



**MUSIC
DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER**
CONCORDIA COLLEGE
FALL 2025

*Cover Photo Credit:
Marketing and
Communications*

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Dear Newsletter Readers,

Welcome to our winter issue! The fall semester has been energizing and rewarding for our department and our students. We began the school year by welcoming a first-year cohort of 70+ music majors—our second extra-large cohort in a row—and we are delighted to anticipate this momentum continuing next year. Our growth is a testament to the remarkable students who choose to study with us, and we remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to support and inspire them every day. We offer our gratitude to the many donors, alumni, and supporters who make what we do possible.

Our students were busy this past semester: observing master educators in the community, engaging in student teaching, and composing, studying, practicing, and performing an increasingly diverse, relevant, and consistently high-quality range of musical works, topics, and ideas.

Faculty, staff, and students presented many exciting performances, including the Homecoming Concert, Fall Choirs Concert, the Concordia Band tour to North Dakota and Montana, the Concordia Orchestra Senior Honors Concert, PRISM, Jazz Ensemble concerts, and of course the 99th Annual Christmas Concerts. Additionally, students competed in the NATS competition, traveled to a conference on pilgrimage, and performed at the Upper Midwest Trombone Summit in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Faculty presented at conferences, visited public school programs, and gave numerous performances, both on and off campus, in addition to their teaching duties. Looking ahead, the spring semester will feature many events, including Concordia Opera's production of Cinderella, the Concordia Choir's Northeast tour, the Concordia Orchestra's spring tour, and the Concordia Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz performing again at Crooner's Dinner Club in Blaine, MN. We also look forward to Percussion Day, High School Honor Band, and Masterworks, as well as numerous guest artist recitals on campus. We invite you to view our event listings and tune into live and recorded performances via our UStream page, linked from <https://www.concordiacollege.edu/music/performances-and-events/>.

At Concordia's music department, we continue our commitment to influencing the affairs of the world by reflecting historical and contemporary cultures through music and offering solace, inspiration, and artistic reflection for our students and community. We strive to include everyone, uplift underrepresented voices, explore unfamiliar musics with humility and curiosity, and expand the range of musical expression available to students—while sustaining a commitment to the enduring musical traditions of the past and present from around the world. Please keep in touch! Let us know what you are up to. Feel free to share this newsletter with others who may enjoy it. As always, we welcome your support, financial and otherwise. Many thanks for your interest, enthusiasm, and generosity!

—Dr. Nat Dickey, Music Department Chair

Newsletter edited by Zeapoe Matalda

HOMECOMING 2025

There's No Place Like Homecoming

The Concordia College Music Department celebrated tradition, artistry, and community at its 2025 Homecoming Concert, *There's No Place Like Homecoming*, held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 4, in Memorial Auditorium. The annual event brought together students, alumni, faculty, and friends of the college for an evening that highlighted Concordia's rich musical heritage and global artistic reach.

The concert opened with the Concordia Band, conducted by Peter Haberman, delivering a powerful and engaging performance. The ensemble began with *Intrada* by Stephen Montague (b. 1943), a bold and energetic work that immediately captured the audience's attention. The band followed with *The Frozen Cathedral* by John Mackey (b. 1973), a vivid and evocative piece inspired by the Antarctic landscape. Through sweeping lines and dramatic contrasts, the band conveyed both the majesty and mystery suggested by the title, demonstrating precision, tonal depth, and expressive range.

Next, the Concordia Orchestra took the stage under the direction of Kevin Sütterlin. The orchestra performed selections from *Chinese Sights and Sounds* [炎黄风情] by Bao Yuankai [鲍元恺] (b. 1944), offering listeners a colorful musical journey rooted in Chinese folk traditions. The program continued with selections from *Symphonic Variations on an African Air* by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875–1912). This work, based on an African-American spiritual, blended lyrical beauty with rhythmic vitality, showcasing the orchestra's sensitivity to style and dynamic contrast.

The evening concluded with the Concordia Choir, conducted by Michael Culloton, whose performance reflected both the spiritual foundation and choral excellence long associated with Concordia. The choir opened with *Cum Sancto Spiritu* by Hyo-Won Woo (b. 1974), followed by *Haec Dies* by Sarah Cattley (b. 1995), a joyful and rhythmically driven celebration. *Father Thunder* by Laura Jekabsone (b. 1985) brought a contemplative and atmospheric mood, while *How Great are Thy Wonders* by Georg Schumann (1866–1952) added warmth and Romantic richness.

Honoring Concordia's choral legacy, the choir performed *O Day Full of Grace and Beautiful Savior*, both arranged by F. Melius Christiansen, alongside the spirited spiritual *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*, arranged by Cedric Dent. These selections resonated deeply with alumni and audience members, reinforcing the sense of homecoming and shared tradition.

With performances spanning cultures, centuries, and musical styles, the 2025 Homecoming Concert affirmed the enduring strength of Concordia's music program. The evening served not only as a celebration of Homecoming weekend, but also as a reminder that, for many, music at Concordia truly feels like coming home.

[**CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE PERFORMANCE**](#)

🎵 NATS 🎵

We enjoyed another successful and enriching trip to Bethel University for this year's Minnesota NATS Competition, held November 7–8, 2025, in St. Paul. We are deeply grateful to our outstanding collaborative pianists—Andrew Steinberg, Rachel Horan, and Sue Nagel—whose dedication, preparation, and exceptional musicianship were essential to the success of the weekend. Twenty-five Concordia-trained singers represented the program with distinction, with 11 advancing to the semifinals and an impressive 9 advancing to the finals.



Dr. Anthony Leathem—
Associate Professor, Voice

MN NATS Student Placements

Musical Theatre – Finalists

- Chloe Hall – 2nd Place, MT Upper High School Treble (Griffeath)
- Sam Schaefer – 2nd Place, MT Lower College TB (Griffeath)

Classical – Finalists

- Chloe Hall – 1st Place, Upper High School Treble (Griffeath)
- Sophia Keller – 2nd Place, Sophomore Treble (Nash)
- Isaac Nelson – 1st Place, Sophomore TB (Griffeath)
- Carly Comstock – 2nd Place, Junior Treble (Janz)
- Jacob Schlueter – 1st Place, Junior TB (Griffeath)
- Aidan Anderson – 3rd Place, Junior TB (Leathem)
- Gracie Fink – 2nd Place, Senior Treble (Nash)
- Jacob Penny – 3rd Place, Senior Treble (Leathem)

Classical – Semifinalists

- Evelyn Gould – Sophomore Treble (Griffeath)
- Henry Sipples – Senior TB (Leathem)

PRISM

The 2025 Concordia College PRISM concert was held on Sunday, November 23rd, in Memorial Auditorium.

The concert features various ensembles from the Concordia music program, including concert bands, jazz bands, and chamber ensembles. The performance is continuous, with each ensemble performing seamlessly one after another, often in different parts of the concert hall to create a surround-sound effect.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE PERFORMANCE](#)

2025 BAND TOUR

Written by Kayla Bones



The Concordia Band toured this fall because Dr. Peter Haberman is taking a sabbatical in the Spring of 2026. The band worked with students and performed concerts in Mandan, ND, Missoula, Bozeman, Billings, MT, and Detroit Lakes, MN. LaReena Mosbrucker '26 was the senior soloist and performed Launy Grøndahl's Concerto for Trombone. Mosbrucker also served as the assistant conductor. The program included Traveler by David Maslanka, Forward/Still by Omar Thomas, Molly on the Shore by Percy Grainger, and The Frozen Cathedral by John Mackey. To see what else was on our program, you can watch our home concert [here](#).



Photo Credits: Kayla Bones,
Instrumental Ensembles
Manager

CONTINUING THE TRADITION

CONCORDIA COLLEGE STRING DEPARTMENT FALL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Written by Dr. Eduard Teregulov

Spotlight on Guest Artists

On October 3, we had the privilege of welcoming contemporary violinist and educator Michelle Kim-Painter from the Florida Orchestra. She captivated audiences with a dynamic recital featuring works by living composers, collaborating seamlessly with our own Dr. Eduard Teregulov (cello), Dr. Albina Khaliapova (piano), Dr. Victor Luvsangenden (violin) and students Joseph Stoll (clarinet) and Mason Abrahamson (viola).

Later in the semester, an extraordinary visit from internationally acclaimed cellist Dennis Parker, a long-standing faculty member at Louisiana State University, enriched our musical landscape. Prof. Parker delivered an engaging open masterclass and a spellbinding recital alongside Dr. Khaliapova, showcasing pieces by Franz Schubert, Ivan Sokolov, and Alberto Ginastera—a performance that left the audience in awe.

Student Spotlights

Our talented students shone brightly this semester! Senior Concerto Competition winners Malaya Yague (violin) and Elizabeth Ames (cello) delivered stunning performances of Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3 and Dvořák's Cello Concerto with the Concordia Orchestra, conducted by the brilliant Dr. Kevin Sütterlin. The concert hall buzzed with energy as the program also featured Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3, performed elegantly by Maria Clapp from piano studio of Jay Hershberger, along with orchestral gems like Chinese Sights and Sounds by Bao Yuankai and Symphonic Variations on an African Air by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.



Photo Credits: Dr. Eduard Teregulov



CONCORDIA COLLEGE STRING DEPARTMENT FALL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED...

In November, the Concordia Lower String Studio showcased their artistry with a heartfelt recital at the First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, captivating the Fargo-Moorhead community. Students performed an eclectic mix of solo and ensemble pieces, including works by J.S. Bach, Astor Piazzolla, Claude Debussy, Max Richter, and more.

Faculty Collaborations & Chamber Music Magic

A major highlight of the semester was a breathtaking chamber music concert organized in partnership with NDSU. The program featured the monumental Quartet for the End of Time by Olivier Messiaen, performed by Dr. Victor Luvsangenden, Dr. Eduard Teregulov, Stephen Sulich, and Dr. Cassie Keogh. Adding to the musical feast, Dr. Teregulov and Dr. Khaliapova performed Alfred Schnittke's Sonata No. 1 for Cello and Piano, while Dr. Khaliapova and pianist Susan Nagel dazzled with Shostakovich's Concertino in A minor for Two Pianos.

A Semester to Remember

This fall, the Concordia String Department thrived on a harmonious blend of talent, passion, and collaboration. From student triumphs to inspiring guest performances, every note played echoed our department's commitment to musical excellence. Here's to an encore-worthy spring ahead!



Photo Credits: Dr. Eduard Teregulov



CONCORDIA PIANO FESTIVAL

By: Dr. Grigor Khachatryan

I am pleased to share details about this year's Concordia Piano Festival, an annual event I direct that celebrates piano and chamber music through a rich series of performances. The 2025 festival will feature five consecutive concerts and welcome internationally recognized artists, offering a wide-ranging program that spans the works of Mendelssohn, Schubert, Brahms, Kabalevsky, Nazaykinskaya, Chopin, and Ginastera, alongside newly commissioned contemporary compositions.

All concerts are free and open to the public and will be held in Christiansen Recital Hall. Festival events include:

March 21, 3:00 p.m. – Piano Trio and Piano Duet Recital
Concordia Faculty: Dr. Grigor Khachatryan, Dr. Jay Hershberger, Dr. Eduard Teregulov, Dr. Victor Avila Luvsangenden

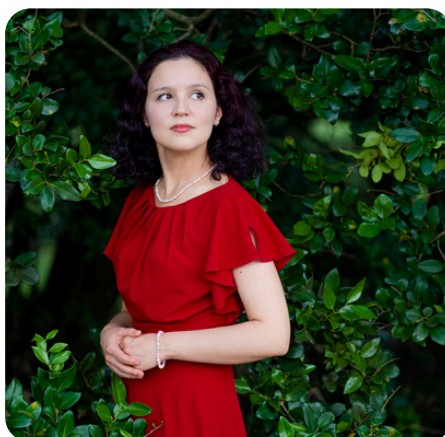
March 22, 3:00 p.m. – Solo Piano Recital
Dr. Jay Hershberger

March 23, 7:30 p.m. – Solo Piano Recital
Dr. Grigor Khachatryan

March 24, 7:30 p.m. – Guest Artists Recital
Dr. Adam Zukiewicz and Dr. Tulio Rondon

March 25, 7:30 p.m. – Chamber Music Recital
Dr. Eduard Teregulov and Dr. Albina Khalyapova

We warmly invite the community to join us for this weeklong celebration of piano artistry and collaborative music-making.



SYMPOSIUM PILGRIMAGE STUDIES

Written by Dr. Jeff Meyer



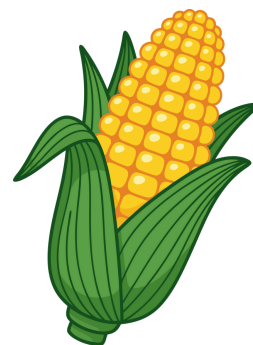
Three Concordia music majors – senior Zach Catalan and juniors Ephriam Cooper and Henry Skatvold – presented their research on music and pilgrimage at the Symposium Pilgrimage Studies, held at the College of William and Mary this past November in Williamsburg, Virginia. The three researched this topic over six weeks as part of Concordia’s URSCA (Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity) program during the summer of 2025, mentored by Dr. Jeff Meyer.

Their acceptance as paper presentations was quite unusual, as undergraduate students normally present only posters at the symposium. This was a testament to the quality of their research and abstracts. Zach’s paper, which led off the symposium, was entitled “The Medieval Poet-Musicians as Pilgrims: Reimagining the Traditions.” Later in the symposium Henry presented “The Pilgrim and the Artist: Connections through Liminal Space,” while Ephriam presented “Deepening Perceptions of ‘Musicking’ within Civil Rights Pilgrimages.” All three presentations were enthusiastically received, and all three handled the post-presentation Q and A with clarity and passion; Dr. Meyer was proud to hear their presentations and dialogues with many highly-regarded scholars. A note from the symposium organizer (and giant in the pilgrimage studies world) ended by saying “the four of you made a unique contribution and we’re grateful.” Check out their work for yourselves when they present at the URSCA Symposium at Concordia in April.

Top photo from left: Dr. Meyer, Zachary Catalan, Henry Skatvold, and Ephriam Cooper at the Symposium for Pilgrimage Studies, William and Mary.



Photo Credit: Dr. Jeff Meyer
(Top)
(Bottom) Kayla Bones,
Instrumental Ensembles
Manager



MUSIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

In October, the music education faculty of Concordia headed to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for the South Dakota Music Education Association state conference. Dr. Jennifer Hawkinson shared her expertise with collegiate and K-12 music educators through two presentations and a panel discussion. Dr. Abbie Van Klompenberg also presented at the conference, with general music lessons inspired by nature and the Orff-Schulwerk approach. Drs. Hawkinson and Van Klompenberg connected Cobber alums and shared exciting updates about Concordia's Master of Music in Music Education program. You can find out more about the program by visiting this [link](#).

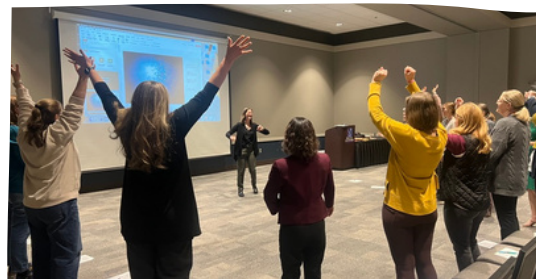


Photo Credit: Dr. Abigail Van Klompenberg

SPOTLIGHT ON COMPOSITION

We are pleased to highlight this year's upcoming Circuit 721 recital, taking place on Sunday, January 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the recital hall. This annual concert is dedicated to electroacoustic music and consistently showcases innovative and interdisciplinary work.

This year's program will feature two world premieres by Doug Harbin, created through a unique collaboration with Drs. Courtney Grula and Brent Hulke of the USDA. The evening will begin with a pre-concert talk exploring their research with local pollinators and sunflowers, providing context for the new works. The concert will then continue with performances by Drs. Eduard Tregulov, Sonja Bosca-Harasim, and additional guest artists.



THE IV.I.I...



By: Jessica Westgard Larson

I'm proud to share that Concordia was well represented in the inaugural 2024–2025 season of Ring Out! Minnesota, a Twin Cities–based LGBTQ+ handbell ensemble. Three Concordia alumni—Kacy Jiran, Ginelle (Newstrom) Whiting, and Samara “Sammy” Strootman—participated in the ensemble’s very first season and are pictured with me at its debut concert on January 17, 2025. The Concordia connection continues to grow, as a fourth Cobber, Maddie Harvala, has joined Ring Out! Minnesota for the 2025–2026 season. It is exciting to see Concordia alumni contributing their musicianship to new and inclusive artistic communities beyond campus.



Photo Credit: Jessica Westgard Larson

By: Russ Peterson

On December 8, the Concordia Saxophone Studio brought music and holiday cheer to the Plains Art Museum in downtown Fargo with a lively noontime concert. The program featured saxophone quartet repertoire alongside festive Christmas favorites, delighting museum visitors and concertgoers alike.

The performance concluded with a rousing “Sax Army” finale, as the entire studio lined up to play together. The energetic ending earned a standing ovation from the audience—proof once again that saxophones truly save the day.

Merry Christmas from the Concordia saxophones!



Photo Credit: Russ Peterson

Dr. Annett Richter was named Contributing Editor by Soundboard Magazine: The Journal of the Guitar Foundation of America (Los Angeles) this Fall. Her most recent in-depth interview, with classical guitarist and 2024 GFA competition winner Leonela Alejandro (Puerto Rico), appeared in their September 2025 issue. As a visual artist, Dr. Richter received a Legacy Individual Grant from the Lake Region Arts Council (Fergus Falls) to collaborate with the Fargo-Moorhead Choral Artists (directed by Dr. Michael Culloton). For this collaboration, she created a series of new paintings inspired by the choral music on the FMCA's Spring program "Sing Joyfully: The Byrds and the Bs!" Her art was exhibited at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead during the FMCA's concert performances in April 2025.



THE IV.I.I...



By: Dr. Robin Griffeth

National Opera Association Opera Production Competition Results

Concordia College Opera's production of Jonathan Stinson's *The Three Bears* has been awarded Second Place (tie) in Division II of the National Opera Association's Opera Production Competition for the 2024–2025 cycle.

This year's competition drew a record 99 entries showcasing many outstanding productions. A panel of 24 judges dedicated more than 300 hours to reviewing submissions, providing detailed written feedback for all participants. The NOA welcomed both returning and new judges, whose thoughtful evaluations reflect the organization's commitment to fostering excellence in collegiate opera.

This recognition is a testament to the artistry, dedication, and collaborative spirit of the Concordia College Opera, Concordia music department and the Concordia theatre team and students—bravi tutti!

Congratulations to everyone who gave their time and talents to the production!

NOA Announcement [Link!](#)



Congratulations to Maria Clapp (senior, BM in Piano Performance), who won the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra Collegiate Artist Competition on October 12. As the competition winner, Maria will perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37 with the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra on December 14.

-Jay Hershberger



Calling all alumni!

The Music Department invites you to share your memories! We have recently added a television monitor to our building where we scroll concerts, events, and other pertinent information. We would like to showcase you there, as well!

If you are interested, please share:

A favorite memory of your time in music OR a recent accomplishment or honor

Current career

Year of graduation

Send to: Zeapoe Matalda, zmatalda@cord.edu

-Leigh Wakefield



THE IV.I.I...



Dr. Jennifer Nash

Under Dr. Nash's mentorship, two students advanced to the semifinal round and one student reached the finalist round of the prestigious Schmidt Vocal Arts National Collegiate Competition. In addition, two students were named finalists in the Thursday Musical Society Competition in Minneapolis, reflecting a high level of vocal excellence and competitive success.

Dr. Nash received invitations and grant support from the National Opera Association, the "No Limits" Conference on Women and Gender Studies, and the College Music Society to perform and present three newly created micro-operas at their respective national conferences. These invitations recognize her ongoing contributions to contemporary opera, interdisciplinary scholarship, and national professional dialogue.

At Concordia, Dr. Nash facilitated a five-day residency with internationally renowned collaborative pianist Martin Katz. The residency provided intensive coaching and mentorship for both singers and pianists and culminated in a public recital in which Mr. Katz performed alongside Concordia students, offering an exceptional educational and artistic experience.

Beyond her academic and artistic work, Dr. Nash qualified for and competed in the United States Dressage Foundation National Championships with her horse, Sin Fallo ("Emma"). She finished 11th nationally in her division and earned the Amateur High Point Award from the United States Lipizzan Federation. Emma is a half-Lipizzan, making the achievement especially meaningful within the breed community.



Photo Credit: Dr. Jennifer Nash



Join us in welcoming our new faculty and staff

Dr. Stephanie Tubiolo

Assistant Professor, Choral Music; Conductor, Chapel Choir and Kantorei



Dr. Stephanie Tubiolo was recently appointed Assistant Professor of Choral Music at Concordia College, where she conducts Kantorei and Chapel Choir and teaches undergraduate conducting. She is grateful to join the Concordia and Fargo-Moorhead communities, where she also leads the youth choir at Trinity Lutheran. From 2020-2025, she studied and taught at Rutgers–New Brunswick, winning the Irene Alm Memorial Prize for Excellence in Performance and Scholarly Research for her doctoral work. At Rutgers, she served as conductor of the University Choir and Voorhees Choir and as chorus master of Rutgers Opera Theatre. From 2011-2023, Dr. Tubiolo taught New Haven Public Schools students in grades 2-12 with the Yale Music in Schools Initiative, where she founded the Morse Chorale and was recognized with the Yale Distinguished Teaching Artist award.

In addition to her DMA in choral conducting from Mason Gross School of the Arts, she holds a BA in music from Yale College and an MM in choral conducting from the Yale School of Music.

Madeleine Howey- Instructor, Music Theory and History



Madeleine Howey is a music theorist and percussionist whose work emphasizes holistic musicianship and score-centered music-making. Her research integrates performers' perspectives into theoretical analysis, centering on spatial and timbral diversity in multipercussion music. She has presented this work at regional and national theory conferences. An active performer, she has appeared with ensembles including the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra, Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra, and Itasca Symphony Orchestra and also performed in ensembles at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention.

Howey holds a BA in Music and Mathematics from Concordia College and an MM in Music Theory from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where she is a PhD candidate in Music Theory. When not making music, she enjoys running, gardening, reading, and playing board games.

Paul Liversage- Instructor, Saxophone and Clarinet



Mr. Paul Liversage received his M.Mus.Ed. degree from Florida State University and completed his undergraduate studies at North Dakota State University. Prior to teaching adjunct at Concordia and MSUM, Mr. Liversage had been a band director in Minnesota for 36 years. He is a frequent clinician, section coach, and guest conductor for programs throughout the region. Mr. Liversage performs regularly with a number of local ensembles including Jazz Avalanche, Blue Halcyon Jazz Quintet, and the FM Kicks Jazz Band. Paul is a founding member of the Lake Agassiz Wind Symphony, where he has performed as both a guest soloist and conductor.

Dr. Mara Campbell- Instructor, Voice



Mara Campbell, soprano, has been praised for her interpretive skills and her warm, rich sound. A versatile vocal artist, she emphasizes dramatic interpretation and text-driven performance. Her professional engagements include performances with Opera Tampa, Florida Lyric Opera, Spanish Lyric Theater, Straw Hat Players, and the Imperial Symphony Orchestra. Campbell works as a recitalist, soloist, and musical director, and will premiere composer Kyle Vanderburg's song cycle *Hallucinations* in 2026. She teaches applied voice at Concordia College and North Dakota State University and maintains a private voice studio. Her research focuses on the recovery and performance of overlooked composers and the intersections of music and text, including work on Hugo Daffner and Yiddish art song.

Her work has been supported by the Bison Arts and Humanities Award and the NDSU College of Arts and Sciences Service Learning Fellowship. A native of Florida, Campbell earned her Bachelor of Music from Florida Southern College, where she studied with Beverly Wolff, and completed her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees at North Dakota State University, where she was the first vocalist to receive the Challey School of Music Doctoral Fellowship.

Photo credit: Daniel Damico



Kristin Griffeath - Instructor, Voice

Dr. Kristin Griffeath, soprano, grew up in Plymouth, Minnesota and has over fifteen years of experience teaching music at the elementary and collegiate levels. Griffeath attended the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in Appleton, WI, where she double majored in Music Education (Choral/Vocal) and Piano Performance. She studied voice at the University of Arizona in Tucson, teaching elementary music while earning a master's degree in performance. At the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, she pursued a DMA in vocal performance and a second master's degree in musicology. After twelve years of teaching voice, music history, and opera as a professor at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma, she relocated with her family to the Fargo-Moorhead area in the fall of 2023.

She now teaches elementary music for the West-Fargo Public School District at Horace Elementary, where she enjoys helping young musicians discover the amazing world of music-making. The last two summers have brought exciting opportunities to work with Trollwood students in the Musical Theatre Conservatory summer course, and she is thrilled to be stepping into music direction for Trollwood's 2026 Mainstage Musical production of *Frozen*. Griffeath has also enjoyed a return to the voice studio with singers at Concordia College, where she now teaches applied voice.

Zeapoe Matalda-Administrative Assistant



Zeapoe Matalda has worked in arts administration for over seven years with organizations such as Seattle Opera, Seattle Symphony, and the Fargo Moorhead Opera, to name a few. In addition to working in Arts Administration, Zeapoe is a musician and filmmaker and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Composition from Seattle Pacific University. She is currently wrapping up production on her film "Pretty: The Musical," which follows the journey of three exceptional college students who live double lives as international spies. **The film is set premiere at Concordia College at 6:30 pm on Saturday May 2nd, 2026 in Christiansen Recital Hall.** Zeapoe is very excited to join the community of Concordia and support the Music Department as the Administrative Assistant!

Photo credit: Stacy Kennedy

OUR FAVORITE FALL MOMENTS...

PHOTO CREDIT: KAYLA BONES



CONTINUING THE TRADITION

Karin Wakefield- Instructor, Horn and Piano



We extend our heartfelt gratitude and warmest wishes to Karin Wakefield as she enters a well-earned retirement. For years, Karin has been a cornerstone of the musical community at Concordia College, where her dedication as an instructor of horn has shaped generations of students through her artistry, mentorship, and quiet excellence. Her impact reaches far beyond the studio, resonating across the region through her distinguished service as principal horn of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony and the Fargo-Moorhead Opera Company. Karin's musicianship and generosity have been felt in countless performances as a member of the Concordia College Faculty Wind Quintet and as a trusted and collaborative accompanist throughout the region.

Whether teaching, performing, or supporting fellow musicians, she has brought grace, professionalism, and deep musical integrity to every endeavor. We are profoundly grateful for her many contributions and the legacy she leaves behind, and we wish her a retirement filled with joy, rest, and many beautiful moments of music yet to come.

Dr. Leigh Wakefield- Professor, Clarinet and Woodwind Methods



With deep gratitude and admiration, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Dr. Leigh Wakefield as he retires from Concordia College after 37 years of extraordinary service. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Wakefield has been a guiding force in the Concordia music community, inspiring generations of students through his teaching of clarinet, chamber music, and woodwind methods, and through his leadership as conductor of the Concordia Cobber Band and the Concordia Jazz Ensemble. His commitment to musical excellence, thoughtful pedagogy, and steady mentorship has left an enduring mark on the College and on countless musicians who carry his influence forward.

Beyond campus, Dr. Wakefield's artistry has resonated throughout the region. For 36 years he served as principal clarinetist with the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra and continues to perform as principal clarinetist with the Fargo-Moorhead Opera Company, while also contributing as a valued member of the Concordia Wind Quintet. His career reflects a rare balance of teaching, performing, and leading with integrity and generosity. As Dr. Wakefield enters this new chapter, we celebrate a legacy defined by dedication, musicianship, and community, and we offer our warmest wishes for a retirement filled with fulfillment, reflection, and the continued joy of music.

SPRING FACULTY RECITALS

January 9 – Dr. Nat Dickey, Trombone
Hvidsten Hall of Music, Christiansen Recital Hall – 7:30 PM

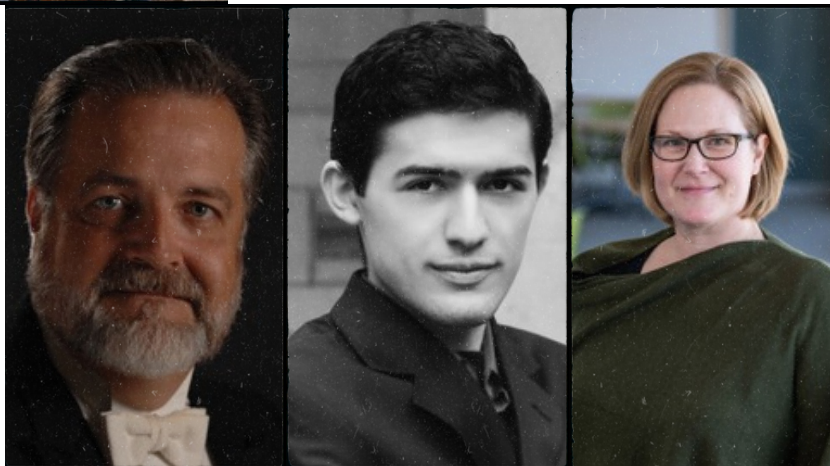
March 20 – Maisi Pederson, Voice
Hvidsten Hall of Music, Christiansen Recital Hall – 7:30 PM

March 21- Dr. Grigor Khachatryan, Dr. Victor Avila Luvsangenden, Dr. Eduard Teregulov, Thomas Bandar, Piano & Strings
Hvidsten Hall of Music, Christiansen Recital Hall – 3:00 PM

March 22- Dr. Jay Hershberger, Piano
Hvidsten Hall of Music, Christiansen Recital Hall – 3:00 PM

March 23 - Dr. Grigor Khachatryan, Piano
Hvidsten Hall of Music, Christiansen Recital Hall – 7:30 PM

March 26 – Dr. Eduard Teregulov, Cello
Hvidsten Hall of Music, Christiansen Recital Hall – 7:30 PM



2025 CONCORDIA VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT WELCOME ALL WONDERS

While nothing can fully replace the power and beauty of experiencing a Concordia Christmas Concert in person, Concordia remains committed to sharing this cherished tradition with as many people as possible. To that end, we are pleased to once again offer a virtual viewing option for the 2025 Concordia Christmas Concert, Welcome All Wonders. This online experience is designed both for those who are unable to attend an in-person performance and for those who wish to revisit the special moments they enjoyed in the concert hall.

As we look ahead to the 100th Concordia Christmas Concerts in 2026, this year marks an important step in preparation. Rather than recording the Orchestra Hall performances, we will pilot a new video recording system by filming Welcome All Wonders! during the Moorhead concerts. From these recordings, a slightly shortened version of the concert will be created and made available for on-demand online viewing from December 21 through January 8. Registration will be required to access the virtual concert.

This marks the first time since 2016 that the Moorhead Christmas Concerts have been recorded, making this virtual offering a unique and meaningful opportunity. Whether you are joining from afar or reliving a treasured in-person experience, we invite you to take part in this special presentation of Welcome All Wonders and celebrate the season with the Concordia community. Register for the virtual performance [HERE](#).




Choir Tour Dates 2025

Saturday, Feb. 21 – Aberdeen, SD
Sunday, Feb. 22 – Roseville, MN
Saturday, Feb. 28 – St. Louis Park, MN
Sunday, March 1 – Madison, WI
Monday, March 2 – Mishawaka, IN
Tuesday, March 3 – Louisville, KY
Wednesday, March 4 – Cincinnati, OH
Thursday, March 5 – Gahanna, OH
Friday, March 6 – Gettysburg, PA

Saturday, March 7 – Baltimore, MD
Sunday, March 8 – Washington, D.C.
Tuesday, March 10 – Harrisburg, PA
Wednesday, March 11 – Albany, NY
Thursday, March 12 – St. Johnsbury, VT
Friday, March 13 – Cambridge, MA
Saturday, March 14 – St. Cloud, MN
Sunday, March 15 – Moorhead, MN

 /theconcordiachoir

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2026 Orchestra Tour Schedule

More information available soon at
ConcordiaCollege.edu/OrchestraTour

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CONCORDIA BAND HOME CONCERT 2025

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PHOTO CREDIT: KAYLA BONES

CONTINUING THE TRADITION

UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS

January

- January 16 – Concordia Chamber Players
Hvidsten Hall of Music, Christiansen Recital Hall – 7:30 PM
- January 18 – Circuit 721
Hvidsten Hall of Music, Christiansen Recital Hall – 6:00 PM
- January 30 – Vocal Jazz Festival: New York Voices -7:30 PM
- January 31 – Vocal Jazz Festival 8:30 AM-6:00 PM
Hvidsten Hall of Music
Click [HERE](#) for more information.

February

- February 15 – Music Scholarship Concert
Memorial Auditorium, Main Gym – 7:00 PM
- February 22
 - Symphonic Band Concert
 - Memorial Auditorium, Main Gym – 2:00 PM
 - Concordia Band Concert
 - Memorial Auditorium, Main Gym – 4:00 PM
- February 23 – February Choir Concert
Knutson Campus Center, Centrum – 7:30 PM
- February 24 – Jazz Bands Concert
Hvidsten Hall of Music, Buxton/Hanson Rehearsal Hall (Combined) – 7:30 PM



To stay up to date, click on the “[schedule](#)” link below.

UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS

March

- March 14 – Concordia Orchestra Home Tour Concert
Memorial Auditorium, Main Gym – 2:00 PM
- March 15 – Concordia Choir Home Concert
Memorial Auditorium, Main Gym – 4:00 PM
- March 21- Chapel Choir Home Concert
Knutson Campus Center, Centrum – 2:00 PM
- March 24 – Guest Artist Recital: Adam Zukiwicz (piano) & Tulio Rondon (cello)
Hvidsten Hall of Music, Christiansen Recital Hall – 7:30 PM
- March 29
 - High School Honor Band & Jazz Band Concert
 - Location- To Be Announced – 12:30 PM



To stay up to date, click on the “[schedule](#)” link below.

UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS

April

- April 11 - Percussion Day Concert
Location -To Be Announced – 4:00 PM
- April 12 - Vocal Jazz Spring Concert
Hvidsten Hall of Music, Buxton/Hanson Rehearsal Hall – 7:30 PM
- April 13 – Symphonia Concert
Hvidsten Hall of Music, Buxton/Hanson Rehearsal Hall – 7:30 PM
- April 18 – Symphonic Band Concert / 9th Grade Festival
To be announced – 6:00 PM
- April 19
 - Concordia Concert Handbells
 - Hvidsten Hall of Music, Christiansen Recital Hall – 2:00 PM
 - Jazz Bands Concert
 - Hvidsten Hall of Music, Buxton/Hanson Rehearsal Hall – 4:00 PM
- April 26 - Masterworks- The Concordia Choir, Kantorei, Chapel Choir,
The Concordia Orchestra -Fargo Air Museum- 6:00 PM

May

- May 2 – Commencement Concert
Memorial Auditorium, Main Gym – 3:00 PM

To stay up to date, click on the “[schedule](#)” link below.