

The 34th Annual Concordia Percussion Day took place on Saturday, April 11th, 2026, at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and featured an incredible lineup of guest artists and clinicians: **Sasha Berliner, Dr. Ivan Manzanilla, Dr. Mark DeMull, and Dr. Kenyon Williams.** The day featured various events from outstanding master classes and clinics to concerts and performances. It brought students, educators, performers, and percussion enthusiasts together from across the region for a full day of inspiring music, education, and collaboration.



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

Starting at 9:00 AM were the **Drumline Performances.** Three groups performed: **the Concordia College Drumline** (directed by Roberto Palomeque and student director Noah Nielsen), **the Moorhead Spud Line** (led by Wade Stalboerger), and **the Sheyenne Mustang Drumline** (directed by James Landman). Each drumline showcased several original cadences and music unique to their respective ensemble. One standout performance from the Moorhead Spud line was a piece that featured a lights-off performance and blacklights, with each member of the line being on a snare drum with a pair of neon-taped drumsticks, creating an intrancing visual and musical experience.



The Moorhead Spud Line,

The Sheyenne Mustang Drumline

This year, we featured a standout event from the day that allowed attendees to learn from internationally recognized vibraphonist and composer **Sasha Berliner**, alongside the Concordia Jazz Ensemble led by professor Russ Peterson. Berliner is one of the new outstanding figures in jazz as a vibraphonist, and she showed these skills by bringing to our percussion day a great program featuring original compositions for combo and big band standards. Likewise, her clinic approached new insights into the vibes as a modern instrument, blending jazz with contemporary and experimental styles.



Sasha Berliner and The Concordia Jazz Ensemble

Along with Berliner, we featured two renowned percussionists from the Fargo-Moorhead area, **Dr. Kenyon Williams** and **Dr. Mark DeMull**. Both artists presented engaging clinics and performances, providing valuable musical insight, technical instruction, and artistic inspiration throughout the day for attendees and students. Dr. Williams's clinic focused on Afro-Cuban rhythms, engaging with the community at all levels, featuring Evan Strand on Bass, both Dr. Palomeque and Dr. Manzanilla on percussion. Dr. DeMull performed a marimba recital featuring original works by living composers he commissioned, getting a very warm reception from the audience.



Dr. Kenyon Williams

Dr. Mark DeMull

Dr. Ivan Manzanilla was our international guest artist and is an acclaimed Mexican percussionist. Dr. Manzanilla presented a clinic and solo performance based on an innovative program of

percussion solos by modern composers, including works by Javier Álvarez, João Pedro Oliveira, Terry Logshore, Arturo Márquez, Mark Applebaum, and Alejandra Hernández.



Dr. Ivan Manzanilla Solo Performance

The Concordia Percussion Ensemble and Viva Marimba presented our traditional performance featuring Dr. Eduard Teregulov on cello performing Lou for Solo Cello and Percussion Orchestra by Baljinder Singh Sekhon. This year's performance included works by Casella, Rosauero, Moncayo, Nandayapa, Sekhon, Mendelssohn, and Saint-Saëns, among others. Students and community members did an awesome performance.



Dr. Eduard Teregulov (Cello), the Concordia Percussion Ensemble and Viva Marimba.

The final performance on percussion day featured the **Dr. Palomeque Trio**. Dr. Palomeque forms the ensemble alongside Samuel Deneen and Andrew Kocher, playing Fiesta de Pajaros by the Guatemalan Composer Jesus Castillo for marimba Trio and the Abe's master work, The Wave, for solo marimba and percussion ensemble, with Dr. Palomeque as a soloist and Dr. Manzanilla, Seth Anderson, Samuel Deneen, and Andrew Kocher on percussion.



From left to right: Seth Anderson, Andrew Kocher, Dr. Roberto Palomeque, Samuel Deneen and Dr. Ivan Manzanilla.

We want to thank our audience, guest artists, students, sponsors, and all who make the 34th Annual Concordia Percussion Day possible. We are committed to keeping our Percussion Day alive, exemplifying Concordia College's dedication to musical excellence, community involvement, and educational outreach. Thank you for joining us this year; we look forward to a special edition on the 35th Concordia Percussion Day in the spring of 2027.



Concordia College Day of Percussion information is available at the following link:
<https://www.concordiacollege.edu/music/performances-and-events/percussion-day/>

Photos by Abby Fisette and Kayla Bones.



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