



# INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWSLETTER

February 2026 Recap | Volume 8 | Issue 1

Written by Macy Speer

## CURRENTLY: THE CONCORDIA ORCHESTRA DOMESTIC TOUR

From March 6<sup>th</sup> until March 13<sup>th</sup>, The Concordia Orchestra will go on its domestic tour through the Midwest. Concerts will be held in Vermillion, Sioux City, Council Bluffs, Sioux Falls, and Wahpeton. The home concert will take place in Memorial Auditorium at 2 pm on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Repertoire includes Briana Ware's **M.31**, selections from Bao Yuankai's **Chinese Sights and Sounds**, the first movement Gustav Mahler's **Symphony No. 6**, and two concerti: Saint-Saëns' **Violin Concerto No.3 in B minor, Op 61, movement 1**, and **Variations on Two Folksongs** by Jamyangiin Chuluun. Both concerti will feature Dr. Victor Luvsangenden, Assistant Professor of Violin at Concordia. Additionally, performances of Ware's **M.31** will be state premieres in Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota.



## CONCORDIA MUSIC HOSTS MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

On February 16th, the Concordia Music Department hosted high school seniors looking to earn a music scholarship. Each year, high school seniors complete an audition to earn a scholarship for their time at Concordia. In addition to the audition, students were treated to a concert from Concordia's top ensembles: The Concordia Band, The Concordia Orchestra, Jazz I, and The Concordia Choir. This year's concert was on February 16th at 7 p.m. in Memorial Auditorium.

Every year, \$1,000 to \$5,000 scholarships are given out, with the most prestigious award being the Christiansen Award of \$25,000. Scholarships. Minus the Christiansen Award, each are stackable with academic scholarships.

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CONCORDIA COLLEGE MUSIC

# UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

HVIDSTEN HALL OF MUSIC  
PRESENTS

MARCH 21: YINQUN CHEN SAXOPHONE MASTERCLASS

MARCH 24: GUEST ARTIST RECITAL- DR. MATT CATALDI, PIANO

MARCH 27-29: HONOR BAND WEEKEND

MARCH 29: HONOR BAND CONCERT

MARCH 29: ECHO BAND CONCERT

APRIL 11: PERCUSSION DAY CONCERT

IN THE CENTRUM &  
CHRISTIANSEN RECITAL HALL

JOIN US AT  
**CONCORDIA**

PERFORMANCE ARCHIVES & ALL UPCOMING EVENTS

## CONCORDIA BAND MINI TOUR 2025: NEW YORK MILLS



On Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, The Concordia Band traveled to New York Mills for a day of music-making and collaboration. The Band worked with Concordia Alum Cary Armagost and his students in side-by-side rehearsals. The day concluded with a combined concert with the New York Mills 9-12 band, choir, and The Concordia Band. The concert was part of a larger community event celebrating 25 years of the James Mann Auditorium.

The mini tour closed with a home concert on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, in Memorial Auditorium. The Concordia Band performed ***Dancing Fire*** (Kevin Day), ***Air For Band*** (Frank Erickson), ***Hammersmith*** (Gustav Holst), ***In This Broad Earth*** (Steven Bryant), ***Sleep*** (Eric Whitacre), and ***Symphony No. V "Elements"*** (Julie Giroux). It was a triumphant and beautiful concert that showcased the hard work the band has done since winter break.



## THE CONCORDIA SYMPHONIC BAND WINTER CONCERT



In addition to The Concordia Band's performance on Sunday, The Concordia Symphonic Band also performed in Memorial Auditorium shortly before The Concordia Band. Under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Hawkinson, The Symphonic Band gave moving performances of ***Mother Earth*** (David Maslanka), ***Hymn for the Innocent*** (Julie Giroux), and ***Spitfire*** (Gary Gilroy). The concert was arranged as a series of calls- a call to action to care for the earth, a call for peace, and a call for joy. It was a successful and joyous concert. The next Symphonic Band Performance will be on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 P.M. in the Centrum.

# FEATURES



## PROFESSOR MALCOLM BURKE

This semester, The Concordia Band is directed by Professor Malcolm Burke while Dr. Peter Haberman is on sabbatical. The Concordia Band is privileged to work with him. Burke is a doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, pursuing a degree in conducting with a wind band emphasis. In addition to his studies, Burke serves as a teaching assistant for the University's School of Music and Band program. Prior to Minnesota, Burke completed a Master of Arts in Instrumental Conducting in 2023 at the University of Central Florida. Before his graduate studies, Burke served as Director of High School Orchestras for five years at Mason City High School in Mason City, Iowa. In that position, the orchestra participated in the consortium commission of Shelley Hanson's *The Beauty That Remains* and received an invitation in 2019 to the University of Northern Iowa's Orchestra Invitational. Burke was selected as a 2024 Reynolds Conducting Fellow and has served as the guest conductor for the Neoteric Chamber Winds and the UMBAS Summer Band.

Professor Malcolm Burke recently directed the first Concordia Band concerts of the semester during mini tour weekend, featuring the Winter program "Elements". You can also catch Burke conducting at the Honor Band Concert on March 29<sup>th</sup> and at the Commencement Concert on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Help us welcome and celebrate Professor Burke!



## SADIE HACKER

Sadie Hacker is a first-year bassoonist in The Concordia Band and The Concordia Orchestra. Sadie is from Madison, Minnesota, and is a biology major with a minor in chemistry.

So far, Sadie's favorite part about Concordia is how welcoming and supportive the campus community is. As for her experience in her ensembles, Sadie says that she "appreciates how hard working and kind the members are- they make me feel at home!"

Sadie recently had her first tour with The Concordia Band in the fall and will tour with The Concordia Orchestra this month. Outside of music, Sadie enjoys reading, spending time in nature, and playing board games with her friends. Sadie, we are so lucky to have you at Concordia and can't wait to see what you will do in the coming years!



## NOAH NIELSEN

Noah Nielsen is a third-year percussionist in The Concordia Band, drumline, and Percussion Ensemble. Noah is a passionate percussionist who has given so much time and talent to our ensembles. He is from Prior Lake, Minnesota, and is majoring in instrumental education with a minor in psychology.

Noah's favorite thing about Concordia is how many things there are to do on campus. After three years as a student, Noah says that the music department is special because of "the community that has been created around supporting one another to become the best musicians and people we can be."

Some highlights for Noah include getting the chance to work with Twincussion at Concordia's Percussion Day or performing *Enigma* by David Biedenbender on band tour in 2025. Noah, thank you for your musicianship and leadership!