returned to his hometown of Spokane to serve at Whitworth University as director of jazz studies while performing in the local area with the Spokane Jazz Orchestra, the Bob Curnow Band and his quartet. Hall has also served on the faculty at Northwest University, Pacific Lutheran University and the Jazz Night School, as well as taught at the University of Miami and Indiana University.

**XIAOSHA LIN**

Xiaosha Lin is the assistant professor and director of choral activities at Whitworth University. Prior to her appointment at Whitworth, she served as director of choral activities at the University of Toledo and assistant conductor at Hong Kong Baptist University.

Lin is a sought-after conductor, adjudicator and choral clinician in both the U.S. and China, where she was invited to workshops and clinics for all levels of choirs. She has frequently adjudicated in middle and high school choral festivals in the Pacific Northwest and Midwest regions.

Known as a dynamic conductor with her efficient and engaging rehearsal approach, Lin is currently named one of the national finalists for The American Prize Dale Warland Award in Choral Conducting (April 2024). Lin was selected as a conducting fellow in several prestigious programs where she worked with Simon Carrington, Edith Copley, David Hayes and Lucinda Carver and made her France debut in 2019. She was one of the semifinalists in the ACDA Graduate Student Conducting Competition in Kansas City, Mo. As a singer, she had performed regularly at the Kimmel Center, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center under the batons of Yannick Nézet Séguin, Alan Gilbert, Simon Rattle and Jane Glover.

Lin’s international background makes her an open-minded, sensitive and well-rounded educator. She is passionate about building human connections and community through the art of music, and she is committed to motivating students to achieve the highest standard and best versions of themselves while providing an open and encouraging learning environment. She values collaborations with various ensembles, art forms and emerging composers to enrich the learning experience and nourish inspiration for students on a pedagogical purpose. Lin is an advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion and is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive community through choral music. She currently serves as a member of the Diversity Initiative Committee at WA-ACDA (American Choral Directors Association).

Lin received her doctor of musical arts in choral conducting at Michigan State University, master of music in choral conducting at Westminster Choir College, master of arts in music at Hong Kong Baptist University, and bachelor’s in music education at Xinghai Conservatory of Music.

**SCOTT MILLER**

**Scott Miller**, director of the Whitworth Ponderosa Tenor/Bass Choir, is a versatile singing actor, equally at home in the fields of opera, oratorio, musical theatre and recital. Recent engagements include the world premiere of *Prairie Songs: Remembering Antonia* by Whitworth colleague Brent Edstrom, which was performed nationally and in France in a version for piano, violin and voice, and subsequently premiered with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra in Lincoln, Neb.,

with Edward Polochick, conducting. Miller also sang recital world premieres of the song cycle *Garland*, commissioned by Miller from American composer Mark Adamo (composer of the operas *Little Women* and *Lysistrata* and former resident composer for the New York City Opera), and *Three Sandburg Songs* by University of Nebraska-Lincoln composer Randall Snyder. His operatic performance highlights of significance include the world premiere of American composer Carlysle Floyd’s *Cold Sassy Tree*, and the world premiere of American

composer Libby Larsen’s Eric Hermannson’s *Soul*. Recent performances include *On Wenlock Edge* for tenor, string quartet and piano, Mozart’s *Requiem Mass*, *Cantatas 23* and *164* by J.S. Bach, Honneger’s *King David*, Beethoven’s *Mass in C*, and numerous performances of *Messiah*. Miller has shared the stage as a soloist with world class artists such as Sylvia McNair, Timothy Noble, Richard Stillwell, Katherine Ciesinski, Jane Eaglen and pianist Anton Nell, and has been

heard as tenor soloist with the Omaha Symphony, Opera Omaha, the Long Beach Bach Festival, the Santa Fe Opera, the Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra, Nebraska Choral Arts Society, Lyric Opera of Dallas, Concert Chorale of Houston, the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra, Maryland Lyric Opera and the United States Naval Academy Chorus, among others.

Miller’s scholarly presentations include a recital of the song cycle *Garland* for the 50th National Convention Program of the College Music Society in Salt Lake City, the premiere of *Songs for Soulmates* by Christopher Stanichar for the International Double Reed Society Conference, and a 90-minute workshop presentation for the Hawaii International Conference on Education, which he repeated at the Paris International Conference on Education. Miller’s students have gone on to successful careers in education, church music and performance, and many further their education at some of the most competitive

and prestigious graduate programs in the United States.

Miller earned the doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he was a Regents Fellow and a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Kappa Lambda and Kappa Delta Pi honorary societies. Miller received the Gustav L. Cobb graduate fellowship, as well as the Warren F. and Edith R. Day dissertation travel award for his collaboration with Mark Adamo.

**RICHARD STRAUCH**

**Richard Strauch** is in his 28th year as director of the Whitworth Wind Symphony and professor of music at Whitworth University. He also conducts the Whitworth Chamber Winds, teaches courses in music history and conducting, and leads Whitworth’s Power & Politics of Art: Rome/Florence/Vienna/Berlin study program. Prior to joining the Whitworth music faculty, Strauch served as director of instrumental activities at Phillips University, acting director of the Wheaton College Wind Ensemble and assistant to the director of bands at Yale University. He has toured Europe as music director of the Oklahoma Ambassadors of Music and as conductor of the Fox Valley Youth Orchestra. An active professional trombonist, he is a member of the Spokane Symphony Orchestra, and his other performance credits include the Clarion Brass Choir, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the National Orchestral Institute and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Strauch holds doctor of musical arts, master of musical arts and master of music degrees in trombone performance from Yale University, and a bachelor of music degree in trombone performance and music history from the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music.