



Student Handbook 2023-24



Dear Conservatory Students and Families,

Welcome to our 2023-24 school year.

The Conservatory's mission is to inspire, instruct and enrich lives through music offering excellence in education and performance.

Announcements and newsletters will be distributed throughout the school year through email, mail and website. Our school continues to strengthen through community involvement. We encourage your family's participation. Please contact us directly if you are interested in volunteering for special events and programs.

All programs for 2023-24 begin on **Monday, September 11.**

We treasure your commitment to the Conservatory's high-quality music education in our community and look forward to our 2023-24 academic year.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Suss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'K'.

Kathleen Suss
Executive Director

2023-24 CONCORDIA CONSERVATORY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 B/S	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 B/S
17 B/S	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 B/S	26	27	28	29	30

B=Bronxville S=Stamford B/S=Bronxville & Stamford

4 Conservatory Closed – Labor Day

6 High School Senior Advisement Meeting
6:30 pm, Concordia Conservatory, Stein Hall

8 Auditions – 24th Annual Holiday Community Musical
A Christmas Carol
3 pm - 5 pm, Concordia Conservatory, Stein Hall*
**Reservations required. Contact Marilou Yacoub at 914-395-4507*

Opening Night Stamford School
Recital and Ice Cream Social
Auditions – 24th Annual Holiday Community Musical
A Christmas Carol
6:30 - 8 pm, Concordia Conservatory Stamford
**Reservations required. Contact Marilou Yacoub at 914-395-4507*

- 10 Open House – Bronxville**
Musical Adventures *Schmutzinberry Meets The Instruments*
Pre-Academy and Academy Auditions
3 - 5 pm, Concordia Conservatory, Stein Hall*
**To schedule an audition, call Marilou Yacoub at 914-395-4507*
All are welcome. Free and open to the public.
- 10 Auditions – 24th Annual Holiday Community Musical**
A Christmas Carol
5 pm - 6 pm, Concordia Conservatory, Stein Hall*
**Reservations required. Contact Marilou Yacoub at 914-395-4507.*
- 16-17 Conservatory Closed – Rosh Hashanah**
- 23 Hoch Chamber Music Concert**
Emerson String Quartet *'Final Bow'*
6 pm, The Reformed Church of Bronxville
- 25 Conservatory Closed - Yom Kippur**

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 B/S	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

B=Bronxville S=Stamford B/S=Bronxville & Stamford

9 Conservatory Closed – Indigenous People’s Day

21 Youth Performance Classes – Stamford
Concordia Conservatory Stamford

27-28 Youth Performance Classes – Bronxville & Stamford
The Reformed Church of Bronxville
Concordia Conservatory Stamford

28 UNIQUE Concert
You’ve Got Styles
10 am The Reformed Church of Bronxville
1 pm Concordia Conservatory Stamford
3 pm New Canaan Library, CT

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 B/S	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 B/S	23 B/S	24 B/S	25 B/S
26 B/S	27	28	29	30		

B=Bronxville S=Stamford B/S=Bronxville & Stamford

10 Conservatory Closed – Veterans’ Day

18-19 Youth Program Honors Recitals – Bronxville & Stamford

The Reformed Church of Bronxville
Concordia Conservatory Stamford

19 More Than Music Concert

Film Inspiration

4 pm, Home of Laurie & Hoke Slaughter

22-26 Conservatory Closed – Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 B/S	23 B/S
24 B/S	25 B/S	26 B/S	27 B/S	28 B/S	29 B/S	30 B/S
31 B/S						

B=Bronxville S=Stamford B/S=Bronxville & Stamford

- 2 24th Annual Holiday Community Musical**
A Christmas Carol
3 pm & 7 pm, Bronxville School Auditorium
- 3 24th Annual Holiday Community Musical**
A Christmas Carol
3 pm, Bronxville School Auditorium
- 9 24th Annual Holiday Community Musical**
A Christmas Carol
3 pm, Concordia Conservatory Stamford
- 22-31 Conservatory Closed – Holiday Break**

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 B/S	2 B/S	3 B/S	4 B/S	5 B	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 B/S	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

B=Bronxville S=Stamford B/S=Bronxville & Stamford

- 1-4 Conservatory Closed – Holiday Break**

- 8 High School Senior Advisement Meeting**
6:30 pm, Concordia Conservatory, Stein Hall

- 15 Conservatory Closed – Martin Luther King Day**

- 21 Musical Adventures**
Schmutzinberry Meets The Instruments
3 pm, Concordia Conservatory, Stein Hall

- 25 Youth Program Honors Recitals – Bronxville**
The Reformed Church of Bronxville

- 26 Adult Soirée**
7 pm, Concordia Conservatory, Stein Hall

- 27 Youth Program Honors Recitals – Bronxville & Stamford**
The Reformed Church of Bronxville
Concordia Conservatory Stamford

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 S	17 S
18 S	19 B/S	20 B/S	21 B	22 B	23 B	24 B
25 B	26	27	28	29		

B=Bronxville S=Stamford B/S=Bronxville & Stamford

2-3 Youth Program Honors Recitals – Bronxville & Stamford

The Reformed Church of Bronxville
Concordia Conservatory Stamford

4 More Than Music Concert

Dances from Around the World

4 pm, The Reformed Church of Bronxville

10 Hoch Chamber Conservatory Benefit Concert

Music from the Heart

6 pm, The Reformed Church of Bronxville

16-20 Conservatory Closed – Stamford Winter Break

19-25 Conservatory Closed – Bronxville Winter Break

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 B	26 B	27 B	28 B	29 B/S	30 B/S
31 B/S						

B=Bronxville S=Stamford B/S=Bronxville & Stamford

2 Play-a-thon for Scholarship
9 am – 4 pm, Sommer Center

16 UNIQUE Concert
Go Team Go!
10 am The Reformed Church of Bronxville
1 pm Concordia Conservatory Stamford
3 pm New Canaan Library, CT

25-31 Conservatory Closed – Spring Break
Bronxville

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 S	11	12	13
14	15 S	16 S	17 S	18 S	19 S	20 S
21 S	22 B	23 B	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

B=Bronxville S=Stamford B/S=Bronxville & Stamford

- 5 Hoch Chamber Music Concert**
A Night in Budapest
8 pm Concordia Conservatory Stamford
St. John's Church Sanctuary

- 6 Hoch Chamber Music Concert**
A Night in Budapest
7 pm, The Reformed Church of Bronxville

- 5-6 Youth Performance Classes**
The Reformed Church of Bronxville

- 10 Conservatory Stamford Closed - Eid al-Fitr**

- 15-21 Conservatory Closed - Spring Break Stamford**

- 22-23 Conservatory Closed - Passover Bronxville**

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 B/S
26 B/S	27 B/S	28	29	30	31	

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4 UNIQUE Concert

Gratitunes

10 am The Reformed Church of Bronxville

1 pm Concordia Conservatory Stamford

3 pm New Canaan Library, CT

5 More Than Music Faculty Concert

The Roaring Twenties

4 pm, Home of Laurie & Hoke Slaughter

11 Year-End Recitals Begin

The Reformed Church of Bronxville

25-27 Conservatory Closed – Memorial Day Weekend

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

17 Summer Programs Begin

EARLY CHILDHOOD, YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMS

LESSON & CLASS SCHEDULE 2023-24

(Bold denotes end of semester for lessons and classes)

Bronxville

Monday

September	11 18
October	2 16 23 30
November	6 13 20 27
December	4 11 18
January	8 22 29
February	5 12 26
March	4 11 18
April	1 8 15 29
May	6 13 20
June	3 10 17

Tuesday

September	12 19 26
October	3 10 17 24 31
November	7 14 21 28
December	5 12 19
January	9 16 23 30
February	6 13 27
March	5 12 19
April	2 9 16 30
May	7 14 21

Wednesday

September	13 20 27
October	4 11 18 25
November	1 8 15 29
December	6 13 20
January	10 17 24 31
February	7 14 28
March	6 13 20
April	3 10 17 24
May	1 8 15 22

Stamford

Monday

11 18
2 16 23 30
6 13 20 27
4 11 18
8 22 29
5 12 26
4 11 18 25
1 8 22 29
6 13 20
3 10

Tuesday

12 19 26
3 10 17 24 31
7 14 21 28
5 12 19
9 16 24 30
6 13 27
5 12 19 26
2 9 23 30
7 14

Wednesday

13 20 27
4 11 18 25
1 8 15 29
6 13 20
10 17 24 31
7 14 21 28
6 13 20 27
3 24
1 8 15 22

Bronxville**Thursday**

September 14 21 28
 October 5 12 19 26
 November 2 9 16 30
 December 7 14 21
 January 11 **18** 25
 February 1 8 15 29
 March 7 14 21
 April 4 11 18 25
 May 2 9 16 23

Friday

September 15 22 29
 October 6 13 20 27
 November 3 17
 December 1 8 15
 January 12 19 26
 February **2** 9 16
 March 1 8 15 22
 April 5 12 19 26
 May 3 10 17 24 31
 June 7

Saturday

September 23 30
 October 7 14 21 28
 November 4 11 18
 December 2 9 16
 January 6 13 20 **27**
 February 3 10 17
 March 2 9 16 23
 April 6 13 20 27
 May 4 11 18
 June 1 8

Stamford**Thursday**

14 21 28
 5 12 19 26
 2 9 16 30
 7 14 21
 11 **18** 25
 1 8 15 22 29
 7 14 21 28
 4 11 25
 2 9 16

Friday

15 22 29
 6 13 20 27
 3 17
 1 8 15
 5 12 19 **26**
 2 9 23
 1 8 15 22
 5 12 26
 3 10 17 24 31
 7

Saturday

23 30
 7 14 21 28
 4 11 18
 2 9 16
 6 13 20 **27**
 3 10 24
 2 9 16 23
 6 13 27
 4 11 18
 1 8 15

Bronxville

Sunday

September	24
October	1 8 15 22 29
November	5 12 19
December	3 10 17
January	7 14 21 28
February	4 11 18
March	3 10 17 24
April	7 14 21 28
May	5 12 19
June	2 9

CONSERVATORY GENERAL INFORMATION

LIBRARY

The Music Libraries are located in Room 100 in Stein Hall, and in room 3 at Concordia Conservatory Stamford.

PRACTICE CONSULTATION

Need some solid advisement about practicing? Please contact Executive Director Kathleen Suss or Director Melinda Magnani.

YOUTH PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIVATE LESSONS

Performance Classes

The Conservatory encourages students of all levels to participate in these informal settings in which students play for their peers and teachers. Based on teacher recommendations, this class is a relaxed venue for students prior to a performance. An accompanist is provided for performance classes.

Studio Classes

Studio Classes are the last “lesson” of the first semester for private instruction students. The class builds confidence and motivates students in their private study within their studio. Studio classes are held by faculty for their students only.

Honors Recitals

These semi-annual recitals feature students who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and progress during the school year based on a teacher’s recommendation.

Year-End Recitals

Student recitals are held for family and friends at the end of the year. Performances take place at The Reformed Church of Bronxville and are presented as live concerts. Recital participation is highly recommended. Students prepare repertoire with the approval and guidance of the teacher.

Play-a-thon for Scholarship

In this annual event, students and faculty perform throughout the day to raise funds for the Conservatory scholarship and outreach programs. The play-a-thon is live streamed.

Outreach Concerts

Select students and faculty perform concerts throughout the year at community venues in Westchester and Fairfield Counties.

Recital Attire

Gentlemen – dress pants, shirt with collar, optional blazer and tie.

Ladies – dress, blouse and skirt or dress pants.

No jeans, sneakers or flip-flops allowed.

Recital Department

Recitals are important milestones for students developmentally. Concordia Conservatory offers many opportunities for students to share their musical accomplishments in a supportive environment. To encourage performers so that they can maintain attentiveness in a performance situation, please turn off cell phones. Please wait until hearing applause before entering a performance, and gently encourage very young audience members to participate in appropriate concert etiquette.

MUSIC & INSTRUMENT RESOURCES

PIANOS

Faust-Harrison Pianos

914-288-4000

Faustharrisonpianos.com

Steinway & Sons

Steinway.com

PIANO TUNER/TECHNICIAN

Victor LaGamma

914-723-2200

INSTRUMENTAL RENTALS & PURCHASING

Rental Instrument, LLC

203-992-2381

Rentalinstrument.com

MUSIC

Amazon.com

Musicnotes.com

rcmusic.com (*Royal Conservatory Music*)

Sheetmusicplus.com

CONSERVATORY POLICIES

REGISTRATION, TUITION, AND FEES

The annual registration fee is non-refundable. The student (or parent/guardian) is financially responsible for all classes and lessons. Students enrolled in private lessons and year-long classes are registered for the entire academic year and will be billed automatically.

Tuition for year-long lessons and classes may be divided into one, two or monthly payments required at registration.

For 8-,16-week sessions, tuition is due in full before the first class or lesson.

Payment plans are available for all students. Please review and complete the registration form.

The lessons and classes for students with outstanding balances will be suspended until the account is paid in full.

The Conservatory reserves the right to cancel group classes due to insufficient enrollment. Tuition will be fully refunded.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

First time students are required to interview with the Executive Director prior to registration for teacher recommendation and scheduling. Call the Conservatory to schedule a placement interview.

ROLLING ADMISSIONS

Registration for new students will be accepted throughout the year on a space-available basis only. Private lesson and class tuition will be prorated accordingly.

CHANGE OF FACULTY

Concordia Conservatory's method of assigning faculty is designed to make the best possible match before studies begin. However, if a change is desired, a student (or parent/guardian) must contact the Executive Director to facilitate faculty changes.

WITHDRAWAL AND REFUNDS

Tuition is fully refunded if a student withdraws before the first lesson.

The student (or parent/guardian) is financially responsible for all classes and lessons as stated in "Registration, Tuition, and Fees."

Students who enroll for private lessons and classes designated as "year-long" are registered for the entire time period of the lessons or classes and are responsible for the financial commitment.

Students who enroll for classes designated 8 and 16 classes are registered for the entire time period of the classes and are responsible for the financial commitment.

In the case of prolonged illness (accompanied with a doctor’s note) or move, refunds are pro-rated as stated below.

All withdrawal requests must be made in writing to the Executive Director for review by the Advisory Board. Verbal requests cannot be accepted.

Postmarked prior to 1st scheduled class/lesson 100% of tuition

Postmarked prior to 4th scheduled class/lesson 75% of tuition

Postmarked prior to 8th scheduled class/lesson 50% of tuition

Postmarked prior to the 16th scheduled class/lesson No refunds given

RETURN CHECK FEE

There is a \$25 fee for returned checks.

CANCELLATIONS & MISSED LESSONS

The Conservatory office must be notified of all cancellations. For student absences, two individual lessons per semester can be rescheduled if the absence is due to student illness, religious observance, or extraordinary circumstances. There are no exceptions. The Conservatory must be notified 24 hours in advance of cancellation due to a religious observance or extraordinary circumstance, or by 8 am the day of a lesson when due to illness. Otherwise, the teacher is not required to make up the missed lesson. For teacher absences, students receive personal notification from the teacher and the lesson will be rescheduled. For unscheduled Conservatory closings such as snow closings, lessons and classes will be rescheduled. Group classes cannot be made up due to student illness.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In the event of inclement weather, Concordia Conservatory will send an email notification and will post on our website at concordiaconservatory.org the school closing information. Lessons will be given via remote/virtual instruction.

COMMUNICATION

E-mail is the primary mode of communication.

DEPARTMENT

Students are expected to treat the facilities respectfully. Pets are not allowed in Stein Hall. Parents, guardians and caregivers are responsible for supervising the safety of their children at all times while they are on the premises. All pick-up and drop-offs are required to be made in parking zones only.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Contact the Conservatory office with any change of home, phone or email address.

PHOTOS & VIDEO

Conservatory students (or their parents/guardians, if student is under 18) grant permission to Concordia Conservatory to use photographs and/or video of the students in publications, news releases, online, and in other communications related to the mission of the Conservatory. If you wish to opt out of this practice, please communicate that in writing to Marilou Yacoub at myacoub@concordiaconservatory.org.

FACULTY & STAFF

STAFF

Kathleen Suss, Executive Director

M.M. Manhattan School of Music, B.M. DePauw University

Melinda Magnani, Director

M.B.A. University of Chicago, M.S., B.A. Drake University

Marilou Yacoub, Program Coordinator

B.A. Queens College–CUNY

Dawn Norris, Creative Manager

B.A. Purchase College–SUNY, A.A.S. Farmingdale College–SUNY

Julie Daher, Data Operations

B.A. Duke University

FACULTY

Elizabeth Ast, music therapy, early childhood, musical theatre

M.A. New York University to be awarded in 2023, B.A. The Catholic University of America

Monica Bauchwitz, violin

M.M. Purchase College–SUNY, B.A. Eastman School of Music

John Chang, guitar, composition & songwriting

M.A. Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College B.A. St. John's University

Sun Young Chang, voice

M.M. Mannes College of Music, B.M. Hanyang University, Internship Metropolitan Opera Education Guild

Hubert Chen, violin

B.A. Music, Geneseo–SUNY

Max Darche, trumpet

M.B., B.M. Music, Purchase College–SUNY

Jacob De Hoyos, piano, Department Head, Summer Director

D.M.A. Stony Brook University–SUNY, M.M. Stony Brook University–SUNY,
B.M. Texas Tech University

Julie Diesslin, cello, Suzuki

B.S. Lehman College–CUNY, Advanced Studies at Mannes College of Music,
California State University–Long Beach

Annette Espada, cello, Chamber Music Department Head

D.M.A. University of Miami, M.A. New York University, B.M. Puerto Rico Conservatory
of Music

Robert Gingery, guitar, bass, Band Coordinator

M.M. Graduate Center–CUNY, B.M. Berklee College of Music, B.A. California State
University

Yoko Gingery, piano

M.M. City College of New York, B.M. The New School for Jazz & Contemporary
Music, Diploma, Berklee College of Music, B.A. in Music Education,
Kunitachi College of Music

Michael Gorham, trumpet, trombone

M.M. Manhattan School of Music, B.M. University of California–Los Angeles

Fiona Grant, piano

M.M. The Juilliard School, Advanced Studies Certificate Guildhall School of Music &
Drama, AGSM Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Roberto Granados, guitar

M.M. Yale University, B.A. California State University East Bay

Clare Hoffman, flute, recorder

B.M. Mannes College of Music, L'École d'Été Certificate

Marija Ilić, piano

D.M.A. Rutgers University, M.M. Mannes College of Music, B.M. Belgrade Music Academy

Emily Kalish, violin, Suzuki

M.M. Manhattan School of Music, B.M. University of Hartford–Hartt School of Music

Christina Kampler, voice

M.M. Binghamton University–SUNY, Resident Artist with Tri-Cities Opera

Mark Katsaounis, percussion

M.M. University of Cincinnati, B.M. University of Hartford–Hartt School of Music

Chungsun Kim, cello

D.M.A., M.M., B.M. The Juilliard School

Ji Na Kim, piano

M.A., B.A. The Juilliard School

Jon Kliftonoff, piano, Academy

M.M. The Juilliard School, B.M. Manhattan School of Music

Keith Kreindler, saxophone, bassoon, clarinet

M.M. Mannes College of Music, B.M. Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College, B.A. Binghamton University–SUNY

Stephanie Liu, violin

D.M.A., M.M. Stony Brook University–SUNY, B.A. Princeton University

James Lowe, piano

M.A. University of Michigan, B.M. Eastman School of Music

Melinda Magnani, art therapy

M.B.A. University of Chicago, M.S., B.A. Drake University

Emanouil Manolov, violin, viola

D.M.A. Stony Brook University–SUNY, M.M. Stony Brook University–SUNY, B.M. Eastman School of Music

Lee Metcalf, guitar, Pre-Academy Head

M.M. Purchase Conservatory, Purchase College–SUNY, B.F.A. City College of New York, Diploma in Music from University of Hartford–Hartt School of Music

Nicole Mulet, creative arts therapy

M.S. Sarah Lawrence College, B.A. Queens College, B.A. Western New England College

Caroline Park, piano

D.M.A. Manhattan School of Music, M.M. Yale University, M.M. The Juilliard School,
B.M. The Juilliard School

Julie Schmidt, voice, theory, Academy Head

M.M. Florida State University, B.M. Wichita State University

Chris Šebek, voice

Certificate of Arts Administration, New York University, B.A. University of South
Florida, Additional Studies, Manhattan School of Music

Grace Smyth, voice, musical theatre, early childhood

B.F.A. Marymount Manhattan College

Yousif Sheronick, percussion

M.M. Yale University, B.M. University of Iowa

Lukas Shroust, viola

M.M. Stony Brook University–SUNY, B.A. The Robert McDuffie Center for Strings

Carissa Streuli, music therapy

B.A. Montclair State University

Bridget Suma, art therapy

M.A. Pratt Institute, B.A. University of Minnesota

Gregory Suss, musical theatre

Ph.D. Graduate Center–CUNY, M.A. New York University, B.A. University of
Pennsylvania

Kathleen Suss, voice

M.M. Manhattan School of Music, B.M. DePauw University

Normearlesa Thomas, cello

D.M.A. Rutgers University, M.A. Columbia University–Teacher's College

Rami Vamos, Suzuki guitar, String Department Head

M.A. Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College, M.M. Yale University,
B.M. Oberlin College Conservatory of Music

Helen Yedigarian, piano

M.M. Manhattan School of Music, M.M. Yerevan Komitas Conservatory, B.M. Yerevan Komitas Conservatory, Professional Studies Certificate, Manhattan School of Music

Slavina Zhelezova, piano

D.M.A Manhattan School of Music, M.A Manhattan School of Music,
B.A. Mannes College of Music in Piano Performance



BRONXVILLE
914-395-4507

STAMFORD
203-595-5059

concordiaconservatory.org