

Spring 2025 Music Tour

Wind Symphony

of Concordia University Chicago

Conducted by Dr. Richard R. Fischer

The Fred and Jane Wittlinger Endowed Chair in Music Performance



CONCORDIA
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CHICAGO

Christ at the Center

welcome!

Gift. How does one accept a gift? There are so many answers to that question, but there are many gifts to consider at this moment. Arriving safely to this concert is reason alone to be grateful. Receiving concert programs from willing ushers, sensing the excitement among the audience members prior to the concert, watching the Wind Symphony members take their places, applauding as Dr. Fischer takes his place at the podium, anticipating the opening sound. There is a depth to this shared experience. It's a gift!

Expression. Artistry in music is a response to God's gift given to us

through his Son. You will hear it in the Wind Symphony and observe how the music affects them. The music will entertain and yet enlighten your thoughts and stir your souls to know that there is more than just a good feeling here. It is an expression of faith.

Anticipation. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1). This scriptural verse is part of Concordia University's theme of the year, "Standing Firm in the Faith." Through music, we get to share with the world that we unashamedly acknowledge the source of our gifts as we express

the message of God's eternal gift of salvation won for us through the merits of Christ on our behalf.

Gratitude. We are truly blessed by your presence here this evening. God gave us you—the audience—to listen and respond to the performance. This alone goes beyond the notes on the page.

Soli Deo Gloria!



Charles F. Brown

Arts Division
Chair, Music
Program Lead

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Feb 28 - March 4
Wind Symphony
Spring Tour

March 5-9
Kapelle Spring Tour

March 14
Wind Symphony
Home Concert
8 p.m., Chapel

March 16
Kapelle Home Concert
4 p.m., Chapel

March 21-22
Chamber Orchestra
Spring Tour

March 28
University Band
Concert
8 p.m., Chapel

April 6
Chamber Orchestra
Concert
7 p.m., Chapel

April 27
Spring Music Festival
7 p.m., Geiseman
Auditorium

June 28
University Band
Patriotic Pops Concert
6:30 p.m., Addison
Pillars Lawn



For a complete listing of concerts at Concordia-Chicago, including those that will be live-streamed, please visit CUChicago.edu/music. If you would like to receive emails about all upcoming concerts, send your request to music@CUChicago.edu. If you would like to catch another performance of this evening's program, watch our home concert live on the web on March 14 at 8 p.m. CDT. You may view more musical events, either live or on demand, at CUChicago.edu/live.

program

Conducted by Dr. Richard R. Fischer
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Meridian (2011) Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Olivia Wrolstad, piano

Blessed Are They from "A German Requiem" Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

*Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted. ~Matthew 5:4
They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth,
bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing,
bringing his sheaves with him. ~Psalm 126:5-6*

arr. Barbara Buehlman

Conversations with Matisse (2022) Robert W. Smith (1958-2023)

I. The Dance

Josiah Gerlach, alto saxophone

Be Thou My Vision (2000) David Gillingham (b. 1947)

Jitterbug! (2018) Robert Buckley (b. 1946)

Christian Salemink, trumpet

Gilded Morning (2023) John Wasson (b. 1956)

- intermission -

Free-will offering to support the Concordia University Chicago Wind Symphony

Hypnotic Memories (2019) Rossano Galante (b. 1967)

The Son of God Goes Forth to War (2025) Leonard Payton (b. 1958)

See hymn on page 6

Amparito Roca (1935) Jaime Texidor (1885-1957)

Seal Lullaby (2011) Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Olivia Wrolstad, piano

Amazing Grace arr. Luther Henderson (1919-2003)

Chris O'Hara, trumpet

Adapted for band Chris O'Hara (2024)

Symphonic Dance #3 (1965) Clifton Williams (1923-1976)



program notes

MERIDIAN BY OLA GJEILO

Meridian comes across very much out of a love for ostinato, or groove-based, music. Having grown up with the often world-music-infused jazz of Keith Jarrett and Jan Garbarek, as well as other influences such as Shostakovich symphonies, I've been easily drawn to having a consistent rhythmic drive in my music. Also, my love of 7/8 meter pops out in a couple of places.

Notes by the composer

CONVERSATIONS WITH MATISSE

BY ROBERT W. SMITH

Conversations with Matisse is a three-movement concerto for alto saxophone and band. The Wind Symphony will perform the first movement, *The Dance*, featuring soloist Josiah Gerlach. *The Dance* features key clicks and other extended saxophone techniques in an elegant sweeping solo line over a swelling and energetic band accompaniment.

Robert Smith paints with notes a homage to the artist Henri Matisse's (1869-1954) work *The Dance*, a composition of dancing figures painted in 1910; it is recognized as an important point of Matisse's career and in the development of modern painting.

Adam F. Brennan

BE THOU MY VISION BY DAVID R. GILLINGHAM

Gillingham bases his reverent and powerful work on the hymn tune "Be Thou My Vision" (also known as the old Irish ballad *Slane*), with its eternal message of faith and hope. The piece opens with a medieval-like flavor of reverence leading to the first presentation of "Be Thou My Vision" in D-minor stated in chant-like somberness by the euphonium. Gillingham then introduces his newly-composed "Irish ballad" countermelody—sung by the flute leading to a dramatic statement of "Be Thou My Vision" by the full ensemble in A-Major. The work is interrupted by a prayerful interlude. Following is the marriage of the two Irish tunes in Db-Major which grows to a glorious climax and then subsides. A heavenly benediction closes the work.

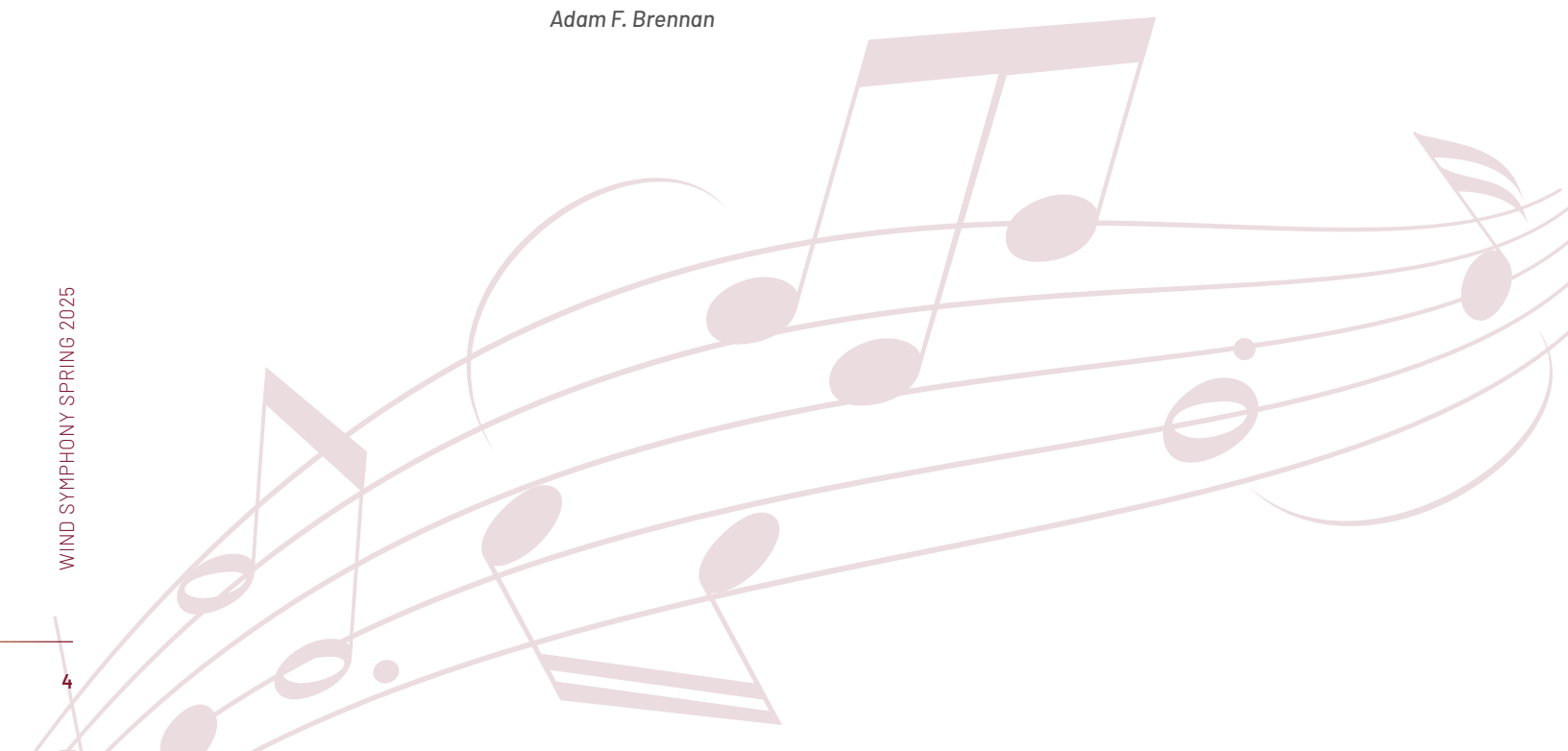
David Gillingham, a prolific wind composer, has won numerous awards for his compositions, and his works have been performed and recorded by many wind ensembles. He continues to compose and serve as professor of music at Central Michigan University.

Notes from the publisher

JITTERBUG! BY ROBERT BUCKLEY

In preparation for composing this piece, Robert Buckley studied numerous recordings of the major swing bands of the 1930s and 1940s. His intention was to capture the essence of the jazz age with an original piece of music. Each of the swing bands had their own "signature" sounds, which were immediately recognizable to their flocks of enthusiastic fans. This composition puts these various sounds and rhythms together in homage to a vibrant and innovative time in American music.

Notes from the publisher





GILDED MORNING BY JOHN WASSON

John Wasson was commissioned by the Indiana Bandmasters Association to create a work based upon the hymn *When Morning Gilds the Skies*, also commonly known by its refrain text, “*May Jesus Christ Be Praised.*”

Mr. Wasson’s goal in composing the work was to paint a musical depiction of the unfolding of the day, with its various elements joining together to accomplish the task of “letting the Lord be praised” in all things. To do so, Mr. Wasson utilized the hymn tune throughout the work, starting with simple settings for solo and ensemble passages, moving through various transformations of the theme in whole and in fragmented usage, and building to a final chorale-based statement of the theme in majestic fashion.

Notes from the publisher

HYPNOTIC MEMORIES BY ROSSANO GALANTE

Hypnotic Memories, a charming and somewhat dark musical offering, is a departure from this composer’s usual “epic” style. Originally scored for 15 players (two flutes, oboe, four clarinets, two bassoons, French horn, piano, double bass and three percussionists), this piece is much more intimate than Gallante’s thickly orchestrated grand works. Stylistically, a minimalistic compositional approach is used as the melodic content slowly unfolds over shifting ostinato patterns.

Notes from the publisher

AMPARITO ROCA BY JAIME TEXIDOR

Amparito Roca, composed in 1925 by Spanish musician and composer Jaime Texidor, is a classic Spanish march. Texidor named it after one of his piano students, then 12-year-old Amparito Roca.

It was first performed in September 1925 in the theater *El Siglo* in the town of Carlet where the composer lived at the time. It is a pasodoble and one of the better known pieces of Spanish music around the world.

THE SEAL LULLABY BY ERIC WHITACRE

The White Seal is a beautiful story, classic Kipling, dark and rich and not at all condescending to kids. Best of all, Kipling begins his tale with the mother seal singing softly to her young pup. (The opening poem is called “The Seal Lullaby.”)

*Oh! hush thee, my baby, the night is behind us,
And black are the waters that sparkled so green.
The moon, o’er the combers, looks downward to find us
At rest in the hollows that rustle between.
Where billow meets billow, there soft be thy pillow;
Ah, weary wee flipperling, curl at thy ease!
The storm shall not wake thee, nor shark overtake thee,
Asleep in the arms of the slow-swinging seas.*

– Rudyard Kipling, 1865–1936

Eric Whitacre is one of the most popular and performed composers of our generation, a distinguished conductor and public speaker. Commissions include works for the London Symphony Chorus and Orchestra, Julian Lloyd Webber and the Philharmonia Orchestra, *Rundfunkchor Berlin*, The King’s Singers and *Conspirare*. His musical, *Paradise Lost: Shadows and Wings*, won both the ASCAP Harold Arlen award and the Richard Rodgers Award, and earned 10 nominations at the Los Angeles Stage Alliance Ovation Awards. A versatile composer, he has also worked with legendary film composer Hans Zimmer, co-writing the “Mermaid Theme” for the feature film *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*.

Notes from the publisher

SYMPHONIC DANCE #3

BY CLIFTON WILLIAMS

Symphonic Dance #3, “Fiesta,” depicts the pageantry of Latin American celebrations—street bands, bullfights and bright costumes—the colorful legacy of a proud people.

Clifton Williams’ early compositions were for orchestra, but he would later achieve his greatest success writing for concert band. “Fiesta” is one of five symphonic dances that The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation commissioned Williams to compose to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra. He later transcribed two of those dances for wind ensemble, “Fiesta” and “The Maskers”.

Notes from the publisher

The Son of God Goes Forth to War

Choir 1. The Son of God goes forth to war, a king - ly crown to gain;
 Choir 2. The mar - tyr first, whose ea - gle eye could pierce be - yond the grave,
 All 3. A glo - rious band, the cho - sen few on whom the Spir - it came,
 All 4. A no - ble ar - my, men and boys, the ma - tron and the maid,

his blood - red ban - ner streams a - far: who fol - lows in his train?
 who saw his Mas - ter in the sky, and called on him to save:
 twelve val - iant saints, their hope they knew, and mocked the cross and flame:
 a - round the Sav - ior's throne re - joyce, in robes of light ar - rayed:

Who best can drink his cup of woe, tri - um - phant o - ver pain,
 like him, with par - don on his tongue in midst of mor - tal pain,
 they met the ty - rant's bran - dished steel, the li - on's gor - y mane;
 they climbed the steep as - cent of heav'n through per - il, toil, and pain:

who pa - tient bears his cross be - low, he fol - lows in his train.
 he prayed for them that did the wrong: who fol - lows in his train?
 they bowed their necks the death to feel: who fol - lows in their train?
 O God, to us may grace be giv'n to fol - low in their train.

Text: Reginald Heber (1723-1826)
 Tune: LR Payton, b. 1958
 Used by permission.

ALMA MATER

PAUL MANZ, '41

Hail to thee, our Alma Mater!
 Hail to thee, Maroon and Gold!
 Here we stand, thy sons and daughters,
 Thinking back to days of old—
 Days of joy and happy meetings,
 Days of friendship and of love.
 As we stand before thy Pillars,
 Hail, Concordia! Hail!

WHO PUTS HIS TRUST IN GOD MOST JUST

Who puts his trust
 In God most just
 Hath built his house securely;
 He who relies
 On Jesus Christ,
 Shall reach His heav'n most surely.

Then fixed on Thee
 My trust shall be,
 For Thy truth cannot alter;
 While mine Thou art
 Nor death's worst smart
 Shall make my courage falter.

— Joachim Magdeburg





Photo by Holly L. Nelson

Wind Symphony

The Concordia University Chicago Wind Symphony has performed in 43 states, Canada, Europe, Asia and South Africa, and enjoys an unparalleled reputation among small liberal arts institutions. Since the Wind Symphony began touring internationally, they have performed concerts in Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia. In May 2005, 2009 and 2013, the ensemble performed concerts in 10 cities in China, including Shanghai and Beijing. In May 2017, the Wind Symphony toured South Africa where they performed Johan de Meij's African Harmony, commissioned by the group especially for their tour. Additionally, the Wind Symphony has played major concerts at Carnegie Hall, Chicago's Symphony Center, the Meyerson Center in Dallas, the Weidner Center at University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Uihlein Hall at the Marcus Center in Milwaukee, the Saginaw Civic Center, and the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln, NE.

The Wind Symphony has commissioned and premiered numerous wind compositions and produced 16 acclaimed recordings of sacred wind repertoire. These recordings have been played on National Public Radio; WFMT, the classical station in Chicago; The Lutheran Hour; almost daily on the Moody Bible Network in 40 cities throughout the United States; and streaming on Spotify. They performed to multiple standing ovations as the showcase ensemble at the New York City Wind Band Festival at Carnegie Hall in 2014 and 2019.

If you would like the Wind Symphony to perform at your church on an upcoming tour, please contact tour manager Rachel Leininger at Rachel.Leininger@CUChicago.edu or 708-209-3524.



wind symphony members



Flute
Maddison
Blodgett
Rochester, NY
Music Education



Flute
Melanie
Goman
Chicago, IL
Secondary Education,
English; Music minor



Flute
Christina
Lass-More
Downers Grove, IL



Flute
Tammy
Lathan
Libertyville, IL



Flute
Jennifer
Nelson
Chicago, IL



Flute
Emily
Weinstock
Minooka, IL
Elementary Education



Oboe
Anna
Kuschel
St. Louis, MO
Journalism



Bassoon
Jennifer
Youngdahl-Griffin
Villa Park, IL



Clarinet
Noah
Hartwig
Iowa City, IA
Pre-Seminary



Clarinet
Mike
Kahles
Elmhurst, IL



Clarinet
Jacob
Kimble
Chicago, IL
History, Political
Science



Clarinet
David
Soro
Oak Park, IL



Clarinet
Micheala
Tuminello
Oak Park, IL



Bass Clarinet
Ruth
Eatherton
Sheboygan, WI
Elementary Education
LTE



Alto Saxophone
Josiah
Gerlach
Watertown, WI
Music Education, LTE



Alto Saxophone
Cody
Stocker
River Forest, IL



French Horn
Owen
Kaiser
Fort Wayne, IN
Music, Director of
Parish Music



French Horn
Elijah
Kohlmeier
Wauwatosa, WI
English, Pre-Seminary



Trumpet
Kirk
Clayton
Maywood, IL



Trumpet
Nathan
Goman
Chicago, IL
Mathematics



Trumpet
Christopher
O'Hara
Oak Park, IL





Trumpet
Christian
Salemink
St. Louis, MO
Christian Ministries



Trombone
Noah
Clark
St. Louis, MO
English



Trombone
Natasha
Dalley
Rochester, MN
Spanish



Euphonium
Emma
Milam
Slinger, WI
English



Euphonium
Simeon
Roberts
Grand Rapids, MI
Secondary Education,
History, LTE



Euphonium
Nathan
Stringer
Milwaukee, WI
Biology



Tuba
August
Hoover
Fort Wayne, IN
Director of Christian
Education



Tuba
Ezekiel
Pearson
Vassar, MI
Secondary Ed- Social
Studies, LTE



Tuba
Isaiah
Tietz
Fort Wayne, IN
Secondary Ed- English,
LTE



Percussion
Timothy
Burmann
Armada, MI
Director of Parish Music



Percussion
Allison
Cross
Marion, IA
Deaconess Program



Percussion
Ben
Harrison
South Burlington, VT
Music



Percussion
Erika
Johnson
Waukesha, WI
Music Education, LTE



Percussion/Bass
Collin
Pease
Elmwood Park, IL
Music Education



Organ
Joel
Freiberg
Racine, MN
Director of Parish Music



Piano
Olivia
Wrolstad
Watertown, WI
Music

Band Staff:
Noah Clark
Erika Johnson
Collin Pease

**Student Tour
Manager:**
Elijah Kohlmeier

**Devotion
Coordinator:**
Noah Hartwig

Social Committee:
Ben Harrison
Augie Hoover

MUSIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The Music Department at Concordia University Chicago recognizes that music is a gift of God and a means through which all people can participate in the richness of the human experience. As a cultural expression that sheds light on both the individual and society, music is an essential component of a liberal arts education.

In accordance with these beliefs, the department fulfills the University mission by forming musicians who will be servant leaders and advocates for the transformative power of music in church, school and community. The department provides Concordia-Chicago students a variety of opportunities to study and perform music, enabling their lifelong growth and involvement in the arts, while enriching the larger community.

music department faculty and staff

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Maurice Boyer, DMA
University of Maryland
College Park, MD

Charles P. Brown, DMA
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ

Richard R. Fischer, DMA
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI

Jonathan Stahlke, DMA
University of Cincinnati
College-Conservatory of Music
Cincinnati, OH

Emily Woock, MME, MSM
Anderson University
Anderson, IN
University of Notre Dame
South Bend, IN

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Mark Anderson, Cello
Alyssa Arrigo, Piano
Meg Busse, Oboe
Becky Coffman, Violin, Viola
Nathalie Colas, Voice
Robert Everson, Percussion
Cynthia Fudala, Flute
Paul Henry, Guitar
Kuang-Hao Huang, Piano
Jeffrey Kleinsorge, Piano Prep
Adrian Metzger, Piano Prep
Susan Nelson, Voice, Laudate
Chris O'Hara, Trumpet
Alex Piela, Jazz Band,
Jazz Improvisation

James Robinson-Parran, Piano
Jeremy Ruthrauff, Saxophone
Dianne Ryan, Bassoon
Nora Shaffer, Clarinet
Julie Spring, Harp
Thomas Stark, Trombone
Christine Steyer, Voice
Peter Stigdon, Männerchor
Katrina Sudman, Piano Prep
John Tuck, Bass
Serena Voltz, Euphonium, Tuba

EMERITI FACULTY

Evangeline Rimbach, PhD
Eastman School of Music
University of Rochester, NY

Steven Wentz, DMus
Northwestern University
Evanston, IL

STAFF

ARTS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Ambria Jones, ALM
Harvard University

MUSIC TOUR MANAGER
Rachel Leininger, BA
Concordia University Chicago

about the conductor



DR. RICHARD FISCHER, the Fred and Jane Wittlinger Endowed Chair for Music Performance, is in his

51st year as director of bands at Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL. Dr. Fischer conducts the Wind Symphony and University Band, and also teaches basic and advanced-level conducting courses. He holds the Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degrees from DePaul University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Michigan State University where he studied under Eugene Corporon.

Dr. Fischer and the Wind Symphony have performed concerts in almost every state in the United States and in Canada, Europe, Asia and South Africa. The Wind Symphony has had the honor of performing at many

music festivals and conferences including the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), the Illinois Music Educators Conference (ILMEA), and numerous times at convocations of the Lutheran Education Association (LEA). Having performed to multiple standing ovations at Carnegie Hall in 2014, the Wind Symphony was honored to again be invited to be the showcase ensemble for the New York City Wind Band Festival at Carnegie Hall in March 2019.

Under Dr. Fischer's direction, the Wind Symphony has commissioned, premiered and recorded numerous wind band compositions, most notably the U.S. premiere of Johan de Meij's *The Lord of the Rings* in the fall of 1989. They have recorded 16 compact discs (over 150 works) of sacred wind music. The Wind Symphony's most recent recording, *Let My Love Be Heard*, features both sacred and secular music.

Dr. Fischer is in frequent demand as a presenter, guest conductor,

clinician and adjudicator in the United States, Canada, South Africa, Japan and Australia. In 1994, he was named to the "A Team" of University Professors by the Chicago Tribune. Dr. Fischer has been honored to present and guest conduct at local universities in Nagoya, Japan in December four times since 2016. Since 2004, he has conducted the LCMS National Youth Gathering Wind Symphony seven times. In May 2018, Dr. Fischer gave the keynote address at the national convention of the Association for Concert Bands held in Buffalo, NY.

Dr. Fischer's professional affiliations include the College Band Director National Association, World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, National Association for Music Educators, Illinois Music Educators Association, and the National Band Association. He and his wife Kathy (Kolb BA '77) reside in River Forest, IL, and have three grown children: Joy, Julie and Jonathan.





At Concordia University Chicago, music ensembles like the Wind Symphony, Kapelle and Chamber Orchestra are an important foundation of a formative student experience and our distinctive Lutheran identity.

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THE WIND SYMPHONY SPRING 2025 MUSIC TOUR CONCERTS

Saginaw, MI

Fri, Feb 28 | 7 p.m.

Peace Lutheran
Church & School
3427 Adams Ave.
peacesaginaw.org

Grand Rapids, MI

Sun, March 2 | 4 p.m.

St. Matthew
Lutheran Church
5125 Cascade Rd. SE
stmatthewgr.com

Valparaiso, IN

Tues, March 4 | 7 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran
Church & School
1700 Monticello Park Dr.
immanuelvalpo.org

Traverse City, MI

Sat, March 1 | 4 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran
Church & School
1003 S. Maple St.
tctrinity.org

Romeo, MI

Mon, March 3 | 7 p.m.

Grace Lutheran
Fellowship Church
7525 32 Mile Rd.
graceromeo.com

Home Concert River Forest, IL

Fri, March 14 | 8 p.m.

Chapel of Our Lord
CUChicago.edu/WindSymphony