

THE CONCORDIA CHOIR

Michael Culloton, Conductor



2025 Tour of the Southeast United States



CONCORDIA COLLEGE
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA



COMPLETELY *CREATIVE*

SERIOUSLY MUSIC. SERIOUSLY MORE.

You can make serious music and also be serious about science, business, politics, law — or any other subject. The status of Concordia's music program, coupled with its ability to grant the Bachelor of Music degree, tells you that music is a college cornerstone. But it doesn't tell the whole story about the importance of music at Concordia. While approximately 200 students major in conservatory-level voice and instrumental music, composition, and music education at Concordia, each week 700 private music lessons are given in the college's dozens of music studios. From the pianist who goes on to study piano pedagogy in graduate school to the choir member who becomes a film actor to the violinist who plans to be a pediatrician, nearly one-third of all Concordia students participate in the music program. Concordia's worldwide musical reputation translates into opportunities for students to perform in great concert halls around the nation and the world, regardless of their major.

700

Private music lessons
offered weekly

1/3

More than 30% of our students
participate in ensembles and lessons

200

Approximately 200
students major in music



Program

I.

Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied (BWV 225, mvt. 1) J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied;
die Gemeinde der Heiligen sollen ihn loben.
Israel freue sich des, der ihn gemacht hat.
Die Kinder Zion sei'n fröhlich über ihrem Könige,
Sie sollen loben seinen Namen im Reichen;
Mit Pauken und mit Harfen sollen sie ihm spielen.*

— Psalm 149:1-3

Sing to the Lord a new song!
The assembly of saints shall praise him.
Let Israel rejoice in its creator.
Let the children of Zion be glad in their King,
They shall praise his name in the dance;
with timbrel and harps they shall play to him.

O Radiant Dawn James MacMillan (b. 1959)

O Radiant Dawn,
Splendor of eternal light, Sun of Justice: come,
Shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied:
“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.”

Gloria (from *Mass for Double Choir*) Frank Martin (1890-1974)

*Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis;
qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus,
Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.*

Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace to all of good will.
We praise thee, We bless thee,
We worship thee, We glorify thee,
We give thanks to thee for Thy great glory.
Lord God, Heavenly King, God, the Father Almighty.
Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
Thou who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou who takes away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou who sits at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For thou alone art holy, thou alone art the Lord,
Thou alone art the most high, Jesus Christ.
Together with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

II.

Seek Him That Maketh the Seven Stars Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)

Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion
and turneth the shadow of death into the morning.
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day,
the night is light about me. Amen.

— Amos 5:8, Psalm 139

Oculus Non Vedit Rihards Dubra (b. 1964)

*Oculus non vidit, nec auris audivit,
Nec in cor hominis ascendit
Quae praeparavit Deus his qui diligent illum.*

— 1 Corinthians 2:9

No one has ever seen, no one has ever heard,
no human heart has ever imagined
what God has prepared for those who love him.

There is Room, There is Love (premiere performances) Sandra Peter

*Commissioned by the Edward D. Anderson Choral Scholar Fund
for The Concordia Choir (Moorhead, Minnesota), Dr. Michael Culloton, conductor*

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?
Yes, to the very end.
Will the *day's* journey take the whole long day?
From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting-place?
A roof *for* when the slow dark hours begin.
[And] May not the darkness hide it from *my face* [me]?
You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?
Those who have gone before.
Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?
They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?
Of labour you shall find the sum.
Will there be beds for me and all who seek?
Yea, beds for all who come.

[Yes, there are beds for you, there is room for ev'ryone,
There is room, there is love, there is food for all.
You shall find that... there's a place for all.]

— based on the poem “Up-hill” by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
Italicized words were not included in the musical setting, and bracketed words were added by the composer.

Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon) Alexander Gretchaninoff (1864-1956)

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people.
A light to be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

— Luke 2:29-32

III.

The Lord is the Everlasting God Kenneth Jennings (1925-2015)

The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth,
Who does not faint or grow weary; whose understanding is unsearchable.
God gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted.
But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.
Have you not heard? Have you not known?

— Isaiah 40:28-31, 21

Psalm 50 (mvts. 2 and 3) F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955)

- | | | | |
|-----|---|------|--|
| II. | Offer unto God the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and pay the vows unto the Lord.
And call upon me in the day of thy trouble,
I will deliver thee, and thou shall glorify me. | III. | Whoso offereth praise glorifieth God.
Who called the earth from the rising of the sun.
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. |
|-----|---|------|--|

INTERMISSION



Like what you're hearing so far?
Please consider a contribution to sustain
the future of choral touring at Concordia.

IV.

Let Your Light Come Agneta Sköld (b. 1947)

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?
Send me your light and your faithful care,
Let them bring me to your holy mountain,
let them lead me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.
Then I will go to the altar of God,
my God, my joy and my delight.
I will praise you with the lyre,
my God, my joy and my delight.

— Psalm 42:1-2, Psalm 43:3-4

Spring (Våren) Edvard Grieg (1843-1907); arr. Paul J. Christiansen

Yet once again I could see winter leave, and springtime advancing,
Buds soon appeared on hedge and tree, and flowers were dancing.
Life in its beauty once again I see, but must from it sever;
Sad then of heart I wonder if this be the last spring forever.
Green was the grass, and the flowers now shown forth, in brilliant array.
Once more I hear the joyous song of spring, of sun and summer.

— text translated from A. O. Vinge's *Våren* by the arranger

Kling no, Klokka! Norwegian folk song, arr. Matthew Culloton

Sung in Norwegian

Chime the bells! Ring and call together from a thousand bell towers!
Sounds of salvation call and welcome God's children with peace.

See, the day is breaking and soon we prepare for a new holy day.
Then we will chime and playfully welcome heaven's celebration.

Norge, mitt Norge Alfred Paulsen (1849-1936); arr. Paul J. Christiansen

Sung in Norwegian

Norway, my Norway! Then you sleep quietly
in the shining Hall of Winter,
and no one can dream so easily and so brightly,
When the rivers sink into slumber,
and no one can smile so quietly and happily,
when the whistling voices of the gold finches die away,
and the forests sleep in Dale.

Norway, my Norway! Then give me thy spring,
with the sun over swaying waters!
But listen to me, yes listen to me: When the day passes,
and the evening shadows my forehead,
Then teach me to wither, o land of my birth,
then make me a bed in your holy earth,
when the Summer departs from our land.

Pseudo-Yoik Jaakko Mäntyjärvi (b. 1963)

Composer's Note:

A *yoik*, which is translated as "song" in the Sámi language, is an emotional expression of various experiences featuring a repetitive use of short motifs within the 4-5 tone melodic range. This piece has nothing to do with the genuine traditional Sámi *yoik* (thus, "Pseudo!"), and the text, which is meaningless, exists merely to give form to the music.

V.

To be chosen from the following:

Naiman Sharag (The Eight Chestnut Horses) Se Enkhbayar (b. 1956)

Sung in Mongolian

The sun-shaped manes fly as wings,
The moon-shaped tails wave behind,
These chestnut horses shook the world scene
And created history on this earth.
Their golden hooves beat the soil,
Their strong voices awoke Asia,
Making known the horses' might,
Earning much fame to our name — my chestnut horses.

The horses that run ahead of time,
Encouraging my will and soul,
Are the horses that cover any distance,
Drinking the clearest of waters,
Sharing all my joy and sorrow,
Originating proud epics and tales
That spread the fame of this country
And of this heroic people — my chestnut horse.

These chestnut horses are a treasure to us,
A valuable gift of nature. Like a peaceful song
that sounds everywhere, so is the true image of the
Mongolian horse worshipped by my nation.
And the flame of my insight and learning.
And the flame of my insight and learning.
This image is the energy that we need for progress
And the might that leads us to prosper.

Let us call it the will to reach high spheres.
And the key to open wise myths.
Like the very brilliance of the East
so are the eight chestnut horses of my dream.

Noël Ayisyen (A Haitian Noël) Emile Desamours (b. 1941)

Sung in Haitian Creole

It was in Bethlehem, a little corner of Judea,
That Mary had a baby boy at midnight in a stable.
He was the Son of God and he was the King of Kings.
Since I was a little child I've known this story.

There were three wise kings who followed a great star,
With gifts in their hands, to come worship the child.
And they were quite amazed when they saw little Jesus
Lying between a cow and a donkey.

Hear that, my friends! Noel is a strange story indeed!
Jesus, Son of God, King of Kings, doesn't even have a cradle.
He sleeps on the straw among animals...Oh my!

They called him Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God;
The Everlasting Father, too, and he was the Prince of Peace.
Both shepherds and wise men bowed down to worship him.
They gave him gifts according to what they had.

Back then, if we'd been there, we'd have done something fitting,
we'd have offered him music of the best Haitian kind.
We'd have brought drums, Manniboulas, vaccins, maracas;
With fine banjo strums we'd have charmed little Jesus.

Jesus, Jesus, our little Jesus, we love you greatly.
You bring peace to all people, and you offer us grace.
Noel, Noel, Noel, long live Noel!

Sign Me Up Brandon A. Boyd

Entrance Scene (from Advent Motet) Gustav Schreck (1849-1918)

O My Love's Like a Red, Red Rose René Clausen (b. 1953)

Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord arr. Undine Smith Moore

Beautiful Savior arr. F. Melius Christiansen

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TO THE CONCORDIA CHOIR**



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TheConcordiaChoir.org

The Concordia Choir performs at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco as part of their 2024 National Tour of the Northwest United States.



YOUR TALENT HAS VALUE HERE!

Each year, we honor talented first-year and transfer students with our music scholarships. These four-year scholarships are awarded in voice, piano, strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, guitar, organ, harp, and composition. Music scholarship amounts range in value from **\$1,000-\$5,000 per year** and are **stackable with automatically awarded academic scholarships ranging \$12,000-\$18,000 per year**. All music scholarship applicants are also automatically considered for our Christiansen Award of \$25,500 per year (replacing all other scholarships due to its high value), awarded to a select few students of exceptional musical ability. Both of these scholarships are open to all students regardless of major and utilize the same application process.

ConcordiaCollege.edu/MusicScholars

For more information, contact Kristen Hatfield:
cell 612.741.9094 • email hatfield@cord.edu



I'm Kristen, and I handle all things related to music enrollment, including music scholarships (for students of any major), degree auditions, and ensemble auditions. I'd love to hear from you with any questions you might have about participating in music on campus!

Email: hatfield@cord.edu
Phone (call or text): 612.741.9094

The Concordia Choir 2024-25

Michael Culleton, Conductor | Wyatt Steinke, Manager

SOPRANO 1

- Emery Bell** '25, Saint Michael, Minn. | *International Business, Spanish; Chinese*
Cecilia Buzzee '27, Willmar, Minn. | *Communication Studies; Psychology, Music*
Gracie Fink '26, White Bear Lake, Minn. | *Vocal Performance*
Svea Hagen '26, Eagan, Minn. | *Vocal Performance; Business, German*
Annika Harries '26, Farmington, Minn. | *Elementary Education*
^ **Maddie McGraw** '26, Shakopee, Minn. | *Biology; Chemistry, Environmental Science*
* **Elena Pluim** '25, South St. Paul, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education; Psychology*
Adeline Polzin '27, Bloomington, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education; Church Music*
^ **Tabitha Poppe** '27, Great Falls, Mont. | *Vocal Music Education*

SOPRANO 2

- Rachel Canavess** '25, Willmar, Minn. | *Psychology; Neuroscience*
Carly Comstock '27, Aberdeen, S.D. | *Vocal Music Education*
Emma Ernst '26, Bismarck, N.D. | *International Business Marketing; French*
^ **Tahlia Haas** '25, Detroit Lakes, Minn. | *Dietetics*
^ **Katharine Lathe** '27, Sartell, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education; Spanish*
Claire Leines '25, Victoria, Minn. | *Art History, Greek and Roman Studies*
Sarah Linn '25, Polson, Mont. | *Vocal Music Education*
Leah Pollmann '25, Hutchinson, Minn. | *Elementary Education; Political Science*
Haley Walsh '26, Eyota, Minn. | *General Music, Psychology*

ALTO 1

- Beck Benson** '27, Bottineau, N.D. | *Communication Studies, French; Pre-Law*
Megan Gunnerson '26, Grand Rapids, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education*
Layla Hahn '26, Prior Lake, Minn. | *Elementary Education*
Grace Henderson '26, Fargo, N.D. | *Biology, Exercise Science*
* **Lydia Horan** '26, Moorhead, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education*
Greta Johnson '26, Plymouth, Minn. | *Vocal Performance; German*
^ **Sara Kampsen** '25, Sauk Centre, Minn. | *Biology (Pre-PA); Spanish, Chemistry, Psychology*
^ **Luci Kulseth** '25, Saint James, Minn. | *Elementary Education, TESOL; Music*
Kaylee Robinson '27, Redwood Falls, Minn. | *Communications; Film Studies*

ALTO 2

- Reanna Borgen** '25, St. Cloud, Minn. | *Healthcare Leadership-Administration; Spanish, Accounting*
India Carlson '27, Moorhead, Minn. | *English Literature; Women and Gender Studies, Theater Art*
Josephine Golla '25, Luverne, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education*
Kate Harris '27, Oakes, N.D. | *Nursing*
Abby Hohenstein '26, Delano, Minn. | *Nursing; Psychology*
Sadie Lerum '27, Coon Rapids, Minn. | *English Literature, Communication Studies; Women and Gender Studies, Music*
Anna Person '26, Bismarck, N.D. | *Elementary Education*
^ **Grace Phan** '26, Bloomington, Minn. | *Global Studies; Music, Business*
Annika Svenningsen '26, Sioux Falls, S.D. | *Social Studies Education*

TENOR 1

- Murphy Carey** '26, Edmond, Okla. | *English Education Communication Arts Literature*
* **Parker Degerness** '25, West Fargo, N.D. | *General Music; Church Music, Psychology*
Benjamin Heimark '25, Detroit Lakes, Minn. | *English Writing; Film Studies and Philosophy*
% **Jayden Olmsted** '26, Rogers, Minn. | *Social Studies Education; Political Science*
Levi Patton '27, Sartell, Minn. | *Astrophysics, Musical Composition*
Jacob Penny '26, Farmington, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education*
Thomas Philaya '27, Montevideo, Minn. | *Applied Physics; Math, Business*
Jacob Schlueter '27, Roseville, Minn. | *Vocal Performance; Church Music*

TENOR 2

- Hank Bell** '27, Ellendale, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education*
Luke Eyler '25, Plymouth, Minn. | *Political Science; Music, Environmental Studies*
Martin Henke '27, Aitkin, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education*
Aaron Kess '26, Owatonna, Minn. | *Music Composition; Art and Design*
^ **Luke Lammers** '26, Willmar, Minn. | *Business Management*
Mark Noah '26, Fargo, N.D. | *Psychology, Business Management*
Andrew Rauenbuehler '27, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa | *Biology (Pre-Med)*
Duncan Tufte '26, Bismarck, N.D. | *Communication Studies; Business*

BARITONE

- Ian Brown** '25, Eden Prairie, Minn. | *Music and Business Entrepreneurship*
Charles DeNet '26, Farmington, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education*
Malachi Elmhurst '27, Kandiyohi, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education; Theatre Art*
Conner Fettig '25, Bemidji, Minn. | *Music Composition and Theory; TESL*
Martan Gregoire '26, Moorhead, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education*
Spencer Lathe '26, Sartell, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education*
Jonah Overby '27, Big Lake, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education; Theatre Art*
* **Sam Sadlowsky** '25, Aitkin, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education, Spanish*
Henry Sipples '26, St. Johnsbury, Vt. | *Vocal Music Education*

BASS 2

- Aidan Anderson** '27, Onamia, Minn. | *Vocal Performance; Business*
Reese Anderson '25, Sioux Falls, S.D. | *Biology, Chemistry*
Benjamin Archuleta '26, Bismarck, N.D. | *Music Composition*
Joseph Koroll '25, Clearwater, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education; Church Music*
Malachi Lilly '26, Warroad, Minn. | *Biology; Chemistry, Music*
Eli Olson '25, Sioux Falls, S.D. | *Business/Finance*
#* **Dylan Pringle** '25, Sartell, Minn. | *Vocal Music Education; Psychology*
Aidan Sears '26, Casselton, N.D. | *Theater Arts, Communication Studies*
^ **Luke Wilts** '26, Shakopee, Minn. | *Healthcare Administration, Healthcare Financial Management; Spanish, Accounting*

Student Manager

% President

* Section Leader

^ Board Member

Biographies



Dr. Michael Culloton Conductor

Dr. Michael Culloton is an associate professor of music at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where he is the director of choral activities, conductor of The Concordia Choir, and the Paul J. and Eleanor Christiansen Chair of Choral Music. Culloton teaches vocal music education and church music courses, serves as campus supervisor for student teachers, and advises the student chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. He also leads the Concordia Choir Camp, a summer program of Concordia College. Along with his duties at Concordia, Culloton is the artistic director and conductor of the Fargo-Moorhead Choral Artists and conductor of the Trinity Lutheran Church Cathedral Choir.

Prior to this appointment, Culloton served as the associate director of choirs at Concordia College for eight years, conducting the Chapel Choir, Cantabile, and Kantorei. Before moving to Moorhead, he was the artistic director and conductor of Choral Arts Ensemble and Honors Choirs of Southeast Minnesota, both organizations based in Rochester, Minnesota, for eight years. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, where he studied with Dr. René Clausen, and his Master of Music degree from the University of Arizona, where he studied with Maurice Skones. Culloton completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree through North Dakota State University, where he studied with Jo Ann Miller and Michael Weber.

Culloton has taught at Luther College and Winona Senior High School and has also served as the assistant and interim conductor of the National Lutheran Choir. He has held church choir positions in Moorhead, Tucson, Arizona, and Decorah, Iowa, and has been music director for nearly a dozen musical theatre productions. Along with his twin brother, Culloton is the co-editor of the Matthew and Michael Culloton Choral Series with Santa Barbara Music Publishing Inc. He has been recognized as the Minnesota ACDA Young Conductor of the Year and also received the ACDA/VocalEssence Creative Programming Award for his work with Choral Arts Ensemble. In 2009, he was a featured conductor in “Never Stop Singing,” a documentary about the history of choral music in Minnesota. Culloton serves as a guest conductor, clinician, and lecturer throughout the country. He lives in Moorhead with his wife, Brynn, who works in the enrollment division at Concordia, and their daughters, Eleanor and Miriam.



Andrew Steinberg Collaborative Pianist and Organist

Andrew Steinberg is choral area accompanist for Concordia College and Sanctuary Worship director and organist at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead. He is frequently called on as a soloist as well as a collaborative accompanist in instrumental and choral activities featuring organ, harpsichord, and piano, and as musical director for a variety of music theatre experiences across the country. Steinberg is fortunate to work with hundreds of students each semester on projects large and small. He has begun coaching singers into creating their own musical theatre cabaret shows exploring the world of musical theatre literature, preparing performers for professional experiences.

Steinberg has served as organist and worship director at congregations in the Twin Cities, Fort Collins, Colorado, and the Fargo-Moorhead area. He performed in Wittenberg, Germany, as part of the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and has performed across the United States, Germany and Scotland. Steinberg holds a master's degree in organ performance and certification in liturgical studies from Colorado State University, Fort Collins. He remains active as organist, collaborative pianist, vocal coach, and musical director for Concordia College's theatre program. Steinberg has earned credits toward a doctorate in collaborative piano. His primary teachers have been Peter Nygaard, Dr. Joel Bacon, and Dr. Tyler Wottrich.



Singing, Teaching, Connecting

Annika Svenningsen '26

Major: Social Studies Education with a Spanish in the Workplace Certificate

Following in her father's footsteps, Annika Svenningsen has found a true home at Concordia.

Drawn to the college for its strong music programs and close-knit community, she quickly realized that Concordia offered more than just academics — it provided a family.

As a member of Damkör and The Concordia Choir, she deeply values the connections she has formed through music, where she feels part of a rich tradition.

Her passion for meaningful relationships extends beyond choir; she loves spending time with friends, playing pickleball and spikeball, and setting ambitious reading goals.

Touring with the choir has been a highlight of her experience, especially performing at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

Svenningsen's academic journey has also been shaped by inspiring mentors. Spanish professor Dr. Lisa Twomey has nurtured her love for the language, while her best friend, Sabriya, has been a constant source of encouragement and support.

Looking ahead, Svenningsen is eager to travel, integrate Spanish into her career, and step into her own classroom, where she hopes to make a lasting impact on her students — just as Concordia has on her.

Composing Connection

Conner Fettig '25

Major: Music Composition and Theory
Minor: TESL

Conner Fettig was initially drawn to Concordia College for its strong music program, small class sizes, and abundant practice spaces. During his time at Concordia, he has traveled across the country sharing music, formed deep connections, and immersed himself in both the technical and creative aspects of composition and piano work.

Hearing The Concordia Choir perform during his freshman year inspired him to audition — an experience that has since transformed his life. He finds profound fulfillment in the emotional connection between the choir and its audiences, with one of his most treasured moments being a performance of Max Reger's "O Tod, wie bitter bist du" at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, where the venue's acoustics created an unforgettable musical atmosphere.

Fettig's senior recital reflected his belief that music should extend beyond traditional concert halls, as he guided audiences through performances in everyday spaces across campus. A key mentor in his journey has been Christian Heaford, a piano technician who taught him invaluable skills in tuning, repair, and refinement.

Looking ahead, Fettig hopes to travel abroad with his piano tuning gear, using his skills to forge new connections, share his music, and immerse himself in diverse musical traditions.

Meaningful Music

Svea Hagen '25

Major: Music in Vocal Performance
Minors: German, Business

Svea Hagen was drawn to Concordia College by the wealth of musical opportunities in the Fargo-Moorhead area. During her time here, she has performed in multiple productions with the Fargo-Moorhead Opera Company, deepening her passion for the art form.

"I think texts take on a three-dimensional quality when combined with music," Hagen said. "It makes it easier to convey their true meaning to audiences."

Concordia's liberal arts setting allowed her to explore a wide range of interests alongside her music studies, enriching her education. She has cherished the collaborative community, small class sizes, and the personal mentorship of her professors — especially her voice teacher, Dr. Anne Jennifer Nash, whose guidance has both challenged and inspired her growth as a vocalist.

A defining moment in her journey came during her freshman year when she watched The Concordia Choir perform Kyle Pederson's "In the Beginning" at the Christmas Concerts. The experience moved her spiritually and reinforced her belief in music's power to connect with audiences.

After graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree in vocal performance or pedagogy, with the ultimate dream of performing opera professionally in Germany while also teaching voice.



Singing and Serving

Luke Wilts '26

Major: Healthcare Leadership with concentrations in Healthcare Administration and Healthcare Financial Management,
Minors: Spanish and Accounting

Like many students, Luke Wilts was drawn to Concordia College for its close-knit community and the opportunity to explore multiple passions. An active student leader, he serves as a student ambassador, play-by-play announcer, livestream coordinator, and treasurer for both The Concordia Choir and the Student Healthcare Management Association.

His time at Concordia has been shaped by hands-on learning and personal growth, where he discovered a deep love for making music within a dedicated and passionate community.

His first semester and subsequent tour with The Concordia Choir confirmed that he was exactly where he belonged. One of his most cherished moments was performing at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, where, "we all came together and created something words cannot describe."

A transformative study experience in Oslo, Norway, this past summer further deepened his appreciation for global collaboration and dialogue. Wilts aspires to a career in healthcare finance, leveraging technology to improve healthcare accessibility while fostering meaningful relationships. After graduation, he plans to pursue a Master of Business Administration and advance into executive leadership at a Midwestern hospital.

Harmony and Healing

Abby Hohenstein '26

Major: Nursing
Minor: Psychology

Drawn to Concordia for its renowned nursing program and extensive choral opportunities, Abby Hohenstein has fully embraced both her academic and musical passions.

Beyond her studies in the nursing program and her role in The Concordia Choir, she sings in the Nordic treble ensemble Damkör, works as a certified nursing assistant in long-term care, and serves as a chemistry teaching assistant.

When asked about her favorite part of choir, Hohenstein highlights the collaborative nature of the ensemble, the challenge of high-level repertoire, and the joy of seeing hard work pay off. Some of her most cherished memories include playing games with friends on the Pacific Northwest tour and singing "Beautiful Savior."

Her voice professor, Maisi Pedersen, has been instrumental in her growth, encouraging her to take on challenging repertoire and expand her vocal abilities.

Looking ahead, Hohenstein is eager to begin her clinical rotations and apply her knowledge in a professional setting. She hopes to work in labor and delivery or pediatrics near the Twin Cities. She deeply values the opportunities Concordia has given her to pursue both nursing and choral excellence.

An Immersive Experience

Sam Sadlowsky '25

Majors: Vocal Music Education, Spanish

Drawn to Concordia College for its renowned music program, Sam Sadlowsky chose the school not only for its affordability and proximity to home but also because of a dream in which he saw himself selecting Concordia.

His time at the college has been filled with diverse opportunities, including studying abroad in Segovia, Spain, where he reconnected with his Spanish immersion roots and even taught "Beautiful Savior" to a local choir.

A dedicated member of Kantorei, Chapel Choir, and now The Concordia Choir, he has earned the role of section leader for The Concordia Choir basses — an honor and privilege he deeply values.

His passion for music extends beyond campus, as he directs the choir at Bethesda Lutheran Church and works as a DJ and emcee, a job that challenges him to be not only an entertainer but also a planner, communicator, and leader.

Deeply influenced by mentors who encouraged him to keep music at the heart of his life, Sadlowsky views teaching music as both a calling and a vocation.

Looking ahead, he hopes to secure a music teaching position in northeastern Minnesota. No matter where life takes him, Sadlowsky aspires to care for people and creation, lead with kindness, and share the joy of music with the world.



THE CONCORDIA CHOIR

Michael Culloton, Conductor

"The mission of The Concordia Choir is to uphold a sacred choral tradition through the uncompromising and unrelenting collaborative pursuit of musical integrity and spiritual expression."

— Members of the 1993-94 Concordia Choir



The Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minnesota, continues to affirm its reputation as one of America's finest a cappella choirs. Since 1920, the 70-voice choir has performed in nearly every major hall including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Kennedy Center, as well as numerous international venues such as St. Paul's Cathedral in London and St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. A performance and recording session with the Grammy Award-winning King's Singers and multiple performances at National ACDA Conventions highlight the choir's world-class quality.

The Concordia Choir is featured in the Emmy Award-winning Concordia Christmas Concerts, which were recorded for national public television broadcast in 2016. Learn more at TheConcordiaChoir.org.

Top: Michael Culloton is the fourth conductor in The Concordia Choir's 103-year history.

Bottom: The Concordia Choir thrilled audiences across Italy, including those in attendance at the Basilica di San Vitale in Rome.

The Concordia Christmas Concert

The Concordia Christmas Concert performed at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis is now made available each year for a limited time for online, on-demand viewing. Experience the Emmy award-winning concerts from the comfort of your own home wherever you are in the country and around the world this December!

Learn more about the Concordia Christmas Concerts at
ConcordiaChristmas.com



CONCORDIA CHOIR CAMP

Dr. Michael Culloton, artistic director of Concordia Choir Camp, will lead students who have completed grades 9, 10, 11, or 12, in a summer choral camp experience on Concordia's campus for a week of fun, choral rehearsals, and concerts —

June 22-28, 2025.

View details, registration form, and scholarship information at:
ConcordiaCollege.edu/ConcordiaChoirCamp



2022 International Tour to Italy

In May 2022, The Concordia Choir embarked on a 13-day concert and cultural tour of Italy. From the canals of Venice to the artwork of Florence and the ancient architecture of Rome, the choir experienced the best of what this country, known for its beautiful views, rich cultural heritage, and delicious food, has to offer. While embracing the sights, sounds, and tastes of Italy, The Concordia Choir shared its music at numerous concerts along the way, including several rewarding collaborations with local choirs. The choir also sang during a Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City and performed at Basilica San Marco in Venice and the Roman Pantheon. This incredible tour adds yet another storied chapter to the 100+ year tradition of choral excellence for which The Concordia Choir is known around the world. In May 2025, the choir will be touring Norway and Sweden.





Concordia Choir Tour Schedule

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Saturday, Feb. 22 • 4 p.m.

First Lutheran Church

Maple Grove, Minnesota

Sunday, Feb. 23 • 2 p.m.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Rochester, Minnesota

Saturday, March 1 • 7 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church

Charlotte, North Carolina

Sunday, March 2 • 4 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

Roanoke, Virginia

Monday, March 3 • 7 p.m.

Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, South Carolina

Tuesday, March 4 • 7 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Roswell, Georgia

Wednesday, March 5 • 7 p.m.

Roswell United Methodist Church

Columbia, South Carolina

Thursday, March 6 • 7 p.m.

The Basilica of Saint Peter

Jacksonville Beach, Florida

Friday, March 7 • 7:30 p.m.

Palms Presbyterian Church

Largo, Florida

Saturday, March 8 • 7 p.m.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Naples, Florida

Sunday, March 9 • 4 p.m.

Moorings Presbyterian Church

Orlando, Florida

Tuesday, March 11 • 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

Gainesville, Florida

Wednesday, March 12 • 7 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Atlanta, Georgia

Thursday, March 13 • 7:30 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Nashville, Tennessee

Friday, March 14 • 7 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Stillwater, Minnesota

Saturday, March 15 • 2 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Moorhead, Minnesota

Sunday, March 16 • 4 p.m.

Concordia College

ConcordiaCollege.edu/ChoirTour | ConcordiaTickets.com

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

The Concordia Choir gratefully acknowledges Norman Jones for his support of our national tours through the Norman Jones Choral Fund.

Major funding provided by:

The Blochberger Choral Music Fund
Jim '70 and Anne (Graves) '70 Eidsvold
Rev. Kurt Jacobson • Norman Jones '53
Carol Angstman Maul '63 in loving
memory of Ken Maul
Janice (Simmons) '56 and Leroy '57 † Odegaard
Susan (Beasley) '81 and Paul Zink

Additional support provided by:

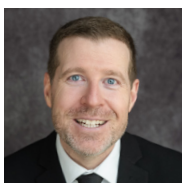
John '69 and Linda Ellingboe
Jim Graham '70
John Lindlief
Larry and Kathleen '69 Ortloff in honor
of Thomas Philaya
Marie Schmaus '58
STUDIO FSR



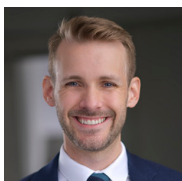
If you are interested in donating to support next year's Concordia Choir National Tour to the Northeast United States, please scan the QR code or visit ConcordiaCollege.edu/SupportChoirTour

Music Department Faculty and Staff

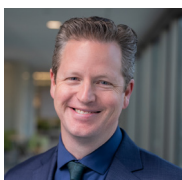
CHORAL AND VOCAL FACULTY



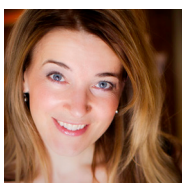
Michael Culloton
*Director of Choral Activities,
The Concordia Choir, Choral Conducting,
Church Music, Vocal Music Education*



Joseph Kemper
*Choral Music, Conducting,
Chapel Choir, Kantorei*



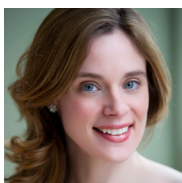
Robin Griffeath
Opera, Voice



Holly Janz
Voice, Diction



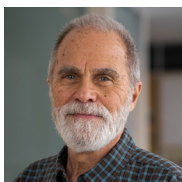
Anthony Leathem
Voice



Anne Jennifer Nash
Voice



Andrew Steinberg
Organ, Choral Area Accompanist



Stephen Sulich
Opera, Accompanying Piano

ADJUNCT VOICE FACULTY

Ryan King | *Voice*

Shirley Leiphon | *Voice*

Maisi Pedersen | *Voice*

Karly Ritland | *Voice*

MUSIC FACULTY

Victor Avila-Luvsangenden | *Violin, Viola*

Thomas Bandar | *Violin, Viola*

Daniel Breedon | *Music Theory, Composition, Emeritus*

Nathaniel Dickey | *Department Chair, Low Brass, Jazz 2*

David Eyler | *Percussion, Emeritus*

Peter Haberman | *Instrumental Music Education, The Concordia Band,
The Cobber Echo Band*

Douglas Harbin | *Music Theory, Composition*

Debora Harris | *Flute*

Jennifer Hawkinson | *Director of Graduate Program in Music Education,
Symphonic Band*

Jay Hershberger | *Piano*

Race Hoglund | *Saxophone*

Rachel Horan | *Piano, Diction*

Erika Izaguirre | *Trumpet, Jazz 2*

Grigor Khachatryan | *Piano*

Albina Khaliapova | *Piano*

Steven Makela | *Music Theory, Composition*

Eric Martens | *Guitar*

Jeff Meyer | *Global Music, Music History, Music Theory,
Concordia Gamelan, West Africa Drumming*

Doug Neill | *Euphonium, Tuba, Bass Guitar*

Roberto Palomeque | *Percussion, Percussion Ensemble,
Marimba Choir*

Russ Peterson | *Saxophone, Bassoon, Jazz 1*

Annett Richter | *Music History*

Callie Stadem | *Harp*

Kevin Sütterlin | *Director of Orchestral Activities, Conducting, Opera,
The Concordia Orchestra*

Kelley Tracz | *Oboe*

Eduard Teregulov | *Cello, Double Bass, Symphonia*

Abbie Van Klompenberg | *Music Education*

Kyle Vanderburg | *Music Technology*

Karin Wakefield | *French Horn, Piano*

Leigh Wakefield | *Clarinet*

Jessica Westgard Larson | *Campana and Tintinnabula
(Handbell Choirs)*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kayla Bones | *Instrumental Ensembles Manager*

Kristen Hatfield | *Music Enrollment Coordinator*

Wyatt Steinke | *Manager of Choral Activities, Vocal Jazz*

J. Curtis Thompson | *Administrative Assistant*



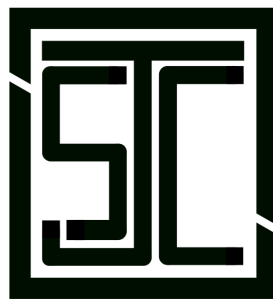
Meet Concordia College's New President

Beginning his service to the college in July 2023, Dr. Colin Irvine previously served as the provost and executive vice president at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Prior to his time at Augustana, Irvine worked as the senior vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of the college at Carroll College and as a professor and faculty administrator at Augsburg University. This extensive experience working with colleges rooted in Christian tradition accumulates to 16 years spent at Norwegian-founded ELCA institutions.

Irvine's passionate leadership has also extended into areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Throughout his time at Augustana, Irvine sought to broaden the impact of diversity efforts and those working with them. He also worked to establish a research fund for international students who are not eligible for certain grants.

"I have always been a teacher who cares intensely about learners of all backgrounds and believes that, at its core, education represents the opportunity and obligation to passionately pursue one's vocation in service to the self and others."

— Dr. Colin Irvine

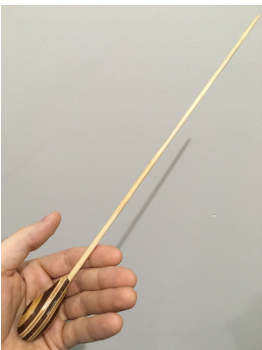


samueljcreative



Based in Minneapolis, samueljcreative is a small woodworking studio dedicated to delivering high-quality functional art pieces built out of locally-sourced and reclaimed wood. I create a wide array of different products, from cutting boards to chess boards and fishing lures to flutes. Not only do I create my own original designs for my products, but I also work on commission and work with my clients to create just the thing they want. You may even see some of my work on stage at this very concert! It's always a pleasure to work with an ensemble that meant so much to me during my college career.

- Sam Christenson, class of '17



✉ samueljcreative@gmail.com
📷 @samueljcreative

📘 samueljcreative
🌐 samueljcreative.com



TURN **PASSION** INTO **PURPOSE**

Your passion, talent, and drive don't go unnoticed here. At Concordia, continue to do the things you love while beginning to pursue **NEW** passions.

#1

**NAMED BEST
NURSING PROGRAM
IN MINNESOTA**

4.5/5

**RATED ONE OF THE BEST
COLLEGES IN AMERICA**
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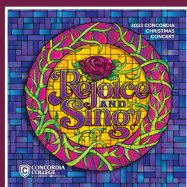
CONCORDIA COLLEGE
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY



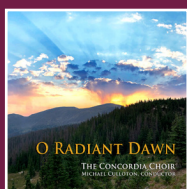
Live from Italy

“Live from Italy” takes listeners on a live concert journey through Italy as they follow The Concordia Choir along their 2022 International Tour, including music by J.S. Bach, Sydney Guillaume, Carol Barnett, Edie Hill, Paul J. Christiansen, Frank Martin, René Clausen, and more.



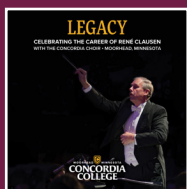
Rejoice and Sing!

Experience the Emmy Award-winning Concordia Christmas Concerts! “Rejoice and Sing!” the 2023 Concordia Christmas Concert, features nearly 300 student musicians performing works by J.S. Bach, Edward Elgar, Elaine Hagenberg, Dan Forrest, René Clausen, Paul J. Christiansen, and more.



O Radiant Dawn

This two-disc collection features mostly pieces never before recorded by The Concordia Choir, including works by René Clausen, Adolphus Hailstork, Carol Barnett, Undine Smith Moore, and more. “O Radiant Dawn” is the first Concordia Choir album with Michael Culloton as conductor.



LEGACY

This two-disc set commemorates the 34-year career of René Clausen as conductor of The Concordia Choir and features never-before-released live in-concert recordings from across Clausen’s time at Concordia. Made possible by the Blochberger Choral Music Fund, all proceeds from the sale of this collection will be donated to the René Clausen Choral Legacy Endowed Fund.

800.828.6409 • ConcordiaRecordings.com



A strong foundation in the liberal arts runs through our entire curriculum. Students complete two signature integrative learning experiences where the focus is on active learning that occurs outside the classroom. Our three schools — the Sanford Heimarck School of Health Professions, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the Offutt School of Business — are designed to develop critical and creative thinking skills while giving a broad perspective on the world and its people. With 32,000 alumni across the globe, the Cobber community extends well beyond our campus. The Cobber network’s benefits include access to mentors, leads on internships and careers, and expert advice. As a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Concordia is strongly rooted in the tradition of free inquiry and dialogue. We welcome students from a variety of faith and nonfaith backgrounds and we value the diverse perspectives that everyone brings to our learning community.

Ensuring Quality

Concordia’s music department is widely known for the excellence of its training in vocal and instrumental performance, conducting, composition and theory, history and ethnomusicology, as well as music education. Our alumni perform worldwide in concert halls, opera houses or by living out their vocations as organists, directors and ministers of church music, conductors, composers, professors, and chairs at major universities. Additionally, the lives of students and alumni from other academic fields have been enriched because of their participation in music performance.

To recognize excellence in music performance, music scholarships are available to students in all fields of study. These awards help ensure we can maintain our traditions of excellence. You can offer students, like those who performed for you today, the opportunity to achieve their musical aspirations by considering a gift in support of music scholarships. Become part of the choral music tradition at Concordia today!

ConcordiaCollege.edu/GiveToMusic