



Winter 2025 Concert Series

Home for the Holidays

Ryan Webber, conductor

Chris Fogderud, Nick Bunio, Gary Taylor, trumpet

Saturday, December 6, 2025 | 7:30 PM | Charles D. Martin Auditorium, Little Falls

Sunday, December 7, 2025 | 2:30 PM | Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts, Brainerd

Leroy Anderson	<i>Sleigh Ride</i>	ca. 3'
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Leroy Anderson	<i>Bugler's Holiday</i>	ca. 3'
	Chris Fogderud, Nick Bunio, Gary Taylor, trumpet	

Jeff Liebsch	<i>The Twelve Days of Christmas</i>	ca. 3.5'
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Katherine Bergman	<i>Superior*</i>	ca. 5'
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arr. Bob Cerulli	<i>Christmas Sing-A-Long</i>	ca. 3.5'
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Leroy Anderson	<i>A Christmas Festival</i>	ca. 6.75'
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-Intermission-

Georges Bizet	<i>Selections from L'Arlésienne</i>	ca. 25'
	Overture	
	Pastorale	
	Intermezzo	
	Menuetto	
	Farandole	

* World premiere

HEARTLAND **SYMPHONY**
O R C H E S T R A

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

L'Arlésienne Suites (1872)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- President Grant signed the bill creating the nation's first national park at Yellowstone on March 1, 1872.
- Roald Amundsen was born on August 16, 1872. He was a renowned Norwegian explorer who led the first successful expedition to reach the South Pole in December 1911. Amundsen's contributions to polar exploration also include being the first to traverse the Northwest Passage by ship. His daring expeditions and pioneering spirit in uncharted territories are what make him a significant historical figure.
- In defiance of the law, American suffragist Susan B. Anthony votes for the first time (on November 18, she is served an arrest warrant, and in the subsequent trial is fined \$100, which she never pays).

What should I know about this composer?

- Bizet was recognized as a very accomplished pianist who could have made a living as a performer, but he seldom performed in public, preferring to focus on composing. In May 1861 Georges Bizet gave a rare demonstration of his virtuoso skills when, at a dinner party at which Liszt was present, he astonished everyone by playing on sight, flawlessly, one of the maestro's most difficult pieces.
- Bizet did not live to see his famous opera *Carmen* become a success: he died three months after it opened in 1875, and it still hadn't seen a full house. Today, *Carmen* is one of the most celebrated operas.
- Bizet died at the age of 36, and much of his work was not celebrated until after his early death.

What should I know about this piece?

The première of Daudet's play "L'Arlésienne", with music by Bizet, was not well received, and the play was removed from performance after a short time. The critic Johannès Weber encouraged Bizet to rescore some of the music, believing that the music on its own would be better received and appreciated. Bizet reworked music into a first suite shortly after, but the second suite was arranged after his death by Ernest Guiraud, one of his collaborators.



Orchestrated by Jeff Liebsch (1983-) *The Twelve Days of Christmas* (2023)

What was happening in the world when this piece was premiered?

- OceanGate's submarine implodes on an expedition to the sunken Titanic.
- Taylor Swift is Time Magazine's Person of the Year.
- Finland joined NATO, becoming the 31st member of the security alliance.

What should I know about this composer?

- Liebsch is a native Minnesotan based out of St. Paul.
- The compositions of Liebsch have been performed at national and international venues ranging from Ordway Center for Performing Arts in St. Paul, MN to St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church in Ireland.
- Liebsch composes for various musical settings, including full orchestra, solo piano, concert band, choral ensembles, and chamber groups.

What should I know about this piece?

The Northern Symphony Orchestra premiered Jeff's arrangement of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" under the direction of Mike Halstenson in Anoka, MN.

Can you keep the beat? This arrangement has time signatures in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, and 6/4. See if you can feel the changes with the orchestra!

Katherine Bergman (1985) *Superior* (2016/2025)

Inspired by the view of Lake Superior at dusk from Split Rock Lighthouse State Park along Minnesota's north shore, *Superior* is part of a body of work depicting the beauty and diversity of wilderness areas throughout the state of Minnesota. The music portrays slowly rolling waves, an ever-evolving, colorful night sky, and the magnitude of this enormous lake. Originally scored for percussion trio, *Superior* is the second movement from *Land of Cloud-Tinted Water*. It has been re-imagined for chamber orchestra, mallet ensemble, solo marimba, marimba duo, and now this version for full symphony orchestra commissioned by the Heartland Symphony Orchestra.

Program notes for Superior written by Katherine Bergman

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

What should I know about this composer?

- A gifted linguist, Anderson eventually mastered Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic, German, French, Italian, and Portuguese in addition to the English and Swedish of his upbringing.
- During the 1930's, Anderson worked as an arranger for popular dance orchestras, alongside his brother, Russell, who played double bass. Together, they played in the orchestra on the Hellig Olav of the Copenhagen-based ship company Scandinavia Line crossing between New York and Scandinavia in 1930.
- At the start of World War II, Anderson was drafted into the U.S. Army, which made use of his fluency in languages. He married Eleanor Jane Firke before shipping off to Iceland where he served as a translator and interpreter in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps, beginning in 1942. While there he wrote an Icelandic Grammar for the U.S. Army.
- After his return from Iceland in World War II, Anderson graduated from Officer's Candidate School on September 14, 1943. He was assigned to the Pentagon in September 1943 as Chief of the Scandinavian Department of Military Intelligence.
- Anderson's music could also be heard on television. CBS-TV Channel 2 in NYC chose *The Syncopated Clock* as the theme for its program "The Late Show" in the early 1950s. It was used as the theme song for over 25 years.
- In 1972, the Boston Pops Orchestra played a tribute concert to Anderson, and he guest-conducted one of his own pieces.

***A Christmas Festival* (1950)**

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- On January 31st, US President Harry Truman publicly announced support for the development of a hydrogen bomb.
- Walt Disney's animated film "Cinderella" premieres in Boston, Massachusetts.
- On June 25th, North Korea invades South Korea, beginning the Korean War.

What should I know about this piece?

Arthur Fiedler asked Leroy Anderson to write a special concert piece for a Christmas recording in 1950. Anderson selected eight of the most popular Christmas carols and one Christmas song, *Jingle Bells*. Using the themes, Anderson built a concert overture that was nine minutes in length, whose title at the time was *Christmas Festival*. For publication in 1952, Anderson eliminated *The First Noel* and shortened the overture overall to a length of 5:45. Anderson adjusted the title to *A Christmas Festival*.

Bugler's Holiday (1954)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- Dr. Joseph E. Murray performs the first human kidney transplant at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.
- *The Fellowship of the Ring*, the first book of the Lord of the Rings trilogy, is published.
- The first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus, is launched on the Thames River in Connecticut.

What should I know about this piece?

Bugler's Holiday features three trumpet players, and is one of Leroy Anderson's most well-known pieces. It was recorded in June of 1954, before its first live performance by the Cincinnati (OH) Symphony Orchestra in December. It is also a popular programming choice for Fourth of July celebrations.

Sleigh Ride (1948)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- US President Harry Truman raised taxes to fund the Marshall Plan to help rebuild Europe after World War II.
- Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in the garden of the New Delhi home he was visiting by Nathuram Godse.
- Minnesota's first television station, KSTP TV channel 5 (ABC affiliate), aired its 1st broadcast.

What should I know about this piece?

Sleigh Ride was one of the first things I wrote when I got out of the Army and moved up here to Woodbury, Connecticut. Actually, I first came here in 1946; you may remember there was a housing shortage then, and my mother-in-law was living up here, had a cottage that was vacant, so since we had no other place to go, we packed our 14-month old daughter, plus the upright piano, and came on up here to Woodbury, and during that first summer that we were here, I started *Fiddle-Faddle*, I didn't finish that until the following winter, and *Sleigh Ride* and *Serenata*. And *Sleigh Ride*, I remember, was just an idea because, it was just a pictorial thing, it wasn't necessarily Christmas music, and it was written during the heat wave." Leroy Anderson

Today, *Sleigh Ride* can be heard in its original orchestral form or in many versions featuring lyrics by Mitchell Parish.

Program notes written by Melissa von Itter

◆ KATHERINE BERGMAN ◆

Katherine Bergman (1985) is a Minnesota-based composer who draws on nature, environmentalism, and the intersection between art and science to create music described as hypnotic and visceral. She has received commissions and performances from leading ensembles throughout the United States and abroad, including the U.S. Coast Guard Band, Estonian Police and Border Guard Orchestra, Hub New Music, Zeitgeist, Unheard-of Ensemble, Seen/Heard Trio, Nautilus Music-Theater, and many others.



Katherine's music for band, orchestra, and chamber ensembles is frequently performed at concert halls, festivals, conferences, school band rooms, and national parks. Her work has been presented at ISCM World Music Days, The Midwest Clinic, North American Saxophone Alliance Conferences, College Band Directors National Association Conferences, IDRS, The Upper Midwest Chamber Winds Symposium, and the Liquid Music Concert Series. Her compositions have received support from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Jerome Foundation, the Metro Regional Arts Council, and New Music USA.

Katherine holds a master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa School of Music, where she studied composition with Jonathan Schwabe and Alan Schmitz. She earned a bachelor's degree in music from Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minnesota with composition instructors including Michele Gillman and Steve Wright. She has studied extensively with Mary Ellen Childs, and has received individual instruction from Samuel Adler.

Her work is published under *Katherine Bergman Music*, and her compositions for large ensemble are distributed by Murphy Music Press. Katherine is Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the *Minnesota Winds*, a professional concert band with a vision to embrace the dynamic energy and inclusive culture of school band and bring it to the professional level.

◆ NICK BUNIO ◆

Nick Bunio is enjoying his 16th year as a music educator. He graduated from the University of Minnesota and later earned his Master's degree in Music Education from Eastern Washington University. He has been fortunate to work with students from preschool through high school and enjoys the challenges and rewards presented with different age groups. In 2021 he was selected as an Educator of Excellence and earned a High Reliability Teacher designation in 2023.

Mr. Bunio attended the University of Minnesota where studied trumpet performance with professors David Baldwin and Gary Bordner of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. While in college he was selected to perform as a soloist at the Ordway Center in St. Paul, Minnesota. Comfortable in many genres of music, Mr. Bunio has performed in many classical, jazz, rock, polka, and theater groups in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. He has been playing with the Heartland Symphony Orchestra since 2022 and is also a member of the Rusty Crayfish Brass Band and Grand Rapids Community Big Band. This summer he traveled to Michigan and recorded an album with the Ann Arbor Brass Quintet.

When not teaching or performing, Mr. Bunio enjoys fishing, disc golf, golf, yardwork, and spending time with his family.

◆ GARY TAYLOR ◆

Gary Taylor has been a trumpet player since 5th grade in 1967. In addition to playing with Heartland Symphony, he has been playing trumpet in the Wadena Area Community Band since 1984. Formerly, he played in the Long Prairie Chamber Orchestra, and Katy's Swing Band in Alexandria. He has been married to Cheryl for 42 years and they have three children and four grandchildren. Gary serves as pastor for Cascade UMC in Deerwood, Emily UMC in Emily, and Pine Lake Chapel in rural Aitkin.

◆ HEARTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL ◆

VIOLIN 1

Leslie Zander, Concertmaster	Brainerd
Tamara Bottge	St. Cloud
Sandy Larson	Brainerd
Janet Pederson	Bemidji
Paul Sandberg	Brainerd
Arriana Schwab	Royalton

VIOLIN 2

Claire Rud, Principal	Brainerd
Megan Hanson	Brainerd
Peggy Rutman	Nisswa
Martha Smithson	Baxter
Jamie Sunder	Little Falls
Louise Washburn	Brainerd

VIOLA

Tracie Becker	Deerwood
Alicia Cebulla	Pierz
Isabelle Corrigan	Pierz
Kylie Laman	Brainerd
Shelby Lee	Brainerd
Autumn Paulus	Brainerd
Ethan Sunder	Little Falls
Tim Swanson	Baxter

CELLO

Jane Huppler	Onamia
<i>Mary Anne Bennett Memorial Chair</i>	
Sage Gonzalez	Minneapolis
Jenna Hanson	Brainerd
Elijah Hayes	Brainerd
Brianna Jensen	Minneapolis
Taisha Linder	Pillager
Robin Myers	Brainerd

STRING BASS

Don Neu, Principal	Freeport
Val Buchmeier	Buffalo
Gunnar Kuehl	Baxter
Elsie Predmore	Brainerd

PICCOLO

Kyle Brown	Brainerd
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FLUTE

Lauren Nickisch, Principal	Pequot Lakes
Lisa Winter	Wadena

OBOE

Amy Kessler, Principal	Merrifield
Kaarin Hanske	Baxter

CLARINET

Katie Brimhall, Principal	Brainerd
Briana Halstead	Garrison

BASSOON

Miriam Webber, Principal	Bemidji
Brian Sterriker	Long Prairie

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Max Sommers, Principal	Baxter
Eric Hebert	Brainerd

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Izzy Bolduc	Onamia
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FRENCH HORN

Terri Deming	Little Falls
Andrea Lund	Brainerd
Jen Mickels	Baxter
Becky Stadem	Brainerd

TRUMPET

Christopher Fogerud, Principal	Brainerd
Nick Bunio	Grand Rapids

Lina Belar Honorary Chair

Gary Taylor	Deerwood
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TROMBONE

Tristen Heller, Principal	Remer
Todd Peterson	Little Falls

BASS TROMBONE

Steven K. Anderson	Merrifield
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TUBA

Doug Durant, Principal	Brainerd
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TIMPANI

Angela Byram	Crosslake
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PERCUSSION

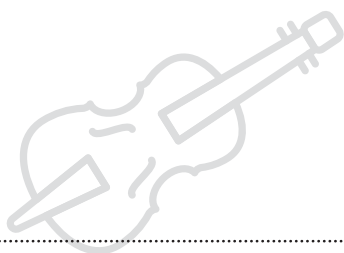
Emmett Gainey	Little Falls
Eoin O'Coinnell	Brainerd
Stacy Podoll-Erdal	Brainerd

◆ HEARTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA STAFF ◆

Operations Director – Navasha Kieffer	Orchestra Manager – Fran Dosh
Music Librarian – Alicia Cebulla	

HSO is always in need of additional string players and sometimes others instruments.

If interested in joining, please contact heartlandsymphony@gmail.com.



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Pints for a Purpose

March 18, 2026

5-8 pm

HEARTLAND SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



HEARTLAND SYMPHONY
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Heartland Symphony Orchestra

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