Artist Partner Program Presents:

THE WESTERLIES

Saturday, March 7, 2015 . 8PM
Joseph & Alma Gildenhorn Recital Hall

Riley Mulherkar, trumpet
Zubin Hensler, trumpet
Andy Clausen, trombone
Willem de Koch, trombone

Program

THE AMERICAN SONG IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Individual pieces will be announced from the stage.

This performance will last approximately one hour with no intermission.
Video or audio recording of the production is strictly prohibited.
About the Artists

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.

Avid explorers of cross-genre territory, they are dedicated to the cultivation of a new brass quartet repertoire that exists in the ever-narrowing gap between American folk music, jazz, classical and indie rock. Since their inception in 2011, The Westerlies have premiered more than 40 original works for brass quartet and crafted an approach that trumpeter Dave Douglas has described as “Swinging, grooving, clean and tricky playing. This is the group that, once you’ve heard them, you’ll realize they always needed to exist. Unique, original, exciting. And simply killing in the best sense.” Their music exudes the warmth of their longstanding friendships and reflects the broad interests of its members.

The Westerlies have performed at The Festival of New Trumpet Music, Juilliard in Aiken Festival, The Juilliard School, Music in the Mountains in Colorado, the Vancouver Jazz Festival, the Seattle Art Museum and Earshot Jazz Festival, and collaborated with Dave Douglas, Bill Frisell and Juilliard Dance. In addition, the quartet was invited to perform the music of longtime mentor, pianist/composer Wayne Horvitz, at The Stone in May 2013. The project was later recorded during The Westerlies’ annual residency on Lopez Island, Washington, resulting in their debut album Wish The Children Would Come On Home, released on Songlines Recordings in May 2014, and immediately met with praise.

“One of the more remarkable albums to cross my path this spring... an impressive feat from almost any angle... Take note of these players. You’ll be hearing more from them soon,” said Nate Chinen of the Jazz Times. Kevin Whitehead of Fresh Air on NPR added, “The Westerlies play this music clean as a whistle, with attention to detail born of long rehearsals. And they infuse the lyrical passages with deep feeling... The Westerlies represent a breed of musicians rare when Wayne Horvitz was coming up, skilled interpreters who are also adept improvisers. With such versatile and well-equipped performers around, composers can expand their reach and they may all wind up in places they might not have found on their own.”

Andy Clausen is a New York-based trombonist, composer and bandleader. An avid explorer of cross-genre territory, drawing inspiration from folk music, jazz, classical and indie rock, Clausen has performed with new music mavericks Bill Frisell and Wayne Horvitz, pop sensation Feist and the avant-jazz saxophonist Andrew D’Angelo. Hailing from Seattle, Clausen relocated to New York City in 2010 to begin his studies at The Juilliard School under the guidance of trombonists Conrad Herwig and Steve Turre. An active bandleader since the age of 14, the New York Times has described his work as “sleek, dynamic large-group jazz, a whirl of dark-hued harmony and billowing rhythm...The intelligent sheen of Mr. Clausen’s writing was as striking as the composure of his peers...It was impressive, and not just by the yardstick of their age.” Awards include the 2009 Gerald Wilson Prize for Jazz Composition from the Monterey Jazz Festival, and the 2010 Emerging Artist of the Year, and 2011 Alternative Jazz Group of the Year from the Earshot Jazz Festival.

Zubin Hensler is a Seattle-born, Brooklyn-based composer, trumpeter, and producer. He is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music and has studied with Wayne Horvitz, Laurie Frink, Peter Andreacchi and Mark Stambaugh. He’s involved in a number of projects with a bunch of amazing collaborators, to which he contributes in a variety of roles, including composing, arranging, producing, trumpeting, piano playing, electronic music programming, video-making and organizing.
A native of Seattle, Washington, **Willem de Koch** enjoys a diverse career as a performer, improviser, composer and educator. He is co-founder of The Westerlies, a new music brass quartet. At home in a variety of musical styles, de Koch has performed with improvisational music luminaries Wayne Horvitz and Bill Frisell, indie-rock phenomenon Feist, jazz legends Miguel Zenon, Wycliffe Gordon, George Duke and many others. He has played under the batons of Leonard Slatkin, Kurt Masur, George Manahan, Philippe Entremont, and Gerard Schwarz. He is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in trombone performance at the Manhattan School of Music.

**Riley Mulherkar** has been recognized by the *New Yorker* as a “brilliant teen-aged trumpeter,” and in 2011 was named as a “rising jazz artist” by Wynton Marsalis in *JET* magazine. Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, Mulherkar is in his third year pursuing jazz studies at The Juilliard School. He has performed at the Umbria Jazz Festival, Jazz à Vienne, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, and has shared the stage with Marsalis, Leonard Slatkin, Paquito D’Rivera, Roy Hargrove, Benny Golson, Jimmy Heath and Bill Frisell, among others. Mulherkar has been individually recognized in *DownBeat* magazine and at jazz festivals across the country. In the spring of 2010 he received the Ella Fitzgerald Outstanding Soloist award at the Essentially Ellington competition at Lincoln Center. Mulherkar is actively engaged in music education and outreach, most recently teaching in Salvador, Brazil and Atlanta, Georgia.

About the Program

The Westerlies’ debut album, *Wish The Children Would Come On Home: The Music of Wayne Horvitz*, is a panoramic view of the American Song through the lens of Horvitz, whose ability to weave between folk, jazz and Western classical traditions gives a truly American synthesis. The Westerlies will play selections from the album paired with pieces of conventional repertoire, featuring Ives, Ellington and a variety of traditional gospel and folk songs, as well as original pieces by members of The Westerlies. Elements of riff-based improvisation, diatonic folk melody and Western harmony are illuminated as they converge into the American Song, a common language spoken by seemingly disparate American composers.