

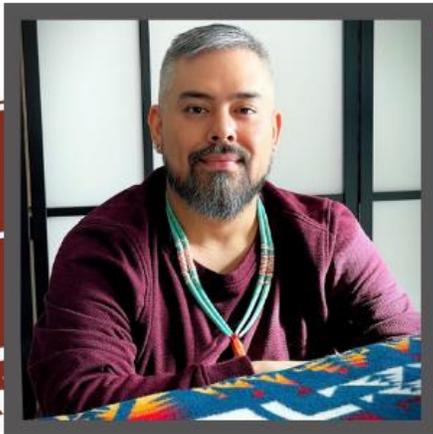


WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
School of Music

**RUTH AND LORAN OLSEN**

Olsen 

**FESTIVAL OF NATIVE AMERICAN MUSIC**



**FEATURING  
ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE  
CONNOR CHEE**

**NOVEMBER 12-13, 2024**

**WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

**2024 RUTH AND LORAN OLSEN FESTIVAL OF NATIVE AMERICAN MUSIC**

All events are free and open to the public

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

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11:00 AM: **CONNOR CHEE IN CONVERSATION** in Kimbrough Concert Hall

7:30 PM: **CONNOR CHEE GUEST ARTIST RECITAL** in Bryan Hall Theatre

*Features works by Connor Chee performed by the composer and others*

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024**

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1:00 PM **CONNOR CHEE PIANO MASTERCLASS** in Kimbrough Concert Hall

*Featuring performances by WSU piano students*

5:30PM **MUSIC BY NATIVE AMERICAN COMPOSERS** in the Elson S. Floyd Cultural Center

*Featuring Nez Perce singers Nakia Cloud and Andre Picard Jr. as well as performances by WSU School of Music faculty and students, and Artist-in-Residence Connor Chee. An Indian taco dinner is provided to all who attend at no charge courtesy of Indigenous Eats of Spokane and WSU Catering. Doors open at 5:00pm.*

**The Ruth and Loran Olsen Festival of Native American Music is made possible by:**

The Ruth and Loran Olsen Fund  
Allegro  
The David G. Pollart Center for Arts and Humanities  
WSU Student Affairs  
The Center for Student Organizations and Leadership  
Northwest Public Broadcasting  
The Washington Idaho Symphony  
Indigenous Eats of Spokane



**Special thanks to:**

Keri McCarthy, Director of the WSU School of Music  
WSU Native American Programs  
WSU Office of Tribal Relations  
Tim Wirth, WSU Piano Technician

**The Olsen Festival is Co-Directed by:**

Melissa Parkhurst  
Jacqueline Wilson (Yakama)

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Washington State University acknowledges that its locations statewide are on the homelands of Native peoples, who have lived in this region from time immemorial. There are 37 federally recognized Tribes that historically shared their traditional homelands and waterways in what is now Washington State. Of these, 29 are federally recognized Tribes in Washington with the remaining Tribes in Idaho, Montana, and Oregon, some of which represent multiple tribes and bands.

The University expresses its deepest respect for and gratitude towards these original and current caretakers of the region. As an academic community, we acknowledge our responsibility to establish and maintain relationships with these tribes and Native peoples, in support of tribal sovereignty and the inclusion of their voices in teaching, research and programming. Washington State University established the Office of Tribal Relations and Native American Programs to guide us in our relationship with tribes and service to Native American students and communities. We also pledge that these relationships will consist of mutual trust, respect, and reciprocity.

As a land grant institution, we also recognize that the Morrill Act of 1862 established land-grant institutions by providing each state with “public” and federal lands, which are traced back to the dispossession of Indigenous lands. In 1890, Washington State received 90,081 acres of Indigenous Lands designated to establish Washington State University. Washington State University retains the majority of these lands to this day. We acknowledge that the dispossession of Indigenous lands was often taken by coercive and violent acts, and the disregard of treaties. For that, we extend our deepest apologies. We owe our deepest gratitude to the Native peoples of this region and maintain our commitment towards reconciliation.

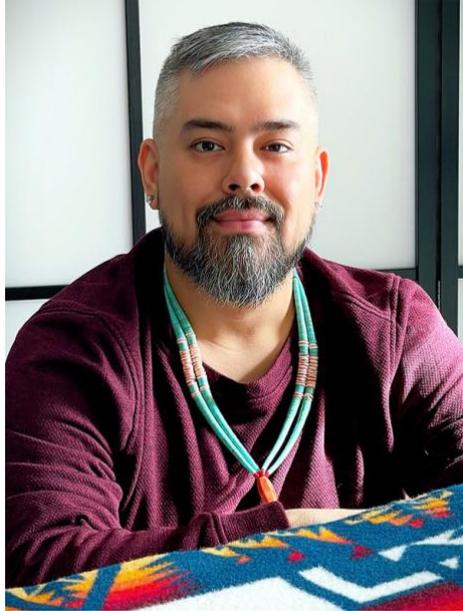
WSU Pullman is located on the homelands of the Nimíipuu (Nez Perce) Tribe and Palus people.

## LORAN OLSEN

Loran Olsen, Ph. D., is Professor Emeritus of Music and Native American Studies at Washington State University, where he chaired the music department for some years. He has performed, lectured, taught and adjudicated widely, and has served as consultant and reviewer for arts and humanities agencies. His publications include musical compositions, articles, monographs, reviews, slide shows, movies, videos and CDs. Olsen wrote “Music and Dance” for the Smithsonian Handbook of North American Indians Plateau volume. He compiled the Nez Perce Music Archive, housed at Washington State University and other repositories, and wrote its accompanying guide. Dr. Olsen’s Idaho Humanities Council project on Nez Perce Music received the 1996 Schwartz Prize, given to the outstanding research project from 56 state and territorial humanities councils. Recent publications include “A Legacy from Sam Morris” and “Hitting the Rawhide—Qilloowawya,” which were his topics at American Indian Workshop in Tromsø, Norway, in 2008. His presentation on “The Many Arts of Johnny Moses” was offered at the 2013 AIW in Helsinki, Finland.

Olsen was named Music Teachers National Association Foundation Fellow in 2001 and Legacy Fellow in 2002. In 2003 he was named to the Washington State Music Teachers Association “Hall of Fame” for leadership in the development and growth of music education in the State of Washington. Olsen has taught at China Conservatory in Beijing, Inner Mongolia Normal University, and Shenyang Conservatory where he holds an appointment as visiting guest professor. He served two terms as outside reviewer for Western Music Curricula at Chinese University of Hong Kong, and served on the evaluation panel for the 2006 Research Assessment Exercise for Hong Kong universities. Olsen resides in Port Angeles, Washington. Olsen also taught at Walla Walla College, University of Colorado at Boulder, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Inner Mongolia Normal University, and is appointed “Visiting Guest Professor of the Shenyang Conservatory of Music.”

## ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE CONNOR CHEE (DINÉ)



Navajo pianist and composer Connor Chee (b. 1987) is known for combining his classical piano training with his Native American heritage. Chee made his Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 12 after winning a gold medal in the World Piano Competition. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music and the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, Chee's solo piano music is inspired by traditional Navajo chants and songs.

Chee has released 4 studio albums of original pieces and piano transcriptions of Navajo music. The Navajo Piano won Best Instrumental Recording at the 16th Annual Native American Music Awards, and his piece "Beginnings" won Best New Age Song.

Chee's 2020 release, *Scenes from Dinétah*, features piano pieces written about elements of Navajo life and culture. It was accompanied by the release of several music videos filmed on the reservation, directed by Navajo filmmaker Michael Etcitty Jr.

Chee's most recent release, *The Navajo Piano (Revisited)*, features new recordings of his original 15 compositions from 2014, as well as recordings of the traditional songs they were based on. Also included are 3 new transcriptions for harp featuring Angelica Hairston and Johanna Wienholts.

Learn more about Connor at his website, [www.connorchee.com](http://www.connorchee.com)

**CONNOR CHEE GUEST ARTIST RECITAL**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 7:30**  
**BRYAN HALL THEATRE**

*Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano* (2022)

Connor Chee (b.1987)

Keri McCarthy, oboe  
Jacqueline Wilson, bassoon  
Connor Chee, piano

*Concerto for Bassoon and String Quartet* (2024)

Connor Chee (b.1987)

Jacqueline Wilson, bassoon  
Christiano Rodrigues, violin  
Giselle Hillyer, violin  
Nanette Erickson, viola  
Ruth Boden, cello

INTERMISSION

*Female Rain*

Connor Chee (b.1987)

*Sandpaintings for Piano*

Connor Chee (b.1987)

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10

14

*Horny Toad*

Connor Chee (b.1987)

*The Swallows*

Connor Chee (b.1987)

Connor Chee, piano

**MUSIC BY NATIVE AMERICAN COMPOSERS**  
**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 5:30PM**  
**ELSON S. FLOYD CULTURAL CENTER**

Blessing  
Angel Sobotta (Nimíipuu)

*Ambe* (2017)

Andrew Balfour (Cree)

WSU Chamber Singers

*Starlight* (2024)

Michael Begay (Diné)

Jacqueline Wilson (Yakama), bassoon  
Patrick Donoghue (Samish), guitar

*For Heidi Senungetuk* (2020)

Raven Chacon (Diné)

Martin King, horn

Vocal Offering  
Nakia Cloud (Nimíipuu)

*Musing at Dawn* (2009)

R. Carlos Nakai (Diné)

Sarah Miller, trombone  
Yoon-Wha Roh, piano

*Music for Voice* (2003)

Raven Chacon (Diné)

WSU Percussion Ensemble

Ryan Hager  
Jacob Hoffmeister  
Benjamin Presley  
Ayden Ramsey

Navajo Vocabable for Piano No. 12

Connor Chee (Diné)

Connor Chee (Diné), piano

Vocal Offering  
Nakia Cloud (Nimíipuu)

*Hero Twins* (2018)

Connor Chee (Diné)

IVY Horn Quartet

Cassidy Fairchild, horn  
Steven Randall, horn  
Orion Stankus, horn  
Nicholas Yoon, horn

*Dance Suite for Solo Bass Clarinet* (2022)  
*III. Traditional Bustle*

Jacqueline Wilson (Yakama)

Katie Rice, bass clarinet

*Inspiration of the Muses* (2024)

Kirsten C. Kunkle (Mvskoke)

Sophia Tegart, flute  
Yoon-Wha Roh, piano

**WSU CHAMBER SINGERS**

Dean Luethi, director

Soprano

Emma Aichele  
Kayla Mommsen  
Bridget Murphy  
MaKenna Wagnon

Alto

Daniela Alpire  
Ashley Myers  
Mila Rybachuk

Tenor

Jake Carlon  
Corey Gardner  
Ryan Lockhart

Bass

Landon Carter  
Francisco Ruiz  
Corwyn Wayment