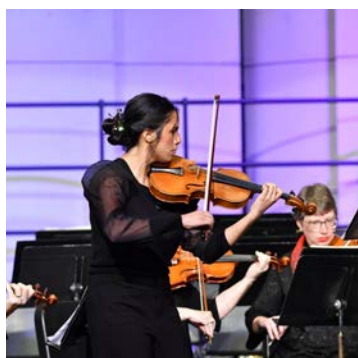




20 SUMMER MUSIC **26 NEWSLETTER**

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Dear Newsletter Readers,

Welcome our latest issue! The past year has been a busy one for our department and our students. We continue our strong enrollment trends with another large class of eager musicians planning to join us this fall. We are excited about our growth and the amazing students we are privileged to nurture and serve!

Our students, faculty, and staff were busy this past semester – teaching, composing, studying, practicing, and performing an increasingly varied, distinctly relevant, and always high-quality array of musical topics, ideas, and repertoire. January and February featured the annual Circuit721 electronic music composition recital and Concordia Opera's production of Cinderella. March included the Concordia Choir tour to the East Coast, Chapel Choir's regional Minnesota tour, and the Concordia Orchestra's tour to the Dakotas, Iowa, Nebraska, as well as multiple guest artist performances and numerous student recitals. April included the annual Masterworks concert, this year featuring excerpts from the Verdi Requiem. So much to celebrate!

Looking ahead, next fall will feature many of our regular fall concerts, including Homecoming, the Fall Choirs Concert, PRISM, the Fall Bands Concert, Honor Strings, and Christmas Concerts, as well as the Concordia Orchestra's tour of central Minnesota in late October. We invite you to view event listings and tune into live and recorded performances via our UStream page linked from <https://www.concordiacollege.edu/music/performances-and-events/>.

At Concordia's music department, we continue our commitment to influencing the affairs of the world by representing what is happening around us through music and offering solace, inspiration, and artistic reflection for our students and members of our community. We aim to include everyone, uplift underrepresented voices, explore unfamiliar musics with humility and curiosity, and expand the range of musical expression available to students while sustaining a commitment to upholding the most enduring aspects of past and present musical traditions around the world.

Please keep in touch! Let us know what you are up to, musically and otherwise. Feel free to share this newsletter with others who may enjoy it.

-Dr. Nat Dickey, Music Department Chair

Newsletter edited by Zeapoe Matalda

Join us in welcoming our new faculty and staff!

Dr. Isabella Kolasinski

Assistant Professor of Horn



Dr. Isabella Kolasinski is the Assistant Professor of Horn at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. Prior to her current appointment, Isabella was the Visiting Assistant Professor of Horn at the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York at Potsdam. There she performed and toured with the Potsdam Brass Quintet and the Northern Symphonic Winds. Previously she served as second horn of the West Valley Symphony, and appeared with other ensembles such as the International Pride Orchestra, the Phoenix Symphony, Symphony of the Southwest, Arizona Philharmonic, and the Chamber Music Silicon Valley Festival. In recent summers she was a staff member at the prestigious Cormont Horn Camp in New Hampshire, and a guest artist at the Saarbarg International Music Festival in Saarbarg, Germany. Isabella's recent academic research includes an extensive study of works for horn and fixed media from the late 1970's, by composers Hildegard Westerkamp and Janet Beat. Isabella received her DMA from Arizona State University, her MM from the University of Michigan, and BM from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam.

Dr. Connor Croasmun

Assistant Professor of Clarinet



Dr. Connor Croasmun is a clarinetist, teacher, and performer from northeast Georgia. He maintains a private teaching studio in Athens, GA, and serves on the faculty of William Pu Music Academy in Atlanta and Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa, GA. Connor is currently the clarinetist of the award-winning Fountain Five (F5) Wind Quintet and has performed with ensembles including the Johns Creek Symphony Orchestra, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, Panama City Symphony Orchestra, and Sinfonia Gulf Coast. He previously performed with the University of Georgia's contemporary ensemble Rote Hund Musik and the pop-contemporary ensemble Millennium Project. His career has taken him to performances throughout Ireland, Belgium, Panama, British Columbia, and across the United States. He also completed an internship with Chedeville Mouthpiece Company, assisting in the development of clarinet and saxophone mouthpieces. Originally from Savannah, Georgia, Connor earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Clarinet Performance from the University of Georgia and later completed both a Master of Music and Doctor of Music degree at Florida State University. His primary teachers include Jonathan Holden, Deborah Bish, and D. Ray McClellan, and he has also studied with distinguished clarinetists including Alain Desgagné, Robert DiLutis, Dan Gilbert, Ted Gurch, and Alcides Rodriguez.

Foster Beyers

Interim Orchestra Director



Foster Beyers is returning to Concordia after having served as the Director of Orchestras from 2011-2016. Beyers also serves as the University Orchestra director at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla as well Co-Artistic Director of the Galloway Chamber Orchestra in Springfield, MO in partnership with his wife Yi-Ping Chen. Recent professional engagements include La Boheme with the Ozarks Lyric Opera and a sold out run of the Nutcracker with the Fargo-Moorhead Ballet. Beyers looks forward to reconnecting with many old friends in the Concordia community and hopes to make many new ones!

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES TO: Dr. Karin Wakefield, Dr. Leigh Wakefield, Dr. Kevin Sutterlin, Prof. Malcolm Burke

A SEASON OF WONDERS FOR THE CONCORDIA CHORAL PROGRAM

The 2025-26 season has been one of joy and growth in the Concordia choirs, beginning with our 250+ singers storming the field for the national anthem at the homecoming football game and ending with a fiery performance of Verdi's Requiem. It has been a beautiful year to be a singing Cobber!



We were thrilled to welcome Dr. Stephanie Tubiolo to the music department last fall, and her first concert with Chapel Choir and Kantorei collected 310 pounds of food for the Dorothy Day Food Pantry! In November, we hosted hundreds of students on campus for our annual High School Choir Festival, a great opportunity to introduce Dr. Tubiolo to the choral community we love. Our festival this coming October will feature guest clinician Kyle Pederson, one of the most prolific contemporary voices in choral music composition today. In December, The Concordia Choir, Chapel Choir, Kantorei, and the Concordia Orchestra presented Welcome All Wonders - the 99th annual Christmas concerts - to the largest audiences in many years in both Moorhead and Minneapolis. Plans are well underway for the 100th Christmas Concerts which will be presented this winter!



CONCORDIA CHORAL PROGRAM (CONT.)

Our electrifying February choirs concert was standing-room-only in the Centrum and featured Kantorei, Chapel Choir, our new Gospel Ensemble, and guest choir *Vivace* from Davies High School in Fargo, led by distinguished Cobber alumna Carly Grandner-McDougall. Soon after, The Concordia Choir took the Northeast region of the United States by storm, including a concert in St. Johnsbury, Vermont – likely the first time the choir had ever sung in that beautiful state! The Chapel Choir presented their tour program to packed audiences throughout Minnesota, and both choir tours concluded with wildly successful concerts on campus. To close our season, all three of our choirs combined with The Concordia Orchestra to fill Memorial Auditorium with a rousing performance of Verdi's *Requiem*.

Some other favorite moments from this season:

- The Concordia Choir collaborated with The National Lutheran Choir in a concert this past March held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. NLC was enjoying a trip to Moorhead as part of a celebration of their 40th Anniversary, and we especially loved connecting with their Concordia choral alumni.
- This fall, we held a student composition contest generously sponsored by Frederick Robin '24 and Studio FSR. Levi Patton '27 won the contest with a stunning new score titled 'Sympathy,' which Chapel Choir premiered on their tour program. Levi traveled with the choir and even conducted several performances of his piece! The Chapel Choir also presented the premiere of 'To Be Sung of a Summer Dusk on the Water' by local composer Chris Fistonich.
- Sandra Peter's new work 'There is Room, There is Love,' commissioned for The Concordia Choir's 2025 tour program, is now published by E.C. Schirmer and is available to be sung by choirs around the world!

The cohort of student-led vocal ensembles has grown even larger this past year with several new ensembles emerging. Though these groups are advised by Dr. Culloton and Dr. Tubiolo, most of the programming and rehearsing is led directly by students, many of whom are studying to be music educators and conductors upon graduation. Peace, be Still, our new Gospel ensemble, and Jewel Tones, our new ensemble for treble voices, both sang in their first public performances during the spring semester. Veteran ensembles include Tactus, Damkör, Voce, Jazz Singers, Jazz Maroon, and Jazz Gold, who continue to be in high gear!

We are so excited to embark on our 2026-27 season and to welcome an even larger cohort of singers back to campus this fall. We look forward to singing for you soon!



ORCHESTRA TOUR 2026

The Concordia Orchestra concluded its Midwest tour with a captivating program that took audiences on a musical journey across cultures, landscapes, and even galaxies. Opening the concert was the Minnesota state premiere of Lawren Brianna Ware's M31 (Messier 31), an exhilarating work inspired by the wonders and mysteries of the Andromeda Galaxy. The piece showcased the talents of all 92 student musicians, with each section of the orchestra taking center stage throughout the imaginative spacefaring adventure. Ware's visit to campus prior to the tour provided students with valuable insight into the compositional process and deepened their connection to the work.

The program continued with a diverse selection of repertoire that highlighted global musical traditions and masterworks of the orchestral canon. Audiences experienced the rich cultural influences of Jamyangiin Chuluun's Variations on Two Folksongs and Bao Yuankai's Chinese Sights and Sounds, alongside the virtuosity of Camille Saint-Saëns' Violin Concerto No. 3 and the dramatic power of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 6. Beyond the performances, the tour reflected Concordia's commitment to education and community engagement through school visits, mentorship opportunities, and academic residencies. Under the direction of Dr. Kevin Sütterlin, the orchestra demonstrated remarkable artistic growth, professionalism, and dedication, leaving a lasting impression on audiences throughout the region.



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE PERFORMANCE](#)

HONOR BAND AND HONOR JAZZ BAND FESTIVAL

On March 27-29, we hosted 107 high school students at our annual Honor Band and Jazz Band Festival. Our concert was held at the Fargo Air Museum while Memorial Auditorium is undergoing renovations.

The Honor Band students worked with Dr. Peter Haberman, visiting Professor Malcolm Burke, and our guest composer and conductor, Adrian Sims. Burke recently graduated with his doctorate degree in conducting with a wind band emphasis at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. This fall he will begin his new position as Director of Bands at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK. Sims is an accomplished composer and conductor of music for bands, orchestra, and chamber ensembles of all levels with more than 50 publications. His works are often selected for the JW Pepper Editor's Choice List, the Bandworld Top 100 List, and the Texas Prescribed Music List.

The Honor Jazz Band students worked with Professor Russ Peterson and guest artist Chad LB. Chad is a saxophone player from New York who has been a featured artist on two GRAMMY winning albums and has toured through 6 continents playing venues from Carnegie Hall to the Super Bowl. His debut album, Imagery Manifesto, was named "Debut Album of the Year" by jazz critic and author, Doug Ramsey.



SPRING MASTERWORKS CONCERT

Giuseppe Verdi's monumental *Messa da Requiem* was brought to life in a stirring and deeply moving performance on Sunday, April 26, 2026, by the Concordia Orchestra and the Concordia Choirs under the direction of Dr. Stephanie Tubiolo. Featuring soloists Lucy Thrasher, Holly Janz, Robin Griffeth, and Peter Halverson, the evening offered audiences both breathtaking musical power and profound emotional reflection. From the hushed opening measures of the "Requiem aeternam" to the thunderous drama of the "Dies Irae," the combined forces of orchestra and choir captured the extraordinary range of Verdi's masterpiece. The Concordia Choirs sang with remarkable clarity, warmth, and intensity, while the orchestra provided both sweeping grandeur and moments of intimate lyricism. Dr. Tubiolo guided the ensemble with precision and expressive sensitivity, shaping the work's dramatic contrasts and spiritual depth with confidence and artistry.

The four soloists each brought distinctive strengths to the performance. Lucy Thrasher's soaring soprano illuminated the ensemble passages with brilliance and emotional urgency. Holly Janz contributed a rich, resonant mezzo-soprano voice that grounded the quartet beautifully. Robin Griffeth sang with lyrical warmth and expressive phrasing, while Peter Halverson's commanding bass gave weight and solemnity to Verdi's darker moments. Together, the quartet blended seamlessly in the work's many ensembles, particularly in the moving "Recordare" and the luminous final pages of the "Libera me." Verdi composed the *Requiem* in memory of the celebrated Italian writer and patriot Alessandro Manzoni, whom the composer deeply admired. Premiered in 1874 at the Church of San Marco in Milan on the first anniversary of Manzoni's death, the work quickly became one of the most beloved large-scale choral compositions in the classical repertoire. Though written as a sacred mass for the dead, Verdi infused the music with the theatrical intensity for which he was famous in his operas. The result is a work that combines spiritual contemplation with gripping human drama.



CONCORDIA VOICE DEPARTMENT

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING

By Dr. Robin Griffeath

Voice students of Dr. Anthony Leathem, Dr. Jennifer Anne Nash, Dr. Holly Janz, and Dr. Robin Griffeath competed in the North Central NATS Auditions. These students placed in their divisions and will advance to the National Student Auditions.

CL 5A — First Year Post-High School Lower Classical (Treble Voices)

2nd Place — Ellie Stordalen — Student of Holly Janz

CL 5B — Second Year Post-High School Lower Classical (Treble Voices)

1st Place — Sophia Keller — Student of Jennifer Anne Nash

2nd Place — Evelyn Gould — Student of Robin Griffeath

CL 6A — First Year Post-High School Lower Classical (TBB Voices)

1st Place — Aidan O'Shea — Student of Robin Griffeath

2nd Place — Trace Tysver — Student of Robin Griffeath

Also advancing to the NSA: Royce Blixt

CL 6B — Second Year Post-High School Lower Classical (TBB Voices)

2nd Place — Isaac Nelson — Student of Robin Griffeath

CL 7A — Third Year Post-High School Upper Classical (Treble Voices)

2nd Place — Tabitha Poppe — Student of Robin Griffeath

CL 7B — Fourth/Fifth Year Post-High School Upper Classical (Treble Voices)

2nd Place — Jacob Penny — Student of Antony Leathem

CL 8A — Third Year Post-High School Upper Classical (TBB Voices)

Advancing to the NSA:

Jacob Schlueter — Student of Robin Griffeath

Aidan Anderson — Student of Antony Leathem

MT 5B — Second Year Post-High School Lower Musical Theatre (Treble Voices)

1st Place — Ella Corwin — Student of Holly Janz

2nd Place — Eliza McIntyre — Student of Robin Griffeath

MT 6A — First Year Post-High School Lower Musical Theatre (TBB Voices)

1st Place — Sam Schaefer — Student of Robin Griffeath

In April 2026, the following students advanced to the live semifinal round of the National Student Auditions of NATS in San Antonio, Texas, that will be held July 3–5, 2026. Each semifinalist ranks among the top fifteen singers in the nation within their respective age division.

Aidan O'Shea — Student of Robin Griffeath

Jacob Schlueter — Student of Robin Griffeath

Aidan Anderson — Student of Antony Leathem

Oakley Oss — Student of Antony Leathem

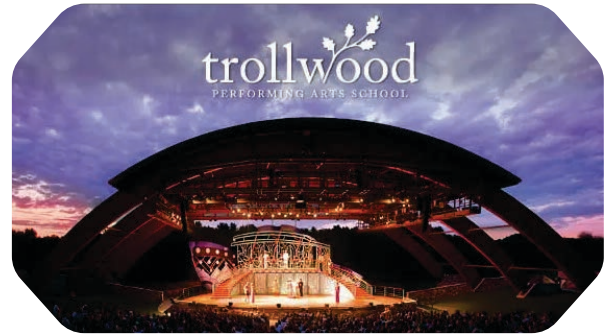
Sam Schaefer — Student of Robin Griffeath

CONCORDIA VOICE DEPARTMENT

CONCORDIA & TROLLWOOD STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

By Dr. Robin Griffeath

Concordia College and Trollwood Performing Arts School have launched a new partnership beginning in summer 2026 to provide expanded opportunities for young performing artists through scholarships, internships, employment, and professional training. The initiative builds on a long-standing relationship between the two organizations and reflects their shared commitment to artistic excellence, mentorship, and student development. Concordia students will have access to PEAK-eligible internships and summer positions at Trollwood, including roles as rehearsal accompanists, orchestra section leaders, pit musicians, and instructors. Leaders from both institutions emphasized that these experiences will help students develop practical skills, strengthen career preparation, and create pathways for future success in the performing arts.



A key feature of the partnership is a scholarship program for rising high school seniors involved in Trollwood productions. Each year, Concordia will award four Trollwood Merit Scholarships to outstanding students in music, acting, and technical theatre, while additional students may be nominated for Concordia music scholarships. Scholarship recipients will also advance directly to the live round of Concordia's music scholarship competition, where they may be considered for the Christiansen Scholarship. The collaboration also strengthens existing connections between the institutions, including the leadership roles of Robin and Dr. Kristin Griffeath in the Trollwood Conservatory and Mainstage Musical, further expanding opportunities for students to gain valuable artistic and professional experience.



CONCORDIA COLLEGE PIANO DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

The Concordia Piano Festival celebrated the remarkable beauty, versatility, and expressive power of the piano through a series of free public concerts in Christiansen Recital Hall. Featuring performances of works by renowned composers including Chopin, Schubert, Liszt, Mendelssohn, and Brahms, alongside contemporary compositions, the festival showcased the piano's unique ability to communicate emotion and connect with audiences. Directed by Dr. Grigor Khachatryan, associate professor of piano at Concordia College, the event highlighted the instrument as both a solo voice and a collaborative force within musical ensembles.

The festival featured performances by Concordia musician-instructors Dr. Jay Hershberger, Dr. Albina Khaliapova, Dr. Eduard Teregulov, Dr. Victor Avila-Luvsangenden, and Khachatryan, as well as a guest recital by Dr. Matthew Cataldi of Radford University. Audience members also had the opportunity to experience the sound of a handcrafted Yamaha CFX grand piano, the company's flagship concert instrument, brought to campus by Popplers Music. Together, the performances offered a memorable celebration of piano artistry and demonstrated the instrument's enduring role at the heart of musical expression and collaboration.



34TH ANNUAL CONCORDIA PERCUSSION DAY

The 34th Annual Concordia Percussion Day at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, was a resounding success. The event took place on Saturday, April 11, 2026, bringing together students, educators, performers, and percussion enthusiasts from across the region for a full day of inspiring music, education, and collaboration.

The 2026 edition featured outstanding master classes, clinics, concerts, and performances led by an incredible lineup of guest artists and clinicians, including Sasha Berliner, Dr. Ivan Manzanilla, Dr. Mark DeMull, and Dr. Kenyon Williams.

The day began with the performances of three drumlines from town, including the Concordia drumline, the Moorhead Spud Line led by Wade Stalboerger, and the Sheyenne Mustang Drumline under the direction of James Landman. These ensembles presented original and innovative cadences, showing the power of the drums in town.



From left to right: Dr. David P. Eyler, Dr. Ivan Manzanilla, Dr. Kenyon Williams, Sasha Berliner, Dr. Mark DeMull, and Dr. Roberto Palomeque



Seth Anderson, Andrew Kocher, Dr. Roberto Palomeque, Samuel Deneen, and Dr. Ivan Manzanilla.

[Click here to watch performance](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON COMPOSITION

Contributed by Dr. Doug Harbin

On April 22, 2026, Concordia Composition Studio presented our first ever Singer/Songwriter Night! Organized by sophomore composition major Lindy Hanson, twenty-one original songs were performed by eight songwriters in the South Maize. With this kind of interest, we are hoping that this event starts becoming an annual tradition!



Photo Credits: Dr. Doug Harbin



CONTINUING THE TRADITION

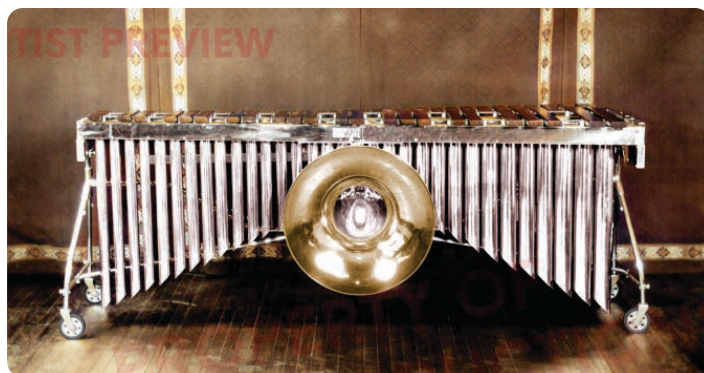
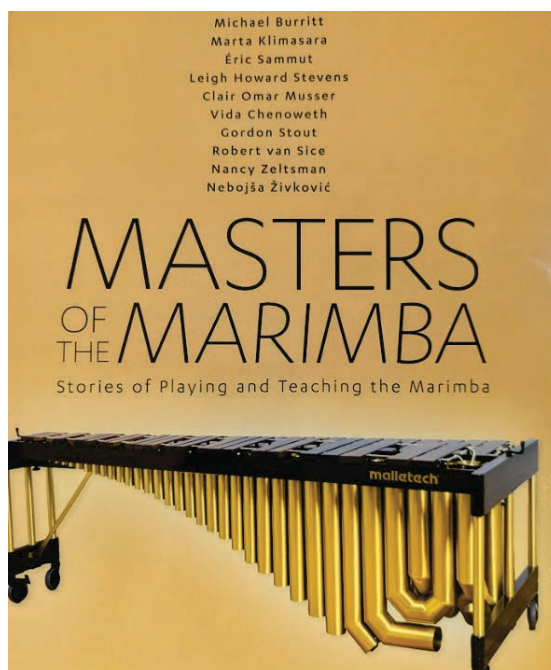


FACULTY NEWS



Dr. David P. Eyler, Emeritus-In-Residence Professor at Concordia, was invited to write the chapter on “The Life of Clair Omar Musser” for a book entitled “Masters of the Marimba.”

Recently published by Marimba Productions, the book covers many of the marimba virtuosi of the 20th century. Clair Musser distinguished himself initially as a marimba virtuoso in the early 20th Century, but was later active as an instrument designer, innovator, composer, arranger, and conductor of large marimba orchestras that toured in the United States and Europe.





FACULTY NEWS



Concordia College's annual circuit721 recital captivated audiences with the world premiere of two innovative electroacoustic works inspired by the sounds of nature. Composed by Dr. Doug Harbin, associate professor of music theory and composition, in collaboration with scientist researchers Dr. Courtney Gula and Dr. Brent Hulke, "Wingbeat" and "Drones" transformed recordings of monarch butterfly wingbeats and beehive activity into immersive musical experiences. A pre-concert presentation introduced attendees to the scientific research behind the project, highlighting the important role of pollinators and sunflower ecosystems while providing insight into the creative process that connected science and music.



The recital showcased the imaginative possibilities of electroacoustic composition, blending recognizable natural sounds with electronic manipulation and live performance. Through moments that ranged from playful and energetic to powerful and atmospheric, the new works invited listeners to experience familiar sounds in unexpected ways. The evening also featured performances by guest artists Dr. Eduard Teregulov on cello and Dr. Sonja Bosca-Harasim on violin, whose artistry complemented the innovative program. Together, the performers and collaborators created a memorable event that celebrated creativity, interdisciplinary research, and the rich sonic landscapes found in the natural world.





FACULTY NEWS



ATHENA BRASS

Concordia College celebrated Women's History Month with an inspiring performance by Athena Brass on March 27 in Christiansen Recital Hall. The women-only ensemble, which draws musicians from a global roster of more than 200 brass performers, showcased exceptional artistry and professionalism in a program curated by Concordia assistant professor of trumpet Dr. Erika Izaguirre. Joining Izaguirre on stage were distinguished musicians Dr. Stacy Simpson, Emelie Pfaff, Dr. Danielle VanTuinen, Dr. Karen Marston, and Heather Ewer, whose collective experience spans orchestras, brass bands, higher education, and professional performance organizations across the United States and abroad.



Dr. Erika Izaguirre

The concert featured a vibrant and engaging selection of works that highlighted both established and contemporary voices in brass music, including Jennifer Oliverio's playful "City Stroll," arrangements by Marston of Lauren Bernofsky's "Two Latin Dances" and Lili Boulanger's "D'un Matin de printemps," and Ewer's arrangement of "Golden" from KPop Demon Hunters. Throughout the evening, Athena Brass demonstrated its commitment to advancing women musicians and composers through outstanding performance and thoughtful programming. The concert not only entertained audiences but also underscored the ensemble's mission of creating opportunities for women in brass while celebrating the depth, diversity, and excellence of female artistry in the musical world.





FACULTY NEWS



Concordia College audiences enjoyed an evening of exceptional musicianship at a faculty recital featuring Dr. Nat Dickey, professor of trombone and chair of the music department. Performing a diverse program of original works by composers Enrique Crespo, Camille Saint-Saëns, James Stephenson, Vincent Persichetti, Kenley Kristofferson, and Sonya Leonore Stahl, Dickey showcased the versatility and expressive range of the trombone. He was joined by Concordia faculty colleagues Andrew Steinberg on piano and Dr. Eduard Teregulov on cello, whose collaborative performances added depth and artistry to the program. The recital highlighted the talent and dedication of Concordia's music faculty while offering the community an engaging and memorable concert experience.



Dr. Nathaniel Dickey

Chapel Choir Tour 2026

The Concordia Chapel Choir successfully completed its Minnesota tour, sharing its thoughtfully curated program, *Soon As I Get Home*, with audiences across the state. Through a diverse repertoire spanning cultures, languages, and musical traditions, the 85-voice ensemble explored themes of home, belonging, and community, offering performances that balanced deep reflection with moments of joy and celebration. Highlights included the world premiere of student composer Levi Patton's award-winning work *Sympathy* and a vibrant performance of Ariel Ramírez's *Misa Criolla*, featuring collaboration with Dr. Roberto Palomeque and student percussionists. The tour also provided meaningful opportunities to connect with fellow musicians through collaborations with high school and community choirs, culminating in performances that showcased the artistry, dedication, and spirit of Concordia's choral community.



Dr. Stephanie Tubiolo





CONCORDIA NEWS



Contributed by Jay Hershberger

Maria Clapp '26, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano. This fall, she will attend James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, where she will pursue a Master of Music in Piano under the tutelage of Dr. Gabriel Dobner. JMU award Maria is a full tuition scholarship and a graduate teaching assistantship. According to Dr. Dobner, Maria was the top applicant for the master's degree in piano at JMU for the academic year 2026-27.



Vocal Jazz Festival 2026

Concordia College's 2026 Vocal Jazz Festival brought together talented high school vocal ensembles from across Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota for a day of music-making, learning, and collaboration. The festival featured clinics and educational sessions led by the internationally acclaimed vocal jazz ensemble New York Voices, along with jazz educators Tommy Boynton and Liz Townsend. Students received individualized feedback during on-stage performance clinics and explored topics in jazz performance and pedagogy while sharing the stage with Concordia's three vocal jazz ensembles. The event provided a valuable opportunity for young musicians to develop their artistry, connect with peers from across the region, and learn from some of the most respected voices in vocal jazz.



New York Voices



CONCORDIA NEWS



Concordia Opera Program National Recognition

Concordia College Opera earned national recognition with a second-place tie in Division II of the National Opera Association's Opera Production Competition for its commissioned orchestral production of Jonathan Stinson's *The Three Bears*. The award places Concordia among the nation's leading collegiate opera programs and highlights the exceptional artistic achievement of the students, faculty, and staff involved in bringing the production to life. The recognition reflects the program's commitment to excellence in performance, collaboration, and innovative opera production. The production was especially meaningful as the first collaboration between Concordia's opera, theatre, and orchestra programs, creating a multidisciplinary partnership that enriched the artistic experience both on stage and behind the scenes. Led by Dr. Robin Griffeth, director of opera and associate professor of voice, the project showcased the power of creative teamwork and the collective talents of the Concordia community. The national honor celebrates not only the success of *The Three Bears* but also the strong foundation established for future collaborations across the college's performing arts programs.



Helen Tintes-Schuermann Masterclass Community Event

Concordia College welcomed internationally acclaimed performer, educator, and Fulbright Scholar Dr. Helen Tintes-Schuermann for an engaging masterclass focused on Spanish and German vocal repertoire. Students had the opportunity to work closely with Tintes-Schuermann as she shared insights into vocal technique, interpretation, and the rich traditions of art song performance, drawing on her extensive international experience as a performer and teacher. Following the masterclass, attendees participated in a thoughtful question-and-answer session exploring topics ranging from arts leadership and cultural exchange to the value of a liberal arts education and pursuing ambitious goals. The event provided an inspiring educational experience for students and community members alike, highlighting the transformative power of music, scholarship, and global engagement.





CONCORDIA NEWS



CONTINUING THE TRADITION

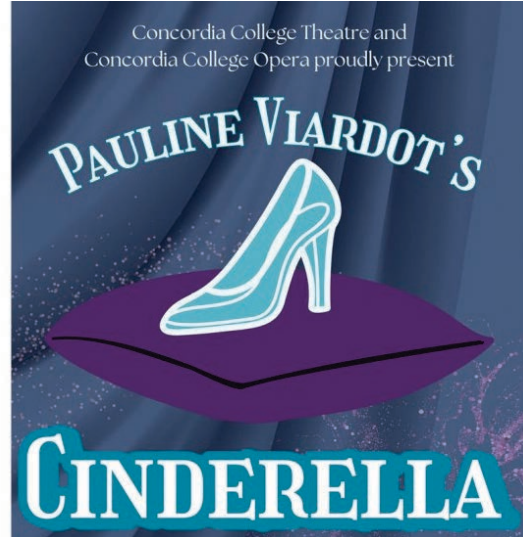
Sarah Kremer '16 - Composition Premiere

Concordia College alumna and composer Sarah Kremer '16 celebrated the world premiere of her original orchestral work, *A Paddler's Symphony*, with the Buffalo Community Orchestra on March 1, 2026. The four-movement symphony drew audiences into a vivid musical journey inspired by Kremer's wilderness canoeing experiences and the writings of Minnesota author Douglas Wood, who provided live narration during the performance. From tranquil nighttime landscapes and challenging paddling expeditions to sweeping lake vistas and an energetic finale, the work captured the beauty, adventure, and personal growth found in the natural world. The concert's premiere was made even more meaningful through the participation of Concordia faculty mentor Russell Peterson as tenor saxophone soloist, highlighting the enduring connections between Kremer's artistic achievements and her Concordia education.



Concordia Theatre

Concordia Theatre and Concordia Opera delighted audiences with a charming production of *Cinderella* (Cendrillon), Pauline Viardot's beloved chamber opera, presented in the Frances Frazier Comstock Theatre. Under the direction of Dr. Robin Griffeath and featuring choreography by Mariah Schafer, the production brought Viardot's timeless retelling of the classic fairy tale to life through engaging performances, expressive music, and imaginative staging. Students from across Concordia's theatre and opera programs collaborated to create a memorable artistic experience, showcasing their talents while introducing audiences to a rarely performed work that blended humor, romance, and musical elegance. The production highlighted the strength of interdisciplinary collaboration and the vibrant performing arts community at Concordia College.



SPRINGTIME IN THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT!

CONTINUING THE TRADITION



HIGHLIGHT - GRADUATING SENIORS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Benjamin Archuleta
Brady Burss
Grace Fink
Andrew Kocher
Abby Rae Nelson
Jacob Penny
Russell Romine
Henry Sipples

Summa Cum Laude

Elizabeth Ames
Zachary Ryan Catalan
Martan Christian Gregoire
Svea Hagen
Aaron Kess
Louisa Kuhnley
Jonathon Marsyla
Sammuel Zimmerman

Magna Cum Laude

Maria Milena Clapp
Megan Gunnerson
Lydia Kathryn Horan
Greta Johnson
Aidan Kaddatz
Mia Kramer
Lindsay Noyes

Cum Laude

Charles Michael DeNet
Spencer G. Lathe
LaRenna Mosbrucker
Elijaah Osorio-Slack

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Katarina Crnogorac
Josephine Golla
Jaden Hoff
Cheryn Lindsay
Denise Marsh
Bryant Neumann
Atticus Osborne
Joshua Powell
Trond Sjoberg

Summa Cum Laude

Anthony Berndt
Britta S. Nordin

Magna Cum Laude

Aneleise Martinson
Grace Kim Phan
Haley Marie Walsh-Frisby

MASTER OF MUSIC

Kathleen Henderson
Nicholas Larson
Morgan Ashley Vosburgh



CONTINUING THE TRADITION

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

Duo Cantabile: Dr. Simona Barbu, cello, and Dr. Nariaki Sugiura, piano - Friday, September 11th | 6:00 pm | CRH

Yamaha Piano Event - Tuesday, September 15th | 7:00 pm | CRH

The Brontë Sisters: Retrospection Performance - Tuesday, September 22nd | 7:30 pm | CRH

Faculty Recital: Mara Campbell, soprano, Doug Harbin & Kyle Vanderburg, Composition

- Friday, September 25th | 7:30 pm | CRH

Senior Soloist Recital - Sunday, September 27th | CRH

Fall Choirs Concert - Sunday, October 4th | 4:00 pm | MEM

Fall Student Composer Recital - Monday, October 5th | 7:30 pm | CRH

Homecoming Concert - Saturday, October 10th | 6:30 pm | MEM

Jazz Bands Concert - Tuesday, October 13th | 7:30 pm | BH

Guest Artist Piano Recital - Friday, October 30th | 7:30 pm | CRH

NOVEMBER

Orchestra Tour Home Concert - Sunday, Nov. 1st | 2:00 pm | MEM

Honor Strings Concert - Sunday, Nov. 8th | 12:30 pm | MEM

Fall Bands Concert - Sunday, Nov. 15th | 6:00 pm | MEM

Symphonia Concert - Monday, Nov. 16th | 7:30 pm | BH

Handbells Concert - TBD | 7:30 pm | CRH

Prism Concert - Sunday, Nov. 22nd | 12:00 pm | MEM

Echo Band Concert - Sunday, 6:00 pm | BH

Vocal Jazz Fall Concert - Monday, Nov. 23rd | 7:30 pm | CRH

DECEMBER

Christmas Concerts - Memorial Auditorium

- Friday, December 4th | 7:30 pm
- Saturday, December 5th | 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm
- Sunday, December 6th | 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

Flute and Clarinet Choirs Concert - TBD | CRH

Low Brass Studio Recital - TBD | CRH

Percussion Ensemble Concert - TBD | BH



CRH- Christiansen Recital Hall | BH- Buxton Hanson Rehearsal Hall | MEM- Memorial Auditorium

To stay up to date, click on the “[schedule](#)” link below.

2026 Orchestra Tour Schedule

Northfield, Minnesota

Tuesday, Oct. 27 - 7:30 p.m.

Brainerd, Minnesota

Friday, Oct. 30 - TBD

TBD

Wednesday, Oct. 28

TBD

Saturday, Oct. 31

TBD

Thursday, Oct. 29

Moorhead, Minnesota

Sunday, Nov. 1 - 2 p.m.

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More information available soon at
ConcordiaCollege.edu/OrchestraTour

2027 Band Tour Schedule

More information available soon at
ConcordiaCollege.edu/BandTour

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2027 Choir Tour Schedule

Brainerd, Minnesota

Saturday, Feb. 27 - 4 p.m.

Tempe, Arizona

Thursday, March 4 - 7:30 p.m.

Dana Point, California

Wednesday, March 10 - 7 p.m.

Cherry Hills Village, Colorado

Sunday, Feb. 28 - 4 p.m.

Scottsdale, Arizona

Friday, March 5 - 7 p.m.

Redlands, California

Thursday, March 11 - 7 p.m.

Fort Collins, Colorado

Monday, March 1 - 7 p.m.

Tucson, Arizona

Saturday, March 6 - 4 p.m.

Plymouth, Minnesota

Friday, March 12 - 7 p.m.

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Tuesday, March 2 - 7 p.m.

Sun City, Arizona

Sunday, March 7 - 3 p.m.

Willmar, Minnesota

Saturday, March 13 - 2 p.m.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Wednesday, March 3 - 7:30 p.m.

Rancho Santa Fe, California

Tuesday, March 9 - 7:30 p.m.

Moorhead, Minnesota

Sunday, March 15 - 3 p.m.

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