

GUIDE TO THE **MUSIC** **DEPARTMENT**

WELCOME TO HVIDSTEN



CONCORDIA COLLEGE
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

A Message from Kristen



At 17, I entered Concordia College as a vocal music education major before deciding I wanted to pursue opera instead, and then switching once again to the flute performance degree I graduated with. By the time I was a junior I had no idea where exactly I was headed, but there were three things that remained true:

- ▶ **I was enjoying the time I was spending** in my classes, in rehearsals, and at the couches in the music building with friends and faculty that were actively shaping the trajectory of my life and career.
- ▶ **I was becoming a better musician** day by day through my studies and I was given opportunities that I wouldn't have received if I had chosen to go elsewhere.
- ▶ **I was becoming a better person** through my Concordia experience. The campus environment encouraged me to challenge myself and my individuality was valued by the community.

As music enrollment coordinator, I now have the privilege of helping students evaluate if Concordia is the right place for them to grow regardless of whether or not they're a music major. All students have a place here and I want to help them find it. Your college decision is yours to make — take the time to find the place that can do for you what Concordia was able to do for me.

Kristen Hatfield
Music Enrollment Coordinator | 612.741.9094 | hatfield@cord.edu

Concordia Music Scholarships

Incoming students are eligible to apply for our music scholarships, stackable with academic scholarships and available for students of any major. The annual deadline for applications is **FEB. 1**, and we hope to see one from you!

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Apply and be admitted to the college
2. Submit an application online
3. Perform a live finalist audition/interview

Scholarship amounts and event dates can be found at ConcordiaCollege.edu/MusicScholarships



Studying Music at Concordia

At Concordia, we emphasize creativity and ownership of your own education through diverse course offerings and individualized attention. You'll have access to full-time faculty to build meaningful relationships that will prepare you for a life including music.

MUSIC DEGREES

GENERAL MUSIC

An ideal degree for students wanting to double major in music and another subject, this Bachelor of Arts degree offers all the benefits of a music degree, along with the core requirements of a liberal arts education.

MUSIC COMPOSITION

Concordia offers a Bachelor of Music degree in composition, where you'll develop an understanding of music composition as a craft and an art.

MUSIC EDUCATION

Our music education program is well known as one of the strongest in the region, with two degree tracks (Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music) for future music teachers, both leading to licensure in K-12 education.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Performance majors at Concordia pursue an intensive Bachelor of Music degree program which prepares them for performing careers as well as graduate school studies and private studio teaching.

Our curriculum focuses on studying music through a variety of lenses that offer opportunities for collaboration and creative ventures with your peers. In the Hvidsten Hall of Music, you'll be more than a number, and our support is for more than four years — **we'll be there for you long after graduation!**

MUSIC AND BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This degree is designed for those who may want to pursue working in the music industry, running a non-profit arts organization, or marketing yourself as a musician. This Bachelor of Arts track allows students to pursue coursework in the music department and the Offutt School of Business.

MUSIC MINOR

A music minor is available for students pursuing any non-music degree on campus who want to add academic music studies to their course plan.

CHURCH MUSIC MINOR

Our church music minor is available for any student on campus (including music majors) and recommended for those who can see themselves leading or participating in music in a church setting.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MUSIC DEGREES + HOW TO BE ACCEPTED



COMPOSITION

The composition program at Concordia emphasizes both technical craft and artistic expression. From the outset, students engage in private lessons and participate in weekly seminars, fostering an understanding of composition as a learned skill and a creative art form. Our faculty provide a tailored approach, guiding students through their individual development as composers. Through dedicated student composition recitals and performances in various on- and off-campus settings, students see their works come to life. Alumni from our composition program have contributed meaningfully to the world of contemporary music in film scoring, musical theatre, opera, songwriting, publishing, and music technology.

Concordia’s composition program seeks individuals who are focused, dedicated, and passionate about developing their creative self. Admission to our program requires an interview. Composers are encouraged to apply for a composition scholarship, which requires submitting original scores and/or recordings.

ALUMNI FEATURE

“I am a composer in Hollywood for film/tv/video games. I work under another composer, John Paesano, as a member of his team and also as a freelance composer for my own projects. We work with companies such as Disney, Netflix, Amazon, Sony, and others to provide custom music for their properties. Film composing is a career where you have to wear a lot of hats that aren’t music related.

Concordia helped me check that box early so that I could focus on all the other hats during the early stages of my career. Concordia’s faculty were crucial in my development as a composer and person, stretching/pushing/challenging me in ways that I couldn’t understand until I was further on in my compositional journey.”



– Adam Hochstatter '09

MORE ABOUT THE
COMPOSITION
PROGRAM



PIANO AND ORGAN STUDIES

Discover personalized piano and organ opportunities at Concordia, where every student, regardless of major, studies under full professors dedicated to quality education. Our faculty, experienced performers nationally and internationally, provide discipline-specific instruction with consistent availability throughout the academic year. For non-music majors pursuing degrees in science, humanities, or other fields, Concordia ensures robust piano learning opportunities at the highest level.

Concordia offers a piano curriculum that prepares students for high-level performance and musicianship. Courses delve into repertoire, literature, and performance techniques, complemented by weekly studio classes, frequent recitals, and collaborations with guest artists at festivals and through residencies. Our faculty’s community involvement leads to opportunities in collaborative accompanying, church music, and more. Organ students receive specialized instruction and access to multiple instruments, guided by faculty dedicated to their musical development and professional growth.

- ▶ 100% GRADUATE SCHOOL PLACEMENT RATE
- ▶ 2 NINE-FOOT CONCERT GRAND PIANOS
- ▶ OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS OF ANY MAJOR
- ▶ WEEKLY STUDIO CLASSES
- ▶ DEDICATED GRAND PIANO PRACTICE ROOMS

CURRENT STUDENT FEATURE

“In my degree, I have learned to challenge myself and to take in as much as I can from the wonderful resources Concordia offers me. I find the community in the music department to be very supportive, both students and professors alike. Whether I am getting through another day of class or performing my repertoire in a recital, it is safe to say that I am always surrounded by friendly people who cheer me on!”

– Mia Kramer '26



PIANO EVENTS
+ MORE INFO



CHORAL AND VOCAL STUDIES

Regardless of their major, all vocalists may take part in any of our award-winning ensembles and can receive voice lessons from faculty to refine their vocal skills. With conservatory-level training provided by faculty who bring national and international performance experience, students receive personalized instruction that supports their artistic aspirations across various genres.

Concordia's choirs are known for their high standards and varied repertoire, which greatly enhance a student's musical education — plus, being part of a choir fosters a strong sense of belonging. Students form lasting friendships and work closely with peers who share their passion for music. We perform a diverse array of music, including works from different cultures and historical periods, and our strong choral tradition carries a reputation for excellence, which can be a significant addition to a student's resume or academic portfolio. In short, singing in the choirs at Concordia College offers a blend of artistic development, personal growth, and community building, all within a supportive and enriching environment.

Our opera and solo voice program offers on-campus experiences through our fully-staged opera and musical theatre productions as well as professional opportunities through collaborations with the Fargo-Moorhead Opera company — ensuring students gain practical knowledge alongside professional singers from around the country. Many Cobbers also secure paid positions in local church choirs, further enhancing their readiness for professional careers.

At Concordia, undergraduates take center stage, with no competition from graduate students for roles such as section leaders, opera parts, or leadership positions in student-led ensembles. We invite you to visit, attend rehearsals, take lessons, and experience firsthand our vibrant community.



PROFESSOR FEATURE

“I have enjoyed performing and directing opera and musical theatre since I was an undergraduate student. I feel opera and musical theatre have more similarities than differences and I thoroughly enjoy both! Through Concordia opera and theatre, students can collaborate with castmates, The Concordia Orchestra, and all the talented faculty, staff, and students in the theatre department. Creating great productions requires a lot of talented people with a lot of different skills to work together, and we are fortunate to have that opportunity at Concordia.”



– **Dr. Robin Griffeth**
Associate Professor, Voice | Director of Concordia Opera

ALUMNI FEATURE

“I am in my 19th year teaching choir at Farmington High School. I am proud of the program we’ve grown and we have had many mountaintop moments in our community and beyond. Concordia taught me the value of hard work and overcoming adversity. Because the program is so highly regarded, I was lucky enough to sing with amazing peers and learn from excellent professors. I loved the smaller class sizes and I really felt like my professors knew me.”



– **Megan Dimich '06**

Concordia Choir Camp
Singers who have completed grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 are invited to attend our summer choir camp in June on Concordia's campus for a week of rehearsals, fun, and community building.



High School Choir Festival
Each year, we host a choral festival on campus for students to explore what it's like to make music here. The day features great musical performances, exciting mass choir rehearsals, and a grand finale concert.



Concordia Christmas Concerts
Since 1927, The Emmy Award-winning Concordia Christmas Concerts have become a regional highlight of the holiday season, featuring our choirs and orchestra performing in front of a newly-created mural each year. Featuring more than **300** student musicians and **five** ensembles, the Concordia Christmas Concerts are performed on campus and at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, where students perform on a world-class stage.
ConcordiaCollege.edu/ChristmasConcert



The Concordia Choir, our flagship ensemble, and conductor Dr. Michael Culleton perform at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. The choir travels for two weeks nationally every year and takes an international tour every three years.

ORCHESTRAL AND STRING STUDIES

Concordia’s string program stands out for both orchestral and solo musicians of all degree programs, offering a wealth of opportunities tailored to their specific ambitions. At the core is a formidable orchestra known for its strength and rapid ascent on the national stage, supported by rigorous private lesson offerings that ensure personalized growth and development.

In addition, we have a dynamic chamber music program, providing string players with diverse performance experiences across various ensembles, enriching their musical journey. We aim to develop 21st-century musicians, blending technical skill with the creative and critical thinking essential for a successful music career.

Our internationally-acclaimed faculty plays a key role in our success. They are deeply invested in new music, actively commissioning and performing contemporary works. This engagement ensures our students work with innovative repertoire and approaches, while also collaborating with student and faculty composers.

Beyond the classroom, Concordia’s orchestral program offers regional and national tours, enhancing musical skill and building a strong sense of community among orchestra members. These tours deepen their connection to music through repeated meaningful performances of repertoire. String players build supportive relationships with peers and faculty, and thrive in an inclusive and nurturing environment.

Concordia offers a vibrant musical community where string players and orchestral musicians can thrive personally and professionally. We invite you to explore your musical aspirations with us, supported by caring faculty, quality resources, and a commitment to excellence in string performance and orchestral education.

Instrumental Conducting at Concordia

Concordia offers a certificate in advanced instrumental conducting, intended for students who wish to prepare for graduate study in conducting, to conduct professionally, or to pursue careers as conductors on an academic track. The program concentrates on advanced technique as well as rehearsal and leadership skills used in conducting.



Honor String Orchestra

Each fall we host an honor string orchestra for director-nominated string players grades 9-12. Attending students look forward to making music in an artistically rigorous and nurturing environment and working with prestigious guest conductors alongside Concordia’s renowned string faculty.



CURRENT STUDENT FEATURE

“I have always loved orchestral music, but never had the opportunity to be in an orchestra of this caliber before coming to Concordia. To be able to build a community and spend hours a week making music as an ensemble has impacted my playing in chamber groups as well. As a conducting student, I have also been given a lot of podium time. The music department at Concordia has so many professors who want to watch you succeed, and they will spend hours upon hours helping you try to reach your goals.”

– Elizabeth Ames '26



WINDS, BRASS, PERCUSSION, AND BAND STUDIES

Concordia’s instrumental ensembles for winds, brass, and percussion are rooted in a history of growth through artistic endeavors. With three bands and two full orchestras open to students of any major, alongside specialized instrument-specific ensembles and opportunities for chamber music creation, our campus fosters a rich environment for creative musical paths.

Our top band and orchestra travel regionally, nationally, and internationally, complemented by other ensembles performing in the community in unique venues throughout the year. You will thrive on challenging repertoire and leadership development under our faculty’s guidance, bridging studio skills to ensemble and solo performance with a diverse mix of music majors and non-music majors supported by scholarships available to all.

Beyond performance opportunities, Concordia facilitates exploration of new musical horizons, including opportunities to conduct bands and orchestras. With robust studio resources and a collaborative environment, our pedagogically adept faculty ensures students at all levels graduate with competitive skills and readiness for professional careers, prepared by a community-focused approach to musical education.

Concordia’s commitment to student growth extends to our extensive instrument inventory, accessible without cost, and specialized facilities such as our dedicated reed room and reed-making classes, electro-acoustic research space, and recording studios. Experience the Concordia difference firsthand through our approach to instrumental education, where excellence and student-centered learning converge to nurture the musician you aspire to become.

Honor Band

Concordia’s High School Honor Band takes place every spring, where students can come together and create music at a high level. Players rehearse and perform challenging full band repertoire under the direction of Concordia’s faculty and a guest composer/conductor. Students also have a chance to perform chamber repertoire coached by Concordia’s distinguished wind and percussion faculty.



MUSIC MAJOR ALUMNI FEATURE

“I cherish every opportunity to collaborate with other music educators and work with curious students, whether at Simley High School, coaching honor bands, or teaching at Bemidji MusiCamp over the summer. During my time at Concordia, my professors fostered a love for genuine, passionate music-making, which I strive to instill in my students. Togetherness and community are at the core of the music tradition at Concordia. The power of music to bring people together and inspire a collective pursuit of something greater is clearly displayed at Concordia, and I aim to carry on that tradition through my teaching.”



– Mickaela Pasch '22

NON-MUSIC MAJOR ALUMNI FEATURE

I’m a data scientist working on a health analytics team at Delta Air Lines where we research the overall well-being of the company’s employees. Concordia taught me to think about problems as having many parts and perspectives, not just as direct questions that have direct answers.



My math major taught me how to reason logically and solve problems, while my data analytics minor taught me how to find patterns in the world and describe them using narratives for other people to understand. Music was my third place in college. I had the classroom and the places I would study for my major, but I also had the band and orchestra rooms where I could be artful and expressive with amazing faculty and friends.

Whatever level of music making I wanted to be a part of, there was always a place for that in the music department that also allowed me to pursue the goals and dreams I had with my non-music major. Before 2020, I was lucky to play my bassoon and saxophone in multiple community bands and orchestras. Recently I started exploring other genres of music like hip hop, jazz, and R&B, and have started teaching myself jazz piano, production, and sampling. Music has truly become my one hobby that I’ll never drop thanks to Concordia.

– Jack Fiskum '19



MOORHEAD MINNESOTA CONCORDIA COLLEGE

WHO WE ARE

Concordia College is a private, coed four-year liberal arts college of more than **1,900** students from **36** states and **63** countries.



▶ **22**
PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

▶ **140+**
PROGRAMS OF STUDY

▶ **12:1**
STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

▶ **18**
AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

▶ **90+**
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
TO CHOOSE FROM

Our home of Fargo-Moorhead is the ideal college community. With unique shops, gourmet restaurants and acres of parks to explore, there is something for everyone.

ConcordiaCollege.edu/FM

EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Our scholarship and aid program is designed to encourage **ALL** students — regardless of their financial situation — to consider Concordia. Simply apply for admission; no separate application needed. Visit our Scholarship page for the most up-to-date information on our automatic merit awards.

ConcordiaCollege.edu/Scholarships

QUESTIONS?

Meet our music faculty
and reach out if you would
like more information!

