



NOCTURNE

A Tribute

DR. MICHAEL LANDRUM

Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 2:00pm
Pearce Memorial Church

Reception Immediately Following
Cultural Life Center
Roberts Wesleyan University

Internationally acclaimed concert pianist, inspiring teacher, and lifelong champion of classical music, Dr. Michael Landrum was born on September 17, 1949, in Augusta, Georgia. He devoted his life to the pursuit of musical excellence, bringing extraordinary artistry, intellectual depth, and a deep love of music to every aspect of his career.

Michael earned degrees from Oberlin College and the California Institute of the Arts, followed by post-graduate studies at Indiana University; he received the Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from Temple University. His distinguished career spanned both the concert stage and the classroom. As Professor of Music and Film Studies at Roberts Wesleyan University, he inspired generations of students while maintaining an active performance career throughout the United States as a soloist, chamber musician, and collaborative and orchestral pianist.

In 1976, Michael was awarded First Prize in the J.S. Bach International Competition for Pianists in Washington, DC, an early testament to his exceptional talent and musical insight. His acclaimed 2012 CD recording, *Nocturnes*, garnered national recognition and displayed the technical brilliance, expressive sensitivity, and artistic depth that defined his playing. One of the many enthusiastic reviews of *Nocturnes* noted that his "performance of these hauntingly beautiful pieces is an exquisite coming-together of varied strains of meaning. He combines wistfulness, reflection, regret, unobtrusive joy, and a celebration of all that is beautiful. An artist of deep understanding, Michael allows these Nocturnes to evidence, in their grace, a beauty and thankfulness that, as Wordsworth wrote, is 'too deep for tears.' "

While his professional accomplishments were remarkable, his legacy reaches far beyond the honors he received and the music he performed. Michael will always be remembered for his extraordinary gifts as a musician, his dedication to teaching, his quiet intellect, his delightfully nuanced sense of humor, and the lasting impression he made on his many students, colleagues, family, and his innumerable friends. He embodied excellence without pretension, wisdom with humility, and a genuine kindness that touched the lives of those fortunate enough to know him. Above all, his life reflected an unwavering belief in the power of music to reveal beauty, deepen understanding, and enrich the human spirit.

Michael passed away on June 26, 2026, in London, England, the city he cherished as his second home, following a brief illness. His life was a testament to the enduring power of music, and his artistry, generosity, and influence will continue to resonate in the many lives he touched.

PROGRAM

Welcome Dr. Nicholas Willis
President
Roberts Wesleyan University

Nocturne Stephen Shewan
composed for Michael Landrum (2023)
Paul Shewan, *trumpet*
Stephen Shewan, *piano*

Friendship Across a Lifetime Mr. Jeffry Harris

Give Me Jesus Traditional Spiritual
Arr. Mark Hayes
Jeffery McGhee, *baritone*
Joseph Werner, *piano*

Video Messages from Colleagues

Family Reflections Mr. Drew Landrum

Christ Church Highbury Video Message *Shall We Gather at the River*

Bonds That Endure Prof. Joseph Werner

Nocturne No. 4 in A Major, H.36 John Field

Nocturne No.3 in A $\flat$ Major (Liebestraum) Franz Liszt
from the 2012 CD *Nocturnes*
Michael Landrum, *piano*

A Portrait of Michael

Dr. Daniel Barta

Hymn *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
Alden Snell, *organ*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain
Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hast provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.
Refrain

Benediction Dr. Douglas Cullum

Goin' Home Antonin Dvořák
Arr. Paul Langford
Spiritual based on Largo from Symphony No. 9 in E minor
From the New World, Op. 95, B. 178

Tribute Choir
Julie Smith, *conductor*
Caitlin Ott, *cello*
Zach Richard, *piano*

PARTICIPANTS

Goin' home, goin' home, I'm a-goin' home;
Quiet-like, some still day, I'm just goin' home.
It's not far, just close by, through an open door;
work all done, care laid by, going to fear no more.
Mother's there expecting me, father's waiting too;
lots of folk gathered there, all the friends I knew.

Morning star lights the way, restless dream all done;
Shadows gone, break of day, real life just begun.
There's no break, there's no end, just a living on;
wide awake, with a smile going on and on.
Goin' home, goin' home, I'm just goin' home.
It's not far, just close by, through an open door;
I'm just goin' home.

***A reception will take place immediately following the service in Shewan Recital Hall, on the lower level of the Cultural Life Center, adjacent to Pearce Church on the Roberts Wesleyan University campus. Guides will be available to direct or escort you.*

Dr. Nicholas J. Willis was appointed president of Roberts Wesleyan University on July 1, 2026. He earned his BS Mathematics at George Fox University and attended Texas Tech University, where he received his MS Mathematics and PhD Mathematics. Before joining Roberts, Dr. Willis served as a partner and consultant with TG Three, LLC, where he advised presidents, boards of trustees, and senior leadership teams at Christian colleges, universities, and seminaries across the country, helping institutions navigate change while remaining rooted in their Christian mission.

Dr. Paul Shewan, Professor of Instrumental Studies at Roberts Wesleyan University, earned his BS degree in Music Education from Roberts Wesleyan University, and his MM in Trumpet Performance and Literature and DMA in Conducting from the Eastman School of Music. A longtime member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra trumpet section, he is an accomplished trumpet soloist and conductor and has performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, served as a guest conductor with the RPO and orchestras internationally, and has recorded for Albany Records. An active educator, guest conductor, and clinician, he received the RPO's Special Music Educator Award in 2019 for his contributions to the community.

Dr. Stephen Shewan is an award-winning composer whose music has been performed worldwide. He served as professor of Music Composition, and Advanced Aural Skills at Roberts Wesleyan University from 2021 – 2024, director of bands at Williamsville East High School in East Amherst, NY from 1993-2021 and at Odessa-Montour, NY High School from 1983-1993. He remains active as a guest conductor, pianist, and receives commissions in every genre. Dr. Shewan received his DMA from the Eastman School of Music, MM from Ithaca College, and BS from Roberts Wesleyan University.

Mr. Jeffry Harris and Michael first met in 1967, in their freshman year at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. The teacher of many prize-winning students, Mr. Harris has enjoyed a distinguished career as a performer, educator, and arts administrator. He serves on the faculty of the Carnegie Mellon Preparatory School and has held positions at the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, DC, as well as serving as Registrar and Dean of Students at the Hochstein Music School in Rochester, NY. Mr. Harris has performed as piano soloist, chamber musician, and vocal accompanist. He earned piano performance degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory and the Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington, followed by doctoral studies in piano performance at Boston University School of Music. Mr. Harris serves as Vice President of the Steinway Society of Western Pennsylvania and was honored as Teacher of the Year in 2016 by the Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association.

Dr. Jeffery McGhee is Professor of Voice at Roberts Wesleyan University. He received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Akron, and Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Southern Mississippi. He has performed as soloist in concerts and recitals, and in lead roles in operas and musicals throughout the United States. Colleagues for 15 years at Roberts Wesleyan University, he and Michael collaborated and performed extensively around the US in concerts and lecture recitals focused on traditional spirituals, particularly those of H. T. Burleigh.

Mr. Lawson Drew Landrum is a husband, father, minister, and business development leader from Augusta, Georgia. He serves as Principal of Business Development at SecureGive, where he works alongside churches and nonprofit organizations to help fully fund their missions and visions. A minister in the Church of God, Drew and his family faithfully serve at Stevens Creek Church in Augusta. As the nephew of Michael Landrum, Drew grew up admiring his uncle's extraordinary musical talent and academic accomplishments. In the months following Michael's passing, Drew has come to appreciate even more deeply the qualities that defined his uncle beyond the concert stage: his faith in the Lord, his wonderful sense of humor, his sentimental heart, and the meaningful friendships he cultivated around the world. Joining Drew in this special tribute are his wife, Sarah; his sister, Ashley Landrum White; Ashley's fiancé, Dana; and her children, Lena and Lucas.

Prof. Joseph Werner, Director of Piano Studies at Roberts Wesleyan University, was the Principal Pianist of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra for fifty years. He also served as the orchestra's Personnel Manager from 1993-2017. The Co-Artistic Director of the Society for Chamber Music in Rochester from 2000-2013, he served for many years as Co-Chair of the Piano Department at the Hochstein School in Rochester. Mr. Werner has performed numerous times as a soloist with the RPO and with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Rochester Chamber Orchestra, North Jersey Philharmonic, University of Rochester Symphony Orchestra, and the Penfield Symphony. Mr. Werner earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees and the Performer's Certificate at the Eastman School of Music.

Dr. Daniel Barta served as Professor of Music Theory and Composition, and as Chair of the Department of Music and Performing Arts at Roberts Wesleyan University, having previously served as Chair of the Theory and Composition Department at Cairn University in Philadelphia. He holds the BMus, MMus and DMA from Temple University. His music has been performed internationally including *God Is Our Refuge and Strength*, commissioned for the International Schools of China Choral Festival in Tianjin, China, and *Ésaïe 61:1-3*, written for the Roberts Chorale tour of France shortly after the tragic burning of the Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris. Dr. Barta is published by Concordia, Shaw

Music and Choristers Guild. Dr. Landrum championed his music in the United States and abroad, and Dan remains deeply grateful.

Dr. Alden Snell received the BS degree in Music Education from Roberts Wesleyan University in Rochester, NY, in 2001. He then earned both Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in music education from the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester. He is an Associate Professor of Music Teaching and Learning at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate music education courses, supervises student teachers, and advises graduate research.

Dr. Doug Cullum is one of the founding faculty members of Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan University. He has faithfully served at Roberts since 1994, most recently as Professor of Historical and Pastoral Theology. He holds four graduate degrees and is an ordained clergyman. His earned degrees include PhD., MPhil., Drew University; Th.M., Duke University; M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary; and BA, Asbury College. Having been active in ministry since 1978, Dr. Cullum served pastorates until he was invited to come to Roberts Wesleyan University to serve as college chaplain and faculty member in the religion department. Professionally, Dr. Cullum participates in the North American Academy of Liturgy and the Wesley Studies Group of the American Academy of Religion.

Mrs. Julie Smith serves as Worship Arts Director at Pearce Church, where she leads the worship team and choral ensembles. She previously ministered at Perinton Presbyterian Church and Valley Chapel Free Methodist. Julie has served on the faculty of Csehy Summer School of Music since 2009 and directed the Hochstein School of Music Scholarship Flute Choir from 2012-2022. She holds the M.M. in Flute Performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a B.S. in Music Education from Roberts Wesleyan University.

Prof. Constance Fee is Director of Vocal Studies at Roberts Wesleyan University. She received the Performer's Certificate in Opera Performance from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA; Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the Indiana University School of Music; and Bachelor of Vocal Music Education from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. She first met Michael and Jeffry Harris in 1973, when they were all music students at Indiana University. Later, after she and Michael had both joined the faculty at Roberts, they discovered a mutual love of art song repertoire and performed together frequently in recitals and concerts.

VIDEO CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Dina Alexander
Dr. Elvera Berry
Mr. Paul & Mrs. Sigrid Britton
Mr. James Buckham
Dr. Scott Caton
Dr. Olivia Colomaio
Dr. William & Mrs. Willa Crothers
Mr. David & Mrs. Lee Ann Dunn
Dr. Douglas & Mrs. Charlotte Giebel
Dr. Nelson Hill
Prof. Shanthi Kelley
Dr. Peter Knapp
Mr. Louis Leigh
Prof. Alice Meyer
Prof. Megan Resig
Mrs. Julie Smith
Dr. R. J. Stansbury

TRIBUTE CHOIR

SOPRANO

Elizabeth Balentine '08
Bonnie Campbell '85
Patricia Card '83
Katie Curtis '11
Kathy Jones '83
Elizabeth Sharpe '11
Carina Telesca '00
Sarah Zimmerman '03

ALTO

Nadine Bailey '79
Lauren Bell '16
Suzanne Monkhern '77
Ruth Redman '90
Jocelyn Reynolds '03
Christin Snell '01
Erica Spaman '17

TENOR

Lon Bailey '77
Nathaniel Darling '11
Christopher Jones '82
Christopher Kimpel '11

BASS

Daniel Cooper '14
Daniel Mark '04
Floyd Rawleigh '84
Jason Scheer '11

GREETERS

Elizabeth Balentine
Nathaniel Darling
Chad Dehaven
Christopher Kimpel
Carina Telesca
Sarah Zimmerman

EVENT COORDINATOR / MC

Prof. Constance Fee

EVENT PLANNERS

Dr. Daniel Barta
Prof. Joseph Werner

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

Joshua Fugate
Patrick Glantz
Katherine Goodman
Caitlin Ott
Zach Richard
Joy Shewan
Carina Telesca
Christ Church Highbury
Pearce Memorial Church
Brian Kovach & the Pearce Tech Team
Tammy Butler, RWU Office of Advancement
Megan Resig, RWU Dept. of Music & Perf. Arts
Darryl Smith, RWU Office of the President