



A Message from the President

It is a new day and a new era for RCPA and we will be more visible this year than ever! We've had incredible interest and excitement in members to join and we are presenting an exciting year of concerts to kick off a new era for queer expression in the Puget Sound region. We're bringing back our traditional performances of our concert band and jazz band with elevated numbers and in a variety of performance spaces. Our marching band will continue supporting more Pride events than ever before and our Reign City

Riot pep band is increasing their visibility in Seattle more every year. We're also excited for the relaunch of the Rainbow City Orchestra and capitalizing on strong interest from musicians to build an ensemble on par with our concert band. Lastly, we are continuing our new tradition of chamber music concerts with two this year to showcase our amazing talented musicians.

As we grow our visibility, we are working hard behind the scenes to build a stronger and more inclusive organization to support our members and our community more than ever. We're launching a professional donor management tool and simplifying our financial management. We're providing our members with more tools and resources as well as eager professional staff to lead us to new horizons. The future is bright and though there is much work left to do, we're excited to see what our organization, which started as a marching band 25 years ago, can become when we reach 50 years! Don't miss out on our exciting concert series this year.

- Damien Hall, RCPA President

Welcome to our New Conductors!

We are thrilled to announce three new directors for RCPA. Stephen Kennedy takes the helm as conductor of the Rainbow City Concert Band (RCB), Chris Hanson heads up the Rainbow City Orchestra (RCO), and Willie Garza leads the Purple Passion Swing Band (PP). All directors are onboard and have begun planning for the new season.



Stephen Kennedy, RCPA Conductor

Stephen Kennedy (Rainbow City Concert Band)

Stephen is a music educator working in Federal Way where he leads a thriving band and orchestra program at Todd Beamer High School. He is a bassist with the Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra and performs throughout the Pacific Northwest. He holds a BA in Music Education from Central Washington University.

"Through our music, we will be celebrating how inclusivity, equity, diversity, along with making our LGBTQIA+ more visible in the community will bring us all together," says Kennedy. RCB's theme this year is Play On. He premieres with the band at the Haunted Radio Hour! concert on October 29, 2022, which features a fun-filled evening of spooky music with selections from LGBTQ composers, women composers, and composers of color. It is one of three concerts scheduled for the coming season.

"I'm proud to see how our traditions are being carried forward into this new era with such dynamic leaders! We have a rich past that has set a strong ground for us to grow the next 25 years. This will be our most visible year ever in Seattle!" says Damien Hall, RCPA president.

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Calendar of Events

Rainbow City Concert Band

- Oct. 29, 2022 - Northshore Performing Arts Center (Bothell High School)
- Jan. 28, 2023 - Broadway Performance Hall (Seattle)
- April 15, 2023 - Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center

Rainbow City Orchestra

- Nov. 18, 2022 - Seattle Central Library - Microsoft Auditorium
- Feb. 4, 2023 - Broadway Performance Hall (Seattle)
- May 6, 2023 - Bastyr University Chapel (Kenmore)

Small Ensembles

- Dec. 10, 2022 - UCUCS Sanctuary (Seattle)
- Jun. 16, 2023 - UCUCS Sanctuary (Seattle)

Purple Passion Swing Band

- Nov. 4, 2022 - Crossroads Mall (Bellevue)

Purple Passion Jazz Combo

- Sept. 9, 2022 - Seattle Public Library (Private Event)

Welcome to our New Conductors!



Chris Hanson - RCO Conductor

Chris Hanson (Rainbow City Orchestra)

RCO returns after a long hiatus with Hanson debuting as director. He is an assistant professor of music at Seattle Pacific University where he serves as the director of music education and orchestral activities. He holds master's degrees from Texas State University in Music History, Music Theory, and Music Composition, in addition to a PhD in School Improvement.

RCO's season is titled *If The Shoe Fits*. "We will be exploring music for string and full orchestra that challenges stereotypes and assumptions. I am probably most excited for the first concert, which will include me conducting in a pair of red patent leather heels! Every concert will include unique collaborations, and lots of opportunities to look beyond the traditional orchestral experience," says Hanson.

"I envision my work in RCPA, not only as a catalyst for new opportunities to engage a more diverse audience and membership, but to challenge misconceptions of diversity and inherited prejudice within the world of Classical music."

RCPA is excited to be celebrating its 25th anniversary!

Open Volunteer Roles

(Non-Members Welcome)

The RCPA Board of Directors is looking for volunteers to help in some key functional areas. You do not have to be a member of RCPA to volunteer.

- **Director of Development (!)**
- **Donations Coordinator**
- **Fundraising Chair**
- **Event Coordinator (RCO)**

We are also seeking a **Director of Marketing**. This role is responsible for content, sponsorships, brand, web, and press and managing contractor relationships and connections with the outside world.

We also seek a **Director of Engagement**. This role manages social media, volunteer access, and global content. It is responsible for leading social event planning with the band and community.

If you are interested or if you know someone who would be a good fit for any of these roles, please email president@rainbowcityband.com

Willie Garza (Purple Passion Swing Band)

Garza, who leads 20-member PP, is a multi-instrumentalist, percussionist, educator, clinician, and composer/arranger originally from the San Francisco Bay Area. He holds a BM and MM with an emphasis in Jazz Studies from San Jose State University where he studied composition. He is also a graduate of the School for Music Vocations.

Garza has been an active composer and arranger who has had commissioned works and arrangements performed by elementary to college university programs.

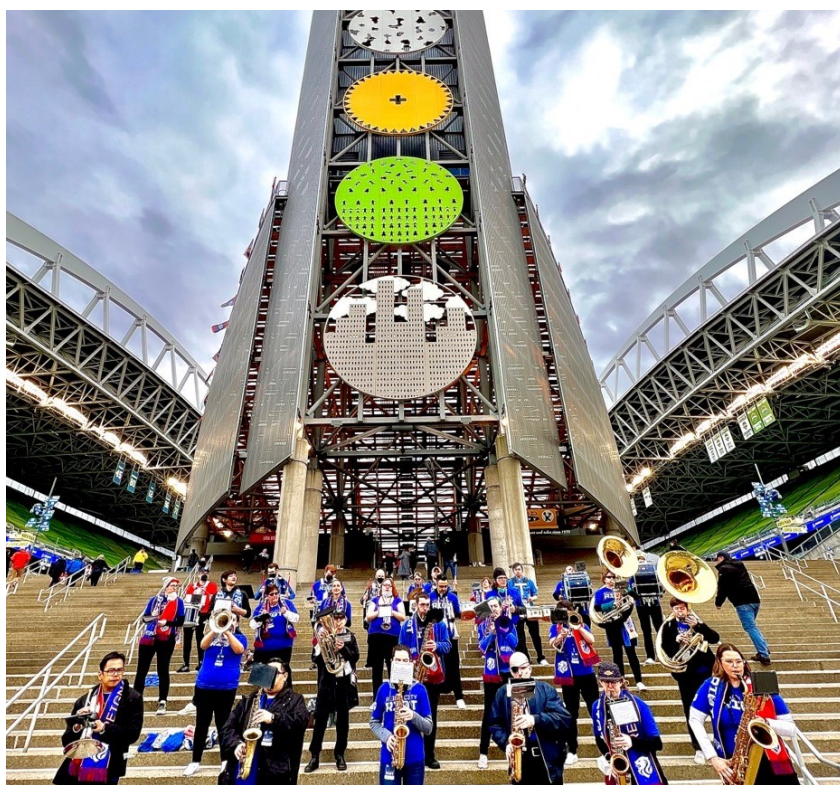


Willie Garza - Purple Passion Conductor

One of Garza's mentors once said, "If you're not practicing as much as you should, it doesn't mean you're a bad person. It just means that you're cheating yourself and ultimately you'll have to cheat someone else."

Now Willie teaches this in a collection of music values that has become part of his teaching philosophy. Willie believes that music can uplift the human spirit, and music education can help one find their place in society and cultivate humanity in the world. His goal is to assist on the journey.

Purple Passion is looking forward to playing at various venues throughout the Pacific Northwest including Third Place Books, Crossroads Mall, private events, and other venues.



Reign City Riot performs on the steps of Lumen Field.

Reign City Riot Rocks Seattle

The 2022 season has been one to remember for Reign City Riot! 2022 marks the 4th official season that RCPA has partnered with OL Reign to power the fan experience at Reign matches. This year, OL Reign has moved their matches back to Seattle and into the world-class Lumen Field. Performing at Lumen Field has been incredibly exciting and has dramatically grown the audience for both the Reign and the Riot. Attendance has been averaging over 8,000 people per match and growing, showing off RCPA to a new audience each match and recruiting more and more people to the organization!

Additionally, RCPA commissioned a new fight song for OL Reign to be played each time the band performs and after every goal. The "OL Reign Theme" features melodies inspired by the goal song for the Seattle Sounders and Richard Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries," harkening back to a previous nickname for Seattle Reign, the Valkyries.

Outside of our performances at each match, Reign City Riot was featured at HONK! Fest West and Seattle's All-City Band Jam. The Riot also made their debut as a hockey pep band for Seattle Pride Hockey Association's Seattle Pride Classic hockey tournament and stood in solidarity with Seattle Pacific University queer students by providing the entertainment at their Lavender Graduation celebration.

The Riot has been on an upward trajectory all season and we are excited for that to continue for the remainder of the season and beyond! The season wraps up in October but there are still a few matches left to support our RCPA friends in the Riot! Hope to see you there!

-Wes Walton, Riot Leader

RCPA Turns 25!

RCPA turns 25 this year and we're celebrating! The marching band performed in its first Seattle Pride Parade 25 years ago and now we're excited to move into our next 25 years. Throughout this season, we'll be hosting special events, recounting the history of RCPA featuring stories about our founders and founding members, and highlighting the organization's history and growth.

Other activities include a Pops in the Park Concert/Band Reunion and recognition of members' years in the organization.

Rainbow Ball Fundraiser Scheduled for March, 2023

*Rainbow Ball March Forth
March 4, 2023
Seattle Renaissance Hotel*

Our annual fundraiser returns with opportunities to support RCPA and be entertained by our ensembles. Look for performances by Purple Passion Swing Band, our newest group, Rainbow City Orchestra, as well as chamber groups and Spin OUT.

If you would like to participate in the planning for the yearlong celebration, email Fundraisingchair@rainbowcityband.com