**MUSIC ENSEMBLE DESCRIPTIONS FOR PRINTED PROGRAMS: 2024-25**

The descriptions in this document have been reviewed by the Whitworth Marketing & Communications Office and are ready for use in printed event programs. Please copy and paste this information into the appropriate template. In the event changes are needed, please send details to Associate Director of Content Megan Jonas (mjonas@whitworth.edu).

**ABOUT THE WHITWORTH JAZZ ENSEMBLE AND JAZZ PROGRAM**

The Whitworth Jazz Ensemble is one component of the jazz studies program at Whitworth University. Established in 1988 under the direction of Professor Dan Keberle, D.M.A., the group is one of the finest college jazz bands in the country. It was the winning university jazz band at numerous Lionel Hampton Jazz Festivals, was one of the top five university jazz bands to be honored at the 46th and 50th annual Elmhurst (Chicago) collegiate jazz festivals, and has been honored by being selected to perform at Washington All-State and All-Northwest Music Educator Conventions. It has also been listed in *JazzTimes* magazine one of the top jazz education programs in the U.S.

Touring annually each year both around the U.S.and internationally, the music ensembles at Whitworth University value students’ cultural experiences and interactions with all people in our globalized world. This coming spring, both the Whitworth Jazz Ensemble and Whitworth Wind Symphony will have multiple performances in a tour of Thailand. The Whitworth Jazz Ensemble has experienced a dozen international performance tours to Italy, Brazil, Germany, Australia and Cuba, with national tours to Hawaii, New York, New Orleans and Chicago. The ensemble also performs regular concerts on campus and at public schools, civic events and jazz festivals.

The Whitworth Jazz Ensemble features yearly guest artist performances with renowned jazz musicians such as Pat Metheny, Joshua Redman, Arturo Sandoval, Kenny Garrett, Bob Mintzer, Branford Marsalis, Maria Schneider, Ellis Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Tierney Sutton, Nicholas Payton, Steve Turre, Kenny Barron, Randy Brecker, Phil Woods, Chris Potter and many others. Master classes are held regularly with these phenomenal artists, as well as with touring world-class jazz musicians, to create unique opportunities for our students to learn about and experience this art form. The Whitworth music program offers numerous jazz scholarships of significant amounts, which when combined with the university’s large academic scholarships, provide an opportunity for students to pay no more than they would at a state university.

In 2022, the Whitworth Jazz Ensemble released its 12th album titled *Moon Mist* featuring the music of Maria Schneider under the direction of Dan Keberle. It is available from the Whitworth Music Department Office. In fall 2022, Jared Hall, D.M.A., became the new director of jazz studies and director of the Whitworth Jazz Ensemble. Since Hall’s arrival, the ensemble has performed with vocalist Tierney Sutton and trumpeter Brian Lynch and at the Leavenworth Jazz Festival, in addition to performances at numerous local high schools.

**ABOUT THE WHITWORTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The Whitworth Symphony Orchestra performs the standard orchestral repertoire as well as modern and commissioned works, including a recent premiere of Gwyneth Walker’s *Let America Be America Again*. The orchestra also performs with guest soloists and winners of its annual concerto competition, and has enjoyed side-by-side concerts with the Coeur d’Alene Symphony. The orchestra has previously performed at the WMEA regional and All-Northwest conferences, and was the featured collegiate orchestra in 2022. As part of its outreach, recruiting and cultural exchange goals, the orchestra tours biannually, most recently in Italy in 2019. Previous tours have included Hawaii, New York City, San Francisco and Salt Lake City. The orchestra is open to all qualified string musicians, regardless of major. The top wind and brass musicians of the Whitworth Wind Symphony are selected for membership in the Whitworth Orchestra. Our students benefit from outstanding opportunities including performance classes, chamber music, master classes (from such notable teachers and violinists as James Buswell and Charles Castleman), and clinics with principal players of the Spokane Symphony. The string quartets and the string chamber orchestra provide additional opportunities for the most ambitious players.

**ABOUT THE WHITWORTH WIND SYMPHONY**

The threefold mission of the Whitworth Wind Symphony is to train and educate musicians for a lifetime of musical learning; to represent Whitworth’s mind-and-heart education though excellence in performance before audiences on campus, throughout the community and across the globe; and to advocate for and promote wind literature through the study and performance of the ensemble’s core repertoire as well as the commissioning of new works.

The Whitworth Wind Symphony has appeared in concert at state and regional conferences of the Washington Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Education and the College Band Directors National Association, and has toured throughout the western United States and in Hawaii, Costa Rica and Thailand. The wind symphony can also be heard in performance on the ensemble’s YouTube channel (youtube.com/whitworthwinds).

As the university’s select auditioned wind and percussion ensemble, the wind symphony has been active in commissioning new works and collaborating with composers around the world. Noted composers David Maslanka, Eric Ewazen, James David and Peter Van Zandt Lane have praised the wind symphony’s performances of their music, and recent performance collaborations have included saxophonist Lawrence Gwozdz, bass trombonist Douglas Yeo and the Travis Brass of the United States Air Force. The ensemble is open by audition to all Whitworth University students in any major who are woodwind, brass, percussion or string bass musicians.

The other components of the wind and percussion studies program at Whitworth include the Whitworth Chamber Winds, Whitworth Symphony Orchestra, the Whitworth Concert Band and a variety of chamber ensembles.