



## Ballard Music's Free Fall Concert Series Begins October 29

*Choir Concert: October 29; Orchestra Concert: November 4; Band and Jazz Concert: November 6*  
*All shows begin at 7:30 p.m.*

*October 22, 2019* -- The Ballard High School music program is preparing for their Fall Concert Series. Enjoy three nights of music featuring the first performances of the year for the Choir, Orchestra, and Band programs. New this year, the series will also include the debut of a Concert Orchestra.

### Choir Concert, Tuesday, October 29

The fall concert series opens with a presentation by the Ballard High School Choirs entitled, **Toward the Horizon: Choral Music from Dawn to Dusk**. Under the direction of Choir Director Courtney Rowley, the music performed will trace the arc of both a day and a life, exploring such themes as morning, belonging, love and loss, resilience, and evening. Songs selected feature music from diverse genres, including Jazz, Early American Shape Note Singing, German Romantic, Motown, British Pop, Kenyan and American inspired folk music, and music by contemporary Danish, Latvian, and American choral composers, providing a varied and dynamic exploration of a theme that unites many different styles and voices. Interspersed throughout the music will be poetry by Maya Angelou, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Fenton Johnson, a forerunner to the Harlem Renaissance.

All six choral ensembles will perform: Concert Choir, Advanced Chorale, Treble Choir, Vocal Jazz, and student-led Women's Chamber Choir and Men's Ensemble. Highlights will include Concert Choir's performances of **Johannes Brahms' Romantic Era choral masterpiece, "O Schöne Nacht"** and sought-after Latvian choral composer **Ēriks Ešenvalds' sublime piece, "Only in Sleep,"** which explores a nostalgic vision of childhood re-experienced through dreams.

### Orchestra Concert, Monday, November 4

Under the direction of Director of Orchestras Elizabeth Fortune, this event will feature eclectic classics and begin with the anticipated debut performance of the Concert Orchestra. This Orchestra includes students from all grades, ability levels and even complete beginners who will begin by playing **themes from "Carmen" by Georges Bizet, arranged by Charles Woodhouse**, followed by **"Cruisin'" by Matt Turner**.

The Symphonic Orchestra welcomes the conducting debut of Tim Bartlett, a bassist and Student Teacher from Seattle Pacific University. Featured in this program are themes from **"The Moldau" by Bedrich Smetana, arranged by Robert S. Frost**. The next piece, considered one of the most well-known tangos throughout the world is, **"Libertango" by Astor Piazzolla, arranged by James Kazik**.

Closing out the evening will be the student-led and self-conducted Chamber Orchestra which will perform **"Serenade for Strings," a lighter, cheerful early piece by Josef Suk**. The first movement, Andante con moto, supposedly caught the attention of Johannes Brahms. Finally, the Chamber will perform **"Air and Simple Gifts" by American film composer John Williams, who also composed for many critically acclaimed movies such as Star Wars, Jaws, and the Indiana Jones series**. This piece was composed for and performed at the first inauguration of President Barack Obama, featuring musicians Itzah Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, Gabriela Montero, and Anthony McGill. Williams based the piece on the familiar 19th century Shaker hymn "Simple Gifts" by Joseph Brackett. The source piece is famous for its appearance in Aaron Copland's ballet,

## Ballard Performing Arts

Earl Kelly Center for Performing Arts at Ballard High School \* 1418 NW 65th Street, Seattle WA \* ballardperformingarts.org  
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“Appalachian Spring.” Williams chose the selection from Copland, one of Obama’s favorite classical composers.

### **Band Concert, Wednesday, November 6**

The final event in the fall concert series, the Fall band concert, will feature the three concert bands (Concert, Symphonic and Wind Ensemble) and the two jazz bands. Jazz 1 remains under the direction of Director of Bands Michael James and Jazz 2 has a new director this year, local musician [Trevor Parrish](#). Both Jazz Bands will be performing some standard jazz tunes and are swingin’ hard!

The program for all three Concert Bands, also under the direction of James, features the theme **Celebrating Women and Composers of Color**. The main piece of work in this portion of the concert, “**A Movement for Rosa**,” celebrating the life of civil rights icon Rosa Parks, will be performed by the Wind Ensemble. The Concert Band will perform “**To A New Journey**” by **Naoya Wada** and the Symphonic Band will perform “**Cape Breton Postcard**” by Catherine McMichael.

### **Performance Details**

All performances begin at 7:30 P.M. and are held at the Earl Kelly Performing Arts Center at Ballard High School, 1418 NW 65th Street, Seattle, Washington, 98117

### **Tickets**

Admission is free. If you would like to make a donation to Ballard Performing Arts, you can reserve seats in these crowded concerts. Tickets for reserved seating may be purchased online at <https://showtix4u.com>; look at upcoming events and search for “Ballard Choir Fall Concert”, etc.

### **About Ballard Performing Arts**

The award-winning Ballard High School Performing Arts Program has gained regional, national, and international acclaim for their dynamic and inspired performances. The Music Department includes two concert bands, three concert choirs (125 students total), three concert orchestras (95 students total), percussion ensemble, two jazz bands, one jazz choir, multiple chamber ensembles and a marching band consisting of all 170 band musicians. The Theatre Department offers classes in Technical Theatre and Theatre I and II, while the Ballard Playmakers produce two plays and one musical theatre production each year. More than 450 students—approximately one fourth of the school—participate in these music and theatre opportunities. Ballard Performing Arts sets a high standard of excellence for all students, ensembles, and productions while developing individual artistry through the study of high quality repertoire and exceptional performance opportunities. For more information: [ballardperformingarts.org](http://ballardperformingarts.org)

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