

VI MESSERLI  
MEMORIAL

# Lectures

IN CHURCH MUSIC

OCTOBER 19-21, 2025

For All The Saints



JOHN WITVLIET  
PLENARY



HYMNS OF  
DAVID ROGNER  
HYMN FESTIVAL



BRENDA PORTMAN  
ORGAN CONCERT



CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY  
CHICAGO

*Christ at the Center*

INFO AND REGISTRATION  
[CUCHICAGO.EDU](http://CUCHICAGO.EDU)

7400 AUGUSTA ST, RIVER FOREST, IL

SCAN QR CODE AND  
REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

[CUCHICAGO.EDU](http://CUCHICAGO.EDU)



# Schedule

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

4:00 p.m.	Music for Two	Moderators: Barry Bobb and Steven Wente	Gieschen Choir Room, Kretzmann Hall
Open Time	Personal planning time in Liturgical Choir Reference Library		Center for Church Music
7:00 p.m.	Hymn Festival Hymns of David Rogner	Concordia University Kapelle; Grace Lutheran Church Parish Choir; Choir of First Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, Chicago	Grace Lutheran Church

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025

8:00 a.m.	Choral Reading Session I		Location TBA
Open Time	Personal planning time in Liturgical Choir Reference Library		Center for Church Music
9:15 a.m.	Plenary: Shaping Cultures of Congregational Music as a Pastoral Task	John Witvliet	Chapel of Our Lord
11:00 a.m.	Chapel		Chapel of Our Lord
11:30 a.m.	Lunch, <i>Conversation on Hymn Writing</i> with David Rogner, and Exhibit browsing		Koehneke Community Center and Band Room
1:00 p.m.	Workshop Sessions I		
2:15 p.m.	Workshop Sessions II		
3:15 p.m.	Break and Exhibit Browsing		Band Room
3:45 p.m.	Choral Reading Session II		Location TBA
5:15 p.m.	Banquet Speaker: Jim Rindelaub: <i>A Saintly Fiasco</i>		Koehneke Community Center/Oak Park-River Forest Room
7:30 p.m.	Organ Concert	Brenda Portman	Grace Lutheran Church

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025

8:15 a.m.	Choral Reading Session III		Location TBA
9:30 a.m.	Workshop Sessions III		
11:00 a.m.	Chapel		Chapel of Our Lord
11:30 p.m.	Lunch: Exhibit browsing (Exhibits close at 1 pm)		
1:15 p.m.	Workshop Sessions IV		
2:30 pm.	Workshop Sessions V		
3:35 p.m.	Itinerarium		Location TBA

Register [online](#).



# workshops

"Beyond the Hymnals: Choosing Christian Songs for the Lectionary, Part 1" **Stephen Starke, Barry Bobb**

"Beyond the Hymnals: Choosing Christian Songs for the Lectionary, Part 2" **Lisa Clark, David Rogner**

"Composing for the Church: Opportunities and Questions: A Panel Discussion" **Anne Krentz Organ, John Behnke, Brenda Portman**

"Expanding Your Ministry with Handbells/ Handchimes" **John Behnke**

"Get the Band Together: Using Instruments in Worship" **Matthew Janssen**

"Have You Sung This? Music for Smaller Choirs through the Church Year" **Steven Wente**

"Incorporating Early Music in Service Planning" **Emily Solomon**

"Musical Parenting and Early Childhood Music Classes" **Emily Woock**

"Portraits in American Lutheran Sacred Music: 1847-1947" **Benjamin Kolodziej**

"Practical Organ Repertoire by John Behnke and Others" **John Behnke**

"Singing the Psalms: Insights from Biblical Scholars, Strategies from Innovative Composers" **John Witvliet**

"Teaching Children to Sing Beautifully" **Sam and Lois Eatherton**



**JOHN WITVLIET  
PLENARY**

From 1997-2025, John D. Witvliet served as the founding director of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI. In 2025, John joined the faculty at Belmont University in Nashville TN as Professor of Theology, Worship and Senior Scholar.



**HYMNS OF DAVID ROGNER  
HYMN FESTIVAL**

David Rogner is Distinguished Professor of English at Concordia University, Chicago where he has taught since 1986. He has published poetry in a variety of journals; his hymn texts appear in *Lutheran Service Book*, *Christian Worship*, *One and All Rejoice*, and numerous choral anthems. In 2025 he conducted the *Prevallet Hymn Writing Workshop* at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.



**BRENDA PORTMAN  
ORGAN CONCERT**

Brenda Portman is the Resident Organist at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is active throughout the United States as a performer, teacher, and composer. She holds a DMA in organ performance from the University of Cincinnati, as well as degrees from Northwestern University and Wheaton College. Dr. Portman has published many organ and choral works and is frequently commissioned to write new music for occasions such as conventions, new organ dedications, and memorials.

**Register [online.](#)**

# Presenters



**John Behnke** is Emeritus Professor of Music at Concordia University in Mequon WI. He continues to be active as a church musician, organist, handbell clinician and composer with over 550 compositions in print.



**Barry Bobb**, now retired from full-time parish musician responsibilities, has served the past twelve years as volunteer director of the Center for Church Music at CUC, overseeing its various initiatives and archival work.



**Charles Brown** serves as professor of music and is the music program lead and chair of the arts division at Concordia University Chicago. He teaches a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses and is conductor of the touring choir, the Kapelle.



**Lisa Clark** is senior editor of curriculum resources at CPH and well established as a hymn writer and a clinician for hymn writing workshops. In 2022 she was named a Schalk Scholar by the Center for Church Music as well as a Lovelace Scholar

and Emerging Scholar by the Hymn Society of North American and Canada.



**Michael Costello** is cantor at Grace Lutheran Church and School in River Forest, IL, where he directs choirs, serves as organist and directs the Bach Cantata Vespers series. He is best known for his creative hymn improvisations and published works for choir and organ. Michael

is also artistic director of Consonance—Chicago Choral Artists.



**Lois Eatherton** has over 16 years of experience teaching in Lutheran schools. She also currently serves as the Project Coordinator for the Children in Worship Initiative at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. In addition, Lois is directing the recently formed Seminary Children's Choir, drawing from over 30 Lutheran churches and schools in the St. Louis area.



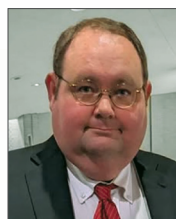
**Sam Eatherton** has been a church musician and teacher in Lutheran churches and schools for 28 years. He is currently the Kantor and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis MO, where he directs the Seminary Choirs, including the new Seminary Youth Choir.



**Kathryn Hillert Brewer** is an award-winning graphic designer, focusing on projects for the Church and related institutions. She brings her knowledge of the Lutheran Church and church music to the world of graphic design to assist organizations better to communicate with their audiences. Many will have seen her work in national publications of the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) and other church groups.



**Matthew Janssen** serves as Director of Bands at Lutheran High School South in St. Louis, MO, is Kantor at Hope Lutheran Church, and directs the Sanctus Winds, a community wind symphony formed in 2023.



**Benjamin Kolodziej** is organist at SMU and Organist/Choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church, Dallas TX. Recognized as a Schalk Scholar by the Center for Church Music, he has written for many journals and published a number of books. He is also a published composer.

Register [online](#).



# Presenters

CONTINUED



**Anne Krentz Organ** serves as the Director of Music Ministries at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, IL. She has numerous published works for choir, handbells, organ, and piano. Anne serves on the faculty of Lutheran Summer Music.



**Jim Rindelaub** is a lifelong Lutheran with church music degrees from St. Olaf College and Westminster Choir College. He is currently the executive director of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, a role he earlier fulfilled at Choristers Guild (2004-2017).



**Emily Solomon** serves as Cantor for Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Detroit. She is also the Executive Director for the Academy of Early Music in Ann Arbor MI. A graduate of the University of Michigan, she is also a Schalk Scholar. In 2019 Emily was included in The Diapason's "20 under 30" Class.



**Stephen Paul Starke** retired as a Lutheran pastor in 2020. Well known as a leader among Lutheran hymn writers, he has penned over 250 hymns. In July of 2023 he received the "Faithful Servant Award" from the ALCM for his service to the Church as pastor, hymnwriter, and hymnal editor.



**Steven Wente** is distinguished professor of music emeritus and organist laureate at Concordia University Chicago. He has served as cantor at First Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Chicago since 2010.



**Emily Woock** is an instructor at Concordia University Chicago, where she teaches courses in music education and church music, teaches applied organ lessons and plays for chapel. Emily continues to serve as church musician at Redeemer Lutheran, Elmhurst IL. Currently she is also completing her doctoral studies at Indiana University.

## housing

Conference attendees are to secure their own housing/hotel arrangements. Here are a few options.

**Please contact on-campus housing or the hotels directly.**

### On-campus housing

Limited on-campus housing is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For reservations, please email [GuestHousing@cuchicago.edu](mailto:GuestHousing@cuchicago.edu) to request a room and receive more information.

### Carleton of Oak Park Hotel

1110 Pleasant St, Oak Park, IL 60302  
[www.carletonhotel.com/](http://www.carletonhotel.com/)  
(708) 848-5000

### Comfort Suites Chicago O'Hare Airport

4200 N. River Road,  
Schiller Park, IL, 60176  
[www.choicehotels.com/illinois/schiller-park/comfort-suites-hotels/ill146?mc=llgoxxpx](http://www.choicehotels.com/illinois/schiller-park/comfort-suites-hotels/ill146?mc=llgoxxpx)  
(847) 233-9000

**Register online.**

# registration

LECTURES IN CHURCH MUSIC | OCTOBER 19-21, 2025  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Please complete online registration by  
clicking [this link](#) or scanning the QR code.

The form below is to be used only by  
individuals who are unable to register online.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Badge Nickname
Address	
Address is a: <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> Business      Organization Name:	
City	State      Zip
Phone	Email
Congregation you serve (if applicable)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I hereby consent that photographs, audios and videos taken of me during Lectures in Church Music may be used for purposes of event documentation, media coverage and promotion of Concordia University Chicago and Lectures in Church Music.	

## REGISTRATION OPTIONS

	Before September 15	After September 15	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entire conference	\$240	\$275	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Entire conference 65+	\$160	\$180	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Entire conference without Monday dinner banquet	\$225	\$250	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Entire conference 65+ without Monday dinner banquet	\$145	\$155	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday sessions only without Monday dinner banquet	\$150	\$170	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday sessions only 65+ without Monday dinner banquet	\$130	\$150	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday sessions only	\$125	\$140	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Monday lunch (can also be purchased onsite)	\$11	\$11	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday lunch (can also be purchased onsite)	\$11	\$11	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>			

## BANQUET ENTREE SELECTION

If you will be attending the Monday banquet, select your menu preference:

- ☐ Glazed chicken
- ☐ Roasted pork
- ☐ Vegan paella

## SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRATION

Online - [Click Here](#)

**By Mail** (check or credit card payments)  
Concordia University Chicago  
Attn: Steven Wenthe  
7400 Augusta St, River Forest, IL 60305

*Refunds (minus a \$25 processing fee) for those who cannot attend after registering will be made if notification is given on or before October 10.*

## PAYMENT

Please make checks payable to **Concordia University Chicago**. If you wish to pay by credit card, please fill the information below.  
To give credit card information over the phone, call Steven Wenthe at 708-209-3069 and indicate a preferred time for call back.

Name on Card:			
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Cardholder Phone Number:			
Card Number:	Exp. Date:	/	CVV Code:
Signature X			

**For additional information, call the Music Office at 708-209-3060.**

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Full-time college students (undergraduate and graduate) are eligible for conference scholarships. A limited number of additional scholarships are available to first-time participants, with preference given to those new to the field of church music.

The conference scholarships cover all sessions except the Monday evening banquet and daily lunches. Five scholarships will be awarded.

**To apply, please fill out the scholarship form at**  
<https://forms.gle/VFXQDzm5J7WHp6hg8>  
**or scan the QR Code and submit by September 1.**  
*Scholarship recipients will be notified by September 15.*

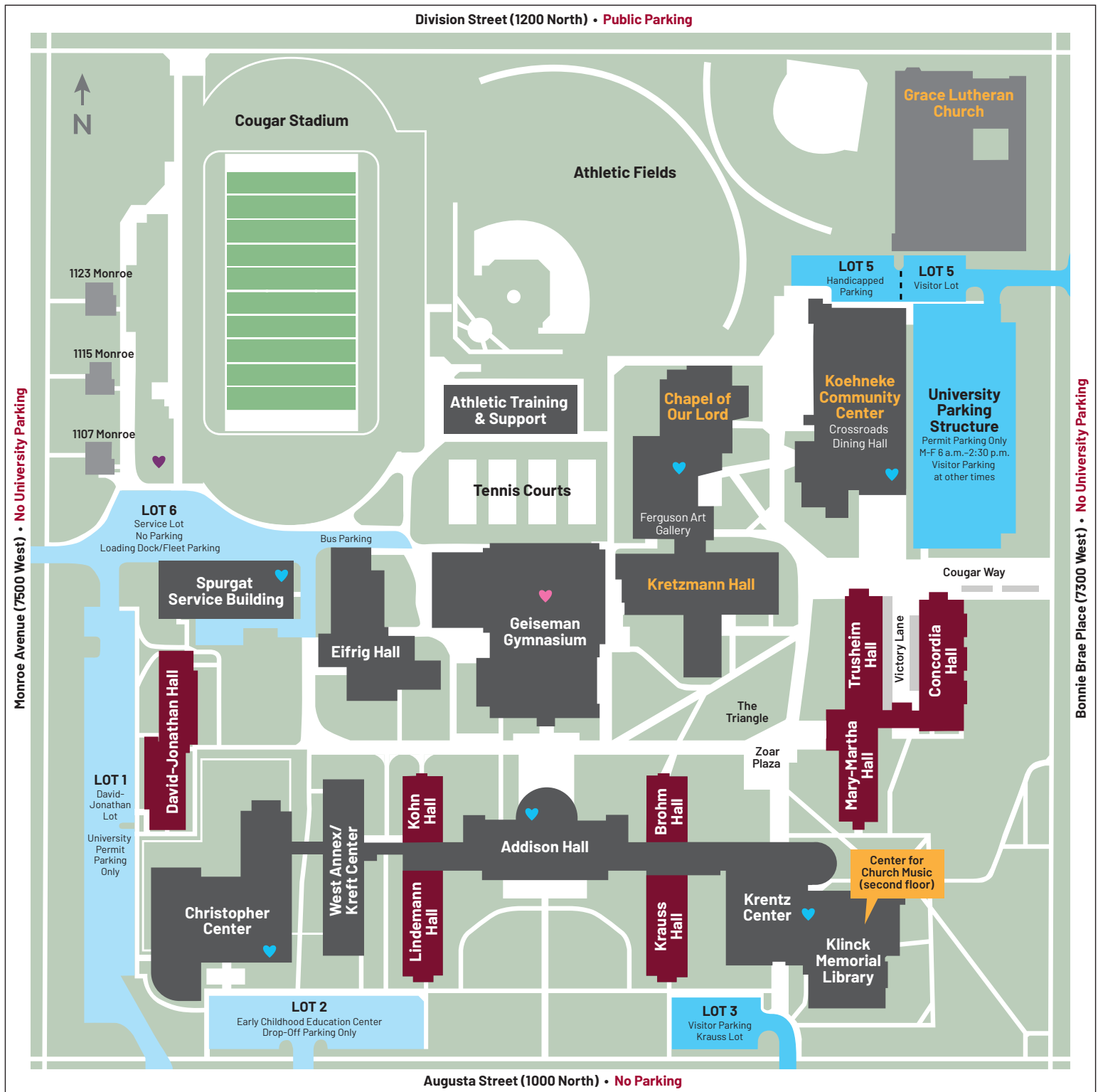




CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY  
CHICAGO

Christ at the Center

7400 Augusta Street  
River Forest, IL 60305  
708-771-8300  
CUChicago.edu



- University Permit Parking
- Visitor Parking

- Automatic External Defibrillators AED
- AED, March-November only in this location
- AED, Geiseman Lower Level and First Floor