

A photograph of a young man with glasses, wearing a dark suit and a bow tie, playing a gold saxophone. He is standing in front of a music stand. In the background, other students are visible, some also playing saxophones. The background wall features a repeating geometric pattern of interlocking circles. A large, semi-transparent orange triangle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT ENSEMBLES

Band
Choir
Handbells
Orchestra



CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

Pep Band is the spirit behind sporting events. This 60-member group appears mainly at football and basketball games. From time to time, Pep Band will also add school spirit to other events to show Falcon support and pride. The CUW Drumline is a group of percussionists adding to the spirit behind the Pep Band.

University Band is an instrumental ensemble that gives students the opportunity to continue to use instrumental musical skills on campus in a concert band setting. UBand performs a repertoire of sacred and secular music at concerts throughout the academic year.

MRS. JOHANNA ANDERSON

ASSOC. DIRECTOR OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC | JOHANNA.ANDERSON@CUW.EDU

Mrs. Anderson is the director of University Band and Pep Band at CUW. She also chairs the music scholarship committee and works with the admissions department to recruit students to the music program. She graduated from CUW in 2013 with a B.A. in K-12 Music Education and K-12 Spanish Education. While at CUW, Mrs. Anderson was a member of several instrumental ensembles, and she also served as the Symphonic Wind Ensemble Tour Coordinator for four years. From 2013-2015, Mrs. Anderson taught band and orchestra at Perry A. Tipler Middle School in Oshkosh, WI. Mrs. Anderson holds a M.M. in Music Education from Boston University. She regularly performs in the greater Milwaukee area; this is also her third season as principal oboist of the Kettle Moraine Symphony, based in West Bend, WI.



Jazz Ensemble is an intimate group of instrumentalists specializing in standard swing, bop, blues and rock music. Jazz Ensemble is comprised of 10-20 players, and is dedicated to providing entertainment for campus events including popular jazz lunches, visitation days, and concerts.

String Ensemble/Chamber Orchestra is a group dedicated to standard quartet and quintet literature that performs for ceremonial and social events at Concordia. CUW strings have an opportunity for a unique educational experience. In addition to having the opportunity to study privately with some of the best free-lance string performers in Milwaukee, the fall semester ensemble provides a string quartet and string orchestra literature format which focuses on individual musicianship. The spring ensemble adds the requisite wind, brass and percussion members to form a fuller symphonic sound and ensemble experience.

Symphonic Wind Ensemble is the premier 60-piece instrumental ensemble of the university, which performs sacred and classical music from the standard wind repertoire. Every January, the group embarks on a week-long performance tour to various locations across the United States and abroad. Previous tours have included Hawaii, California, Germany/Austria, and Italy. SWE also performs at several on campus concerts throughout the year, and the group has recorded and released 10 albums. The ensemble has been recognized for its musical ability, as it has been invited to concert halls, schools, and churches across the country. In 2016, the ensemble was named as a semi-finalist in the American Prize for Outstanding Musicianship. This is an auditioned ensemble.

DR. LOUIS MENCHACA

DIRECTOR OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC | LOUIS.MENCHACA@CUW.EDU

Dr. Menchaca is Professor of Music at CUW where, since 1992, he has guided all aspects of the instrumental music program. Under his guidance the Symphonic Wind Ensemble has gained local, regional, and national attention by performing in concert halls, churches and schools in thirty-eight states across the United States and abroad. Dr. Menchaca's other duties include conducting the chamber orchestra and jazz ensemble as well as serving as department head. He also currently teaches conducting, applied trumpet, and music education courses. His professional associations have enabled the music department to assemble one of the finest and most prolific applied instrumental studio music instructional staffs in the region. Much of Dr. Menchaca's off campus time is spent leading his own professional jazz quartet, "Lou's Jazz Express."



VOCAL ENSEMBLES

Kammerchor (German for “chamber choir”) is an auditioned mixed voice ensemble of approximately 40 singers, which sings a wide variety of choral literature from the Renaissance to the present, including concert pieces, anthems, spirituals, and hymns. As a touring ensemble, Kammerchor has sung in worship and concert virtually all over the continental USA, several times to Canada, and overseas to locations as varied as Brazil, China, and several locations in Europe. Appearances range from local churches to tour sites to major on-campus performances. Membership in Kammerchor is not limited to music majors, but includes students with a range of majors and minors. Auditions are held once a year, usually at the beginning of the fall semester. Members are generally expected to participate for the entire school year.

Selah (meaning “stop and listen”), an auditioned ensemble of approximately 25 women, explores a wide variety of both sacred and secular repertoire written for women’s voices. They sing off-campus for venues such as hospitals and retirement homes, and also for on-campus concert performances. Membership in Selah includes students with a range of majors and minors. Auditions are held once a year at the beginning of the fall semester. Members are generally expected to participate for the entire school year.

Chapel Choir is a mixed voice ensemble of approximately 50 singers, consisting of students, faculty, and staff. Chapel Choir meets three times weekly over the noon hour and provides music for Friday chapel services each week, as well as for on-campus concert performances. Repertoire ranges from psalmody and liturgical music to larger choral pieces using piano, organ, or instrumental accompaniment. Chapel Choir members represent a wide range of majors and minors. Membership is granted by audition, but no previous musical experience is necessary. Auditions are held each semester.



DR. ALEXA DOEBELE

DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES | ALEXA.DOEBELE@CUW.EDU

is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at CUW, where she conducts Kammerchor, Selah, and the Chapel Choir, in addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in music education, conducting, and choral literature. She is a frequent clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor, and is active as an editor of choral music. Dr. Doebele is also active as both a solo and choral singer, having appeared with the Milwaukee Choral Artists, the Colorado Conductors' Chorus, the Ars Nova Singers, St. Martin's Chamber Choir, the Boulder Chorale, the Littleton Chorale, and the Colorado Symphony Chorus.



Concordia Civic Chorale is a mixed voice ensemble consisting not only of students, but also faculty, staff, alumni, and community members. Rehearsals meet one night a week, and the Civic Chorale performs a variety of sacred and secular works for on-campus concert performances. Student members represent a wide range of majors and minors. Membership is granted by audition, but no previous musical experience is necessary. Auditions are held each semester.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLES

The Alleluia Ringers has a long successful history of presenting fine performances on campus, as well as touring each spring for concerts throughout the United States and internationally. Highlights of the season include the annual Christ the King Celebration, Christmas at Concordia, and spring concerts/tour. Interested ringers are required to audition each fall and if accepted, must keep a full academic year commitment to the group. Strong music reading skills are necessary. Although previous handbell ringing and performance experience is desirable, it is not required for consideration. Open to all CUW students.

The Chapel Ringers enjoy a monthly commitment playing for chapel at CUW during the semester, as well as, concert performances on campus and making guest appearances at various churches and other venues. Interested ringers may audition in the fall and spring, commitment is for the semester or academic year. Strong music reading skills are important. Although previous handbell ringing and performance experience is helpful, it is not required for participation. Open to all CUW students.

PROF. MARK BLOEDOW

HANDBELLS AND CHOIR DIRECTOR | MARK.BLOEDOW@CUW.EDU

Prof. Bloedow, Assistant Professor of Music, is Director of Handbell Activities at Concordia including conducting the Alleluia Ringers and Chapel Ringers, as well as, the conductor and developer of Concordia's community based choir, the Concordia Civic Chorale. In addition, he is the Executive/Artistic Director of Maestro Productions, Inc. (including the Madison Area Community Chorus and Ringing Badgers Handbell Ensemble). Prof. Bloedow earned his Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and received his Master's degree in Church Music from Concordia University Wisconsin. He later served at Concordia as guest adjunct Professor of Music before joining the music faculty full-time. Prof. Bloedow is a published composer of music for handbells and organ.





Since 1881, Concordia University's mission has been teaching and preparing students for careers and vocations that serve The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Music has always been an integral part of that mission. The music department contributes to the spiritual, cultural, artistic, academic and co-curricular aspects to University life on campus. As the campus has grown in scope and size the music department has become more integral to the University mission.

Of the residential students, more than one third (1/3) participate in music ensembles, applied instruction and course study. More than half of the ensemble participants in the music department are non-music majors who wish to continue to perform and study music with our acclaimed faculty and conductors. Each year, as part of our season concert series, all the departmental ensembles present two performances of the annual "Christmas at Concordia concert" in the historic Chapel of Christ Triumphant. This production has received regional acclaim and continues to be sold out numerous times to the extent of over 800 people per performance. Additionally, our ensembles are extremely active in assisting with worship music at many of our local and regional congregations.

A broad range of performance opportunities including instrumental, choral, and handbell ensembles is offered within the curriculum. Each year the premier ensemble within each genre takes a tour throughout the region or continental United States. International travel has taken band, choir, and handbells to Asia, Europe, and South America.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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