



CONCORDIA COLLEGE
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWSLETTER

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RECORDING WEEKEND

The second weekend of October marked the first of two big recording weekends for our instrumental ensembles. Many of our groups experienced their first performances of the school year with cameras and microphones as their audience. With The Concordia Band split into woodwind and brass groups, and The Concordia Orchestra taking the opportunity to perform smaller chamber works, a wide variety of music was experienced by students. A unique opportunity that presented itself in the wake of the pandemic involved members of both The Concordia Orchestra and The Concordia Band. A handful of band members in conjunction with several low string players performed Antonín Dvořák's "Serenade for Winds." Another such piece will be featured in November during the next big recording session. All of these performances can be found in the performance archives. To enhance these music-making experiences, a live watch-party was hosted by several of our social media accounts, which showed the final products that each recorded ensemble was able to produce over the long weekend. Click the performance archives button below to hear some fantastic music!



Every semester, 200 music majors and 600+ non-majors participate in 19 music ensembles on Concordia's campus. This newsletter is devoted to sharing information about the people, music, and events that are part of our instrumental community. Look here for announcements, upcoming performances, and additional information to stay connected to our ensembles' activity and progress.

Follow us!



@TheConcordiaBand
@TheConcordiaOrchestra



The Concordia Band
The Concordia Orchestra



LIVESTREAMED REHEARSALS

A big part of the recruiting process for our flagship ensembles involves the participation of prospective students in our daily rehearsals so they can better understand what they may experience as future members of our ensembles. Because of restrictions due to COVID-19, welcoming these students into our rehearsals while they're on campus has become an impossibility. To ensure that prospective students can still experience our rehearsals, The Concordia Band has begun to livestream all Monday and Wednesday rehearsals. Parents, alumni, students, and all those interested are welcome to watch! Check the band Facebook page for details.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

While performance schedules are tentative at the moment, you may enjoy any of our archived concerts. Click on "Performance Archives" to watch your favorite Homecoming concerts, jazz ensembles, or chamber groups!

PERFORMANCE
ARCHIVES

CONCORDIA COVID-19
UPDATES



ORCHESTRA IN MEMORIAL

After the initial recording session of our instrumental ensembles, The Concordia Orchestra was invited to participate in the recording session of Concordia's choirs, where they performed several brass chamber pieces, as well as movements from Ottoro Respighi's "Gli Uccelli (The Birds)." These recordings will be released for the public to enjoy at a later date.





DIRECTOR FEATURE

Amanda Kaus

A native of Rochester, Minn., Amanda Kaus is a band director at Rochester Century High School. Kaus is a graduate of St. Olaf College with a bachelor of music in music education, as well as a master of arts in music education from the University of St. Thomas. As a band director, Kaus leads four concert bands, a marching band, pep band, jazz band, and pit orchestra. When asked about advice she has for young music educators, Kaus discusses the importance in taking advantage of opportunities to observe other educators and conductors. She says "Whether it is attending honor bands and observing the work of the clinician or visiting nearby schools to spend a day with a veteran educator to observe and ask questions, I believe young music educators can gain a wealth of ideas and techniques to bring to their own teaching through observation and reaching out to other educators." With her bands, Kaus' favorite piece to conduct is Alfred Reed's "Russian Christmas Music."

ALUMI SPOTLIGHT

Andrew Nelson

Andrew Nelson is a 2019 graduate of Concordia College with a bachelor of music in saxophone performance. Currently, Nelson is a student at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and is studying saxophone with Preston Duncan. A significant lesson that Nelson learned at Concordia involves making constant improvements to your musical abilities. "No matter what, the quality of your music-making should always be at a high level. Never settle for anything less!" Nelson mentioned several musical moments that hold significance in his mind, one being a rehearsal of "No. 1 Colonial Song" by Percy Grainger. About this moment, Nelson says "I remember sitting there playing and listening to music that was being made throughout the room. The feeling of being one living, breathing ensemble (and making the music that we were) still makes me emotional and brings me comfort when I'm missing the band to this day." A second memory involves a performance of "Scherzade" by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov that Nelson experienced during a tour with The Concordia Orchestra, Nelson states "The quality of that performance is still what I strive to give to every audience who hears me play."



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Makayla Moen

Makayla Moen is in her final year at Concordia studying for a bachelor of music in music education. A native of Eau Claire, Wis., Moen is a fan of the outdoors, and spends her time hiking, kayaking, and water skiing. In school, Moen plays clarinet in The Concordia Band, clarinet choir, and a clarinet quartet. Moen is also the president of The Concordia Band, the president of MBDA, a board member of Habitat for Humanity, and a member of Concordia's homecoming committee. Moen's favorite aspect of music at Concordia is the community. She states, "My first year in The Concordia Band was my junior year, and I was very nervous about fitting in, both socially and musically. On the first day of rehearsal, everyone welcomed me, along with the other new members, with open hearts and warm smiles. Throughout the year, I made many strong relationships with people I gladly call my best friends." Moen's most memorable moments in band have been the devotionals that take place before each concert, saying "it is really sentimental to see how music, and more specifically The Concordia Band, has impacted [everyone's] lives in such positive ways."



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