

Fall 2025 Music Tour

# Wind Symphony

of Concordia University Chicago

Conducted by Dr. Richard R. Fischer

*Distinguished Professor of Music*

*The Fred and Jane Wittlinger Endowed Chair in Music Performance*



CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY  
CHICAGO

*Christ at the Center*

# greetings!

Good evening and welcome! We are deeply grateful for your presence at this evening's Wind Symphony concert as we gather in celebration of music and expression of faith in God's redeeming love through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Your attendance honors not only the performers but also the legacy of a man whose impact resonates far beyond this space.

Tonight, we rejoice in the extraordinary musical leadership of Dr. Richard Fischer, whose nearly 52 years of service at Concordia University Chicago have shaped the lives of thousands of musicians. His unwavering dedication, mentorship, and pursuit of excellence have left an indelible mark on our

university and the world of sacred and symphonic band music. It is with mixed emotions that we acknowledge his retirement, but we are grateful that he will continue conducting our University Band and teaching French horn with dedicated zeal. Thank you, Dr. Fischer!

As we lift our voices and instruments in praise, we also reflect on our academic year theme: *Rejoicing in a Living Hope*. Inspired by 1 Peter 1:3–4, we are reminded that through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been born again to a hope that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Whether in seasons of joy or challenge, this living hope

anchors us in the mercy and promises of our Lord.

Thank you for joining us in this celebration!

Sincerely in Christ,



Arts Division Chair,  
Music Program Leader

## YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED!



Scan the QR code to  
donate to CUC's Wind  
Symphony program.

Your support contributes to an exceptional experience for CUC's current and future music students, including enabling our ensemble groups to travel nationally and internationally to share their musical gifts with the world to the glory of God. For this we are forever grateful and wholeheartedly thank you for your donation.

## LISTEN LIVE! CUCHICAGO.EDU/LIVE

**October 24–26**  
Wind Symphony  
Fall Tour

**October 24–26**  
Kapelle Fall Tour

**November 1**  
Wind Symphony  
Home Concert  
3 p.m., Chapel

**November 2**  
Kapelle Home Concert  
4 p.m., Chapel

**November 16**  
Chamber Orchestra  
Concert  
7 p.m., Chapel

**December 5**  
University Band Concert  
8 p.m., Chapel

**December 6 & 7**  
Service of Lessons  
and Carols  
12/6 at 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.  
12/7 at 4 p.m., Chapel

**February 27– March 8**  
Kapelle Spring Tour  
to Florida

**March 15**  
Kapelle Home Concert  
4 p.m., Chapel

**April 26**  
Spring Music Festival  
7 p.m., Geiseman  
Auditorium

**June 21**  
Alumni Choir & Orchestra  
Festival Concert  
Song of All Songs by  
Dr. Jonathan Stahlke  
4 p.m., Chapel



For a complete listing of concerts at Concordia-Chicago, including those that will be live-streamed, please visit [CUChicago.edu/music](http://CUChicago.edu/music). If you would like to receive emails about all upcoming concerts, send your request to [music@CUChicago.edu](mailto: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 November 1 at 3 p.m. CST. You may view more musical events, either live or on demand, at [CUChicago.edu/live](http://CUChicago.edu/live).

# program

*Conducted by Dr. Richard R. Fischer*

Distinguished Professor of Music

The Fred and Jane Wittlinger Endowed Chair in Music Performance

**Cathedral Mountain (2025)** . . . . . Rossano Galante (b. 1978)

**With Heart and Voice (2001)** . . . . . David Gillingham (b. 1947)

**Ballad (2010)** . . . . . R. Christopher Teichler (b. 1977)  
Christopher O'Hara, trumpet

**Let All Things Now Living (2025)** . . . . . Josiah Gerlach (b. 2004)  
A song of thanksgiving for Dr. Fischer's nearly 52 years of service  
*See p. 6 for hymn text*

**Armenian Dances – Part 1 (1972)** . . . . . Alfred Reed (1921-2005)  
Alagyaz (A Mountain in Armenia)  
Gna, Gna (Go, Go)

*- intermission -*

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

**Joy in All Things (2012)** . . . . . Brian Balmages (b. 1975)  
Kierra Mohalley and Melanie Goman, flutes

**Symphony No. 1 The Lord of the Rings (2025)** . . . . . Johan de Meij (b. 1953)  
V. Hobbits

**Amazing Grace (1994)** . . . . . Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

**Conga del Fuego (2009)** . . . . . Arturo Marquez (b. 1950)  
Transcribed by Oliver Nickel

**In Peace, I Now Depart (2016)** . . . . . Joseph Pappas (b. 1950)  
Based on the Martin Luther hymn "In Peace I Now Depart" (1524)  
Dedicated to the Concordia University Wind Symphony, Dr. Richard R. Fischer, Conductor

**Alleluia! Laudamus Te (1973)** . . . . . Alfred Reed (1921-2005)  
*A Celebration Hymn for Winds, Percussion and Organ*

# program notes

## WITH HEART AND VOICE

BY DAVID GILLINGHAM

*With Heart and Voice* is based on an old Spanish hymn which has made its way into most church hymnals under the name of "Come Christians, Join to Sing." Christian Henry Bateman wrote the words for the hymn in 1843; the first verse contains the line, "Let all, with heart and voice, before the throne rejoice." Although the work is largely celebratory in nature, it begins with a feeling of reticence and apprehension. The piece gains momentum, texture and volume in this opening section, culminating in a dramatic statement of the first four notes of the theme. A calmness follows and a lyrical flute solo enters. The euphonium echoes the flute and soon more instruments join in, and the section culminates with a dramatic fanfare. This is followed by a transitional section with much more dissonance and rhythmic activity. The ensuing section begins with a fugue with underlying unsettling rhythmic activity in the percussion. The section becomes frantic and desperate, but soon subsides into peacefulness. An extended finale follows, which celebrates both themes in playful, joyful and dramatic exuberance.

*From the publisher's program notes*

## LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING

BY JOSIAH GERLACH

I first met Dr. Fischer when I was a freshman in high school when he came to do a clinic once a year. Even as a freshman, I vividly remember him impressing upon us the importance of empathy for the audience and for each other. As I came to CUC, I realized that, even more important to his conducting and leadership, is his gratefulness to God. The first verse highlights all of God's blessings for His people using Old Testament imagery. The music reflects the many people from all sorts of walks of life that God has blessed through Dr. Fischer, all uniquely contributing their song of praise to God. In the second verse, we join the universe in testifying to the awesomeness of God. This piece is dedicated to Dr. Fischer and his nearly 52 years of singing and playing songs of Thanksgiving.

*Josiah Gerlach*

## ARMENIAN DANCES

BY ALFRED REED

*Armenian Dances* for concert band is based on authentic Armenian folk songs from the collected works of Gomidas Vartabed (1869-1935), the founder of Armenian classical music.

2 of the 5 dances from Part 1 of this Suite will be performed today:

"Alagyaz" (the name of a mountain in Armenia) was first written by Gomidas for solo voice with piano accompaniment and also in a choral arrangement. It is a beloved Armenian folk song, and its long-breathed melody is as majestic as the mountain itself.

"Gna, Gna" ("Go, Go") is a humorous, light-textured tune. In performance Gomidas coupled it with a contrasting slower song, "The Jug." Its repeated note pattern musically depicts the expression of laughter.

*Dr. Violet Vagramian  
Florida International University*

Part 1 of Armenian Dances was completed in the summer of 1972 and first performed by the University of Illinois Band on January 10, 1973, conducted by Dr. Harry Begian (to whom the work is dedicated).

*Alfred Reed*



### SOLOIST

#### CHRISTOPHER O'HARA

BM, The Boston Conservatory  
MM, Boston University

O'Hara is an internationally renowned trumpet soloist,

chamber musician and educator. His playing is described as "virtuosic and impressive in every way" (*Chicago Music Examiner*), and "a treat beyond measure" (*Arlington Advocate*), and the *International Trumpet Guild Journal* hails him as a "true master of [the] instrument." Already in his young career, Chris has performed over 3,000 events covering 48 states and 12 countries across North America, Europe, Great Britain and Asia. His performance schedule has taken him to notable venues such as the Ravinia Music Festival, the Tanglewood Music Festival, the Norfolk Music Festival, the Festival de Camara de Musica in Aquacalientes Mexico, the Nagoya Conservatory of Music, and Millennium Hall in Japan.

Chris is a clinician for Conn-Selmer and Denis Wick and has presented countless master classes and clinics around the world and currently serves as Adjunct Professor of Trumpet at Elmhurst University and Concordia University Chicago.

He can be heard on recordings on the Paraclete, AAR, and Rowjack labels. His numerous solo and chamber music recordings are available on Amazon, iTunes, and through [chrisjohara.com](http://chrisjohara.com). His performances have also been broadcast on NPR, NBC, WGN, the Hallmark Channel and more.



## JOY IN ALL THINGS

BY BRIAN BALMAGES

Brian Balmages' *Joy in All Things* is an exuberant and celebratory piece for concert band, based on the hymn "Come Christians, Join to Sing" (also known as the "Spanish Hymn"). The work is characterized by its brilliant brass fanfares, energetic multi-meter sections, and a reflective middle section.

*Wind Repertory Project*

## SYMPHONY NO. 1 THE LORD OF THE RINGS

BY JOHAN DE MEIJ

Johan de Meij's first symphony *The Lord of the Rings* is based on the trilogy of that name by J.R.R. Tolkien. The book has fascinated many millions of readers since its publication in 1955. The symphony consists of five separate movements, each illustrating a personage or an important episode from the book.

The symphony was written in the period between March 1984 and December 1987, and had its premiere in Brussels on March 15th, 1988, performed by The Royal Band of the Belgian Guides under the baton of Nobert Nozy. In 1989, the Symphony was awarded first prize in the Sudler International Composition Competition.

The fifth movement expresses the carefree and optimistic character of the Hobbits in a happy folk dance; the hymn that follows emanates the determination and noblesse of the hobbit folk. The symphony does not end on an exuberant note, but is concluded peacefully and resigned, in keeping with the symbolic mood of the last chapter "The Grey Havens" in which Frodo and Gandalf sail away in a white ship and disappear slowly beyond the horizon.

Dutch composer and conductor Johan de Meij (Voorburg, 1953) received his musical training at the Royal Conservatory of Music in the Hague where he studied trombone and conducting.

When not travelling, Johan divides his time between his Hudson Valley home and Manhattan apartment with his wife and muse Dyan, cats Lenny, Gustavo, Tosca and Lulu and dog Lucy.

*Johan de Meij*

## FUN FACT:

Johan deMeij gave the honor of the United States premier performance of Symphony No. 1 The Lord of the Rings (Fall of 1989) to Concordia University Chicago's Wind Symphony under the direction of his good friend, Dr. Richard Fischer.

## AMAZING GRACE

BY FRANK TICHELI

I wanted my setting of *Amazing Grace* to reflect the powerful simplicity of the words and melody –to be sincere, to be direct, to be honest – and not through the use of novel harmonies and clever tricks, but by traveling traditional paths in search of truth and authenticity.

I believe that music has the power to take us to a place that words alone cannot. And so, my own feelings about *Amazing Grace* reside in this setting itself. The harmony, texture, orchestration, and form are inseparable, intertwined so as to be perceived as a single expressive entity.

*Frank Ticheli*

## CONGA DEL FUEGO

BY ARTURO MARQUEZ

*Conga del Fuego* (Conga of New Fire) is an uptempo, celebratory piece. The percussion section provides the signature kick of the end of the conga pattern. The pace slows in the middle section to spotlight the trumpet in a mariachi-like melody. The alto saxes pick it up and relax into a ritard followed by a return of the opening material. The piece ends in a fiery fashion.

Arturo Marquez (b. 1950) was born in Mexico, the eldest of 9 children and a son of a mariachi musician. He grew up surrounded by a variety of musical styles in his childhood, particularly Mexican "salon music," which would be the impetus for his later work. He studied at the Mexican Music Conservatory, in France, and in the United States.. He has composed numerous scores for film and dance.

*From the publisher's program notes*

## ALLELUIA! LAUDAMUS TE

BY ALFRED REED

*Alleluia! Laudamus Te* by Alfred Reed is one of my favorite wind band pieces of all time. The Wind Symphony and I have performed this work quite often during my time at Concordia. Mr. Reed provides in the score the following program note:

"The work is actually a canticle of praise without words; the concert band being treated largely both as a single massive choir and, at times, broken down into individual sections, each functioning as a separate sub-choir or semi-chorus. The music is based on three main themes. The first being a massive chorale in the brass. The second a long, flowing line in the horns and woodwinds. The third theme features a quasi-fanfare first heard in the trumpets which then spreads throughout the other sections of the band. These three themes compose an arch-like, five-part design: the first two themes followed by the rhythmical third theme, which builds to a broad re-statement of the second theme (at this point joined by the organ), and this brings the music back to the first theme, which is capped by a short coda of overwhelming power and sonority, to round off the work in joyous triumph."

The title means "God be Praised." Since there is no singing during the performance, it is, in effect, a song without words. It is truly up to the listener to discover reasons to be thankful to God. It is to praise God, His love, His grace and His incredible blessings in this life and the life to come that *Alleluia! Laudamus Te* expresses so beautifully.

Especially in light of my conducting the Wind Symphony for nearly 52 years, my heart overflows with gratitude and love for God for His many gifts to me in music during my time here at Concordia University Chicago. To God be the Glory!

*Dr. Richard R. Fischer*

## Let All Things Now Living

1. Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
Who guideth us on to the end of our days.  
His banners are o'er us,  
His light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
'Til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
As forward we travel from light into light.
2. His law He enforces: the stars in their courses,  
The sun in His orbit, obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine,  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,  
With glad adoration a song let us raise,  
'Til all things now living unite in thanksgiving  
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.  
Hope made real in Infant tears;  
Star made guide to draw the nations:  
See, the promised Christ appears!

Text: Katherine Davis, b. 1939  
Tune: THE ASH GROVE  
Used by permission. BMI #2003164

## 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](mailto:Rachel.Leininger@CUChicago.edu) or 708-209-3524.





# wind symphony members



**Flute**  
Emma  
Grathwohl  
Richview, WI  
Accounting,  
Music minor



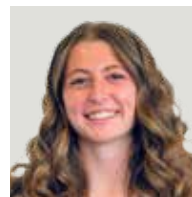
**Flute**  
Melanie  
Goman  
Chicago, IL  
Secondary Education,  
English; Music minor



**Flute**  
Christina  
Lass-Moore  
Downers Grove, IL



**Flute**  
Emily  
Weinstock  
Minooka, IL  
Elementary Education



**Flute/Piccolo**  
Kierra  
Mohalley  
Racine, WI  
K-12 Art & Spanish  
Education



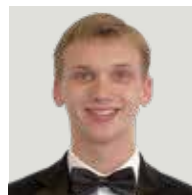
**Oboe**  
Anna  
Kuschel  
St. Louis, MO  
Journalism



**Bassoon**  
Amanda  
Bowman  
Rockford, IL



**Clarinet**  
Kathryn  
Cobine  
Elizabeth, IL  
Music Education, LTE



**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



**Clarinet/ Piano**  
Lydia  
Schaefer  
Burnsville, MN  
Director of  
Parish Music



**Clarinet**  
Eliana  
Jaffe  
St. Louis, MO  
Director of  
Parish Music



**Bass Clarinet**  
Ruth  
Eatherton  
Sheboygan, WI  
Elementary Education  
LTE



**Alto Saxophone**  
Josiah  
Gerlach  
Watertown, WI  
Music Education, LTE



**Alto/Tenor Saxophone**  
William  
Alicea  
Chicago, IL



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



**French Horn**  
Fiona  
Chisholm  
Oak Park, IL



**French Horn**  
Jasmine  
Bolaños  
Rolling Meadows, IL

## music department faculty and staff

### BAND STAFF

**Band Staff:**  
Noah Clark  
Erika Johnson  
Ben Kubal  
Anna Kuschel  
Lydia Schaefer

**Student Tour Manager:**  
Elijah Kohlmeier

**Devotion Coordinator:**  
Tim Burmann

**Social Committee:**  
Tasha Dalley  
Emily Weinstock

### 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, Ph.D.**  
Anderson University  
Anderson, IN  
University of Notre Dame  
South Bend, IN  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, 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  
Adrian Metzger, Piano Prep  
Susan Nelson, Voice, Laudate  
Christopher O'Hara, Trumpet

James Robinson-Parran, Piano  
Jeremy Ruthrauff, Saxophone  
Nora Shaffer, Clarinet  
Thomas Stark, Trombone  
Christine Steyer, Voice  
Sean Newman, Director  
of Männerchor  
Katrina Sudman, Piano Prep  
John Tuck, Bass  
Serena Voltz, Euphonium, Tuba





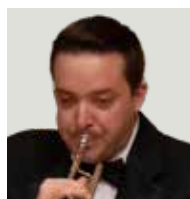
**Trumpet**  
Rev. Dr. Kirk  
Clayton  
Maywood, IL



**Trumpet**  
Nathan  
Goman  
Chicago, IL  
Mathematics



**Trumpet**  
Christopher  
O'Hara  
Oak Park, IL



**Trumpet**  
Mike  
Leavens  
Chicago, IL



**Trumpet**  
Jered  
Montgomery  
Mulkeytown, IL



**Trumpet**  
Ben  
Kubal  
Bourbonnais, IL  
Health Science



**Bass Trombone**  
Sadiq  
Tijani  
Oak Brook, IL  
Music Education



**Trombone**  
Noah  
Clark  
St. Louis, MO  
English



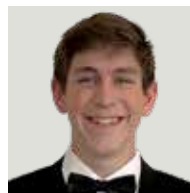
**Trombone**  
Natasha  
Dalley  
Rochester, MN  
Spanish



**Euphonium**  
Simeon  
Roberts  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Classical Lutheran  
Education



**Euphonium**  
Nathan  
Stringer  
Milwaukee, WI  
Biology



**Percussion**  
August  
Hoover  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Business Management,  
Pre-Seminary



**Percussion**  
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**  
Micheal  
DiPasalegne  
Evergreen Park, IL  
Natural Science



**Percussion**  
Michael  
Holzkopf  
Mount Prospect, IL

## EMERITI FACULTY

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

**Steven Wente, DMus**  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, IL

## STAFF

**ARTS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
**Fiona Chisholm, MMus**  
DePaul University

**MUSIC TOUR MANAGER**  
**Rachel Leininger, BA**  
Concordia University Chicago

## 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.



**DR. RICHARD FISCHER,** Distinguished Professor of Music, The Fred and Jane Wittlinger Endowed Chair for

Music Performance, is in his 52<sup>nd</sup> year as director of bands at Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL. Dr. Fischer conduct the Wind Symphony and University Band, and also teaches basic and advanced-level conducting courses. He holds Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degrees from DePaul University, and a 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 five times since 2016. Since 2004, he has conducted the LCMS National Youth Gathering Wind Symphony eight times. In May 2018, Dr. Fischer gave the keynote address at the national convention of the Association for Concert Bands held in Buffalo, NY. In fall of 2004, Dr. Fischer was presented Concordia Chicago's prestigious Spiritus Christi award for his exceptional service to the Church at large.

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.

Your generous philanthropic gifts make it possible to bring hope and joy through music to audiences on our campus and across the globe.

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Your support ensures Concordia-Chicago has the funds necessary to provide scholarships, underwrite travel expenses, and continually strengthen the ministry of our talented music faculty and students.



CONCORDIA  
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CHICAGO

*Christ at the Center*

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## THE WIND SYMPHONY FALL 2025 MUSIC TOUR CONCERTS

**O'Fallon, MO**  
Fri, October 24 | 7 p.m.

Holy Cross  
Lutheran Church  
8945 Veterans Memorial Pkwy  
hcross.com

**Naperville, IL**  
Sun, October 26 | 4 p.m.

Bethany Lutheran  
Church & School  
1550 Modaff Rd.  
bethanylcs.org

**Fort Wayne, IN**  
Sat, October 25 | 7 p.m.

Ascension Lutheran  
Church & School  
8811 St. Joe Rd.  
alcsfw.org

*Please join us for  
Dr. Richard Fischer's  
final home concert*

**River Forest, IL**  
Sat, November 1 | 3 p.m.

Concordia University  
Chicago  
The Chapel of Our Lord  
[CUChicago.edu/WindSymphony](http://CUChicago.edu/WindSymphony)

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

**All-Music  
Alumni Reunion**

June 18-21, 2026

More information at  
[CUChicago.edu/Alumni/Reunion](http://CUChicago.edu/Alumni/Reunion)