

# THE WESTERLIES

Educational and Community Outreach Offerings



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## TESTIMONIALS:

*“The Westerlies are a charismatic quartet and they are a joy to present to any audience! Their creative programming and energetic personalities make them accessible to students of all ages. Their ability to connect with young people and share their talents of performance, composition and teaching make them true ambassadors of world-class music making!” - **Emily Werne, The Juilliard School***

*“The Westerlies took our summer program to a whole new level. These four musicians, accessible and down to earth with a strong communication style and good sense of fun, helped our students take their improvising from the theoretical to the practical, pushing them to think out of the box and not be afraid to do so. They were so popular with our students that we are bringing them back this year to do two more master classes.” - **Britt Madsen, Seattle JazzEd***

## ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE:

**The Westerlies** (“prevailing winds from the West to the East”) are a New York based brass quartet comprised of four friends from Seattle, Washington: **Riley Mulherkar** and **Zubin Hensler** on trumpet, and **Andy Clausen** and **Willem de Koch** on trombone. **“Skilled interpreters who are also adept improvisers” (NPR’s Fresh Air)**, The Westerlies explore Jazz, Roots, and Chamber Music influences to create the rarest of hybrids: music that is both **“folk-like and composerly, lovely and intellectually rigorous” (NPR Music)**.

The Westerlies reimagine the chamber music experience through boldly personal performance, recording, collaboration, education, and outreach. Equally at home in concert halls and living rooms, The Westerlies navigate a wide array of venues with the precision of a string quartet, the audacity of a rock band, and the charm of a family sing-along.

## ABOUT THE WESTERLIES’ OUTREACH OFFERINGS:

Educational and community outreach activities with The Westerlies are an excellent way to engage with diverse audiences at your institution, university or community at large. The Westerlies offer a variety of educational and community engagement activities which can easily be combined with a concert appearances and tailored to fit your needs. The Westerlies have taught students from Jazz, Classical, and Pop/Rock backgrounds, always striving to impart the same universal concepts of personal expression, communication and compassion.

Recent educational engagements include **The Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, University of Maryland, CSU Chico, Humboldt State University, University of Oregon, Seattle JazzEd, and Juilliard in Aiken.**

## **LECTURE / DEMONSTRATION**

An audience development presentation geared towards musicians and nonmusicians alike, including musical performance, in-depth historical review, and Q&A throughout. Sample programs include:

### ***A Common Language: Development of The American Song***

- A panoramic survey of American musical history with selections from a diverse range of composers and communities.

### ***Breaking Barriers: Exploring the Intersection of Jazz & Classical Music***

- A demonstration and discussion of traditional Jazz, Classical and Roots repertoire and the fruitful territory in between.

### ***Musical Translation: Adapting Music from Diverse Sources for Chamber Ensemble***

- The Westerlies demonstrate the process of adapting and arranging repertoire from a variety of sources.

Session Length: 30 - 90 Minutes

Number of Participants: Unlimited

## **OPEN REHEARSAL**

The Westerlies will engage community members through a public rehearsal of the ensemble's current repertoire. Questions from the audience are welcome throughout the process. The forum offers listeners a glimpse into the unique democratic rehearsal and arranging process of the ensemble and the preparation that goes into any given piece in their repertoire.

Session Length: 60 - 120 Minutes

Number of Participants: Unlimited

## **TRADITIONAL MASTERCLASS**

The Westerlies will listen to solo, small, or large ensemble performances and offer technical and creative feedback. The Westerlies offer unique coaching perspectives as individual members work professionally in Jazz, Orchestral, Chamber Music and Pop/Rock idioms. Groups of any instrumentation, genre, or experience level are welcome to participate.

Session Length: 30 - 120 Minutes

Number of Participants: 2 - 8 soloists or small ensembles, or up to 4 large ensembles. Unlimited auditors.

## **EXTENDED ENSEMBLE COACHING**

The Westerlies will work with student ensembles on selected repertoire over a period of several days, allowing the groups time to rehearse between coaching sessions. This enables students to digest and implement pertinent concepts, and to receive in depth feedback throughout the process.

Session Length: 2 - 4 120 minute coaching sessions over the course of multiple days

Number of Participants: Maximum of 4 ensembles, unlimited auditors

*Note: Members of The Westerlies can direct multiple coaching sessions simultaneously in different spaces.*

## **BRASS BOOT CAMP**

The Westerlies' Brass Boot Camp is designed to help students engage with the fundamental techniques of brass playing and creatively explore the full sonic possibilities of their instruments. The workshop includes individual and ensemble demonstrations, extensive student participation, and practice materials. The workshop covers the following topics:

- ❖ **Breath Control** - Students learn effective breathing technique and exercises to expand lung capacity and breathing efficiency.
- ❖ **Warm Up** - Students learn the importance of a healthy warm up routine that covers the fundamentals of brass playing and promotes proper technique.
- ❖ **Musical Styles** - The wide range of brass playing styles, from Classical to Jazz and everything in between. Listening and practice materials provided.
- ❖ **Extended Techniques** - Multiphonics, split-tone, percussive sounds, and a variety of other unconventional brass techniques.

Session Length: 60 - 180 Minutes

Number of Participants: Maximum of 40, unlimited auditors

## **IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP**

The Westerlies strongly believe in improvisation as a universal means of personal expression and communication. Their improvisation workshops can be tailored to engage participants of all instruments, genres or experience levels. The workshop manifests students' inherent ability to improvise while breaking down the technical and personal limitations that students place on themselves as improvisers. The workshop can cover the following topics:

- ❖ **“What is Improvisation?”** - An overview of the different roles improvisation can play in the study of Jazz, Classical and Roots music.
- ❖ **Ear Training** - The Westerlies demonstrate various ear training exercises and techniques for improving listening skills, pitch and rhythmic recognition and musical empathy. Method changes based on level/background of students.
- ❖ **Practice Techniques** - Practical techniques, structures and exercises for personal study and development
- ❖ **Music Theory** - A detailed survey of the melodic, harmonic, and structural building blocks of Jazz, Classical and Roots music.
- ❖ **Free Improvisation** with rotating combinations of students, including members of The Westerlies.
- ❖ **Patience, Humility, and Compassion** - Learning to play with restraint, putting the group sound first. Playing with extreme sensitivity to those around you.
- ❖ **Self Confidence** - Gaining confidence in one’s ability to perform for an audience, and developing a more holistic sense of oneself as a musician.

Session Length: 60 - 180 Minutes

Number of Participants: Maximum of 40, unlimited auditors

## **THE BUSINESS OF MUSIC**

The Westerlies will discuss all the aspects of running a chamber ensemble beyond performing the music. As a democratically organized ensemble who for many years were self-managed, The Westerlies can offer unique insights into building a successful ensemble and business from the ground up. Topics include:

- ❖ **Booking Performances** - Students learn the basics of contacting presenters and venues, fee/contract negotiation, tech requirements, etc.
- ❖ **Managing Finances** - Insight into the various expenses and income sources involved with running a professional ensemble. Including touring, album production, publicity, promotion, grant writing, fundraising, and publishing.
- ❖ **Professional Compartment** - Students learn how to maintain healthy working relationships both in the rehearsal studio and in the office.
- ❖ **Reaching a Consensus** - Insight into the democratization of leadership, making decisions as a group, and delegating responsibilities.
- ❖ **Personal Wellness** - Discussion about maintaining a healthy lifestyle as a musician while on tour and at home.

Session Length : 30-120 minutes

Number of Participants: Unlimited

## COMPOSERS FORUM

As avid composer-performers, The Westerlies can speak in great detail about the compositional process, commissioning new work from other composers, writing for brass instruments, and various compositional techniques and approaches. Composers are encouraged to bring scores to be performed and discussed during the forum. Topics include:

- ❖ **Composing for Brass** - The Westerlies discuss and demonstrate the unique characteristics of brass instruments, and how to navigate them as a composer, including range, timbre, articulation, agility, mutes, and extended techniques.
- ❖ **Compositional Process** - The Westerlies offer insight into their own individual compositional processes as well as their collective compositional/arranging process.
- ❖ **Compositional Techniques** - Discussion and demonstration of specific techniques used in The Westerlies repertoire, including pre-compositional preparation, setting parameters, developing themes, harmonic planning, systematic transformations, structure and form, programmatic composition, serial techniques, graphic notation, and orchestration.

Session Length: 30-120 minutes

Number of Participants: Unlimited

## COLLEGE AUDITION WORKSHOP

The Westerlies will discuss the ins and outs of the college audition process and studying music at the collegiate level. Topics include:

- ❖ **School Research** - Insight into how a person can select the proper program for themselves by researching location, faculty, performance opportunities, etc.
- ❖ **Preparation Timeline** - Thoughts on preparing for college auditions, including repertoire selection and practice regimen leading all the way up to audition day.
- ❖ **Audition Compartment** - Students will learn how to carry themselves in the audition room, including professional attire, manner of speaking, and body language.
- ❖ **Mock Auditions** - Select students will be invited to give a mock audition and receive constructive feedback from The Westerlies.

Session Length: 30-120 minutes

Number of Participants: 1-4 mock audition participants (as time allows), unlimited auditors

## **SIDE-BY-SIDE PERFORMANCE**

The Westerlies will rehearse and perform music alongside student musicians. The option to commission a new piece or arrangement from the Westerlies is available.

Session Length: Variable

Number of Participants: Unlimited

## **LISTENING SESSION**

The Westerlies select seminal recordings and discuss their importance in the context of music history. In other variations on the class, participants are invited to bring in their own favorite recordings for discussion. The listening repertoire can be catered to various themes, including, but not limited to:

***Bridging the Gap:** Exploring the Intersection of Jazz, Classical, and Folk Traditions*

***Westerly Pedigree:** Tracing the Westerlies' Musical Lineage*

Session Length: 30-90 minutes

Number of Participants: Unlimited