



CONCORDIA COLLEGE
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWSLETTER

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Written by Macy Speer

Recent/Upcoming Performances Presented by Hvidsten Hall of Music

April 11th - Percussion Day

April 13th - Symphonia Concert

April 18th - Symphonic Band Concert/9th Grade Festival

April 19th - Handbell Choir Concert

April 25th - Flute, Clarinet, and Horn Choirs Concert

April 26th - Masterworks Concert

May 2nd - Commencement Concert

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34TH ANNUAL PERCUSSION DAY

Sasha
Berliner



On April 11, the Concordia College Percussion Studio, under the direction of Dr. Roberto Palomenque, hosted its annual Percussion Day, a full-day celebration of all things percussion. The event brought together students, educators, and community members for an engaging schedule of masterclasses, clinics, and performances, creating an immersive and collaborative environment centered on percussion music. Participants had the opportunity to develop their skills, explore new techniques, and experience a wide range of percussion styles.

Iván
Manzanilla



Mark
DeMull



This year's event featured four guest artists: **Sasha Berliner**, a nationally recognized vibraphonist and composer known for her innovative approach to jazz; **Iván Manzanilla**, an internationally acclaimed performer specializing in contemporary percussion; **Mark DeMull**, an accomplished orchestral and chamber musician in the Upper Midwest; and **Kenyon Williams**, a performer and educator with strong ties to the Fargo-Moorhead music community. Throughout the day, attendees worked closely with these artists in clinics and sessions designed to inspire and challenge musicians of all levels. The day concluded with a final concert featuring Concordia ensembles alongside the guest performers, showcasing the creativity and energy of the percussion community.

Kenyon
Williams



For more information, [click here!](#)

CONCORDIA HONOR BAND AND HONOR JAZZ BAND

Concordia College welcomed more than 100 talented high school musicians to campus for its annual Honor Band and Honor Jazz Band Festival, held March 27–29. Throughout the weekend, students collaborated in an intensive and supportive musical environment, rehearsing and performing challenging repertoire under the guidance of Concordia faculty and distinguished guest artists. This year's guests included composer and conductor **Adrian B. Sims**, guest conductor **Malcolm Burke**, and internationally acclaimed jazz saxophonist **Chad Lefkowitz-Brown**, who worked with students in rehearsals, masterclasses, and performances.

As part of the weekend experience, honor band students also attended a Friday evening performance by **Athena Brass**, an all-women ensemble featuring musicians from across the country. The concert, held in conjunction with the festival, highlighted the ensemble's dynamic artistry while celebrating Women's History Month and provided students with an inspiring live performance experience to complement their own musical work.



Adrian B. Sims



Malcolm Burke



Chad Lefkowitz-
Brown



Athena Brass Band

THE CONCORDIA ORCHESTRA TOUR 2026

From March 6th to March 14th, **The Concordia Orchestra** went on their Domestic Tour through North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska. The orchestra held seven different concerts throughout the Midwest and worked with several high school orchestras along the way.

Each concert featured works such as **M.31** (Lawren Brianna Ware), **Chinese Sights and Sounds** (Bao Yuankai), **Violin Concerto No.3 in B minor** (Camille Saint-Saëns), **Variations on Two Folksongs Violin Concerto** (Jamyangiin Chuluun), and **Symphony No. 6** (Gustav Mahler).

The orchestra premiered Brianna Ware's M.31, a piece inspired by the Andromeda Galaxy (Messier 31), in three different states on tour. Ware has quickly become a friend and favorite composer of The Concordia Orchestra. Her piece was a grand and captivating concert opener each night on tour. "Listen to the piece and decide for yourself the things you are discovering as you traverse Andromeda. Did a space monster attack your ship? Did you discover a planet where aliens play jazz on extraterrestrial instruments?" Ware writes about her piece.



The Viola Section



The Oboe Section



Dr. Victor Avila-Luvsangenden,
Faculty Soloist

The program for the tour featured a diverse repertoire, challenging the orchestra to perform works spanning a wide range of styles, eras, and cultural influences, from Western classical symphonic traditions to pieces shaped by global folk music and contemporary voices. In addition to large-scale orchestral works, the program highlighted faculty soloist **Dr. Victor Avila-Luvsangenden**, who was featured in two major violin concertos that stood out as central moments of the tour program.

Dr. Luvsangenden, Assistant Professor of Violin, performed Camille Saint-Saëns' *Violin Concerto No. 3 in B minor* and Jamyangiin Chuluun's *Variations on Two Folksongs*. Both works showcased his versatility as a soloist, moving between the Romantic elegance and technical brilliance of Saint-Saëns and the folk-inspired melodic writing of Chuluun. These concertos, rooted in different cultural and stylistic traditions, highlighted the orchestra's broader programming goals of connecting Western classical repertoire with global musical influences. Together, they added depth and contrast to the tour program while giving audiences across the Midwest a chance to experience the violin in two very distinct musical languages.