WISCONSIN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Concerts & Cuisine 2027

CHEF PARTICIPATION

Sunday, April 18, 2027; 5:00 PM; Monona Terrace

What is the Event?

Concerts & Cuisine is the gala fundraiser for the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, bringing together some of the area's best chefs and restaurants in support of Concerts on the Square. More than 500 guests will gather to sample incredible food, enjoy live music, bid on auction packages, and celebrate one of Madison's favorite summer traditions. Participating chefs showcase their best for event guests and a panel of expert judges, with the chance to take home a coveted Silver Tray Award.

Now in its fifth year, Concerts & Cuisine continues to grow as a celebration of Madison's culinary and arts communities. In 2026, more than 35 local restaurants and chefs participated, helping make the event a tremendous success and raising more than $326,000 in support of Concerts on the Square. To see last year's participating chefs, award winners, photos, and more, visit wcoconcerts.org/events/concerts-cuisine-2026.











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Benefits

- Recognition of you and your restaurant in the printed event program and signage throughout the event.
- Recognition on the WCO website, social media, and print and digital invitations.
- Exposure to more than 600 guests attending Concerts & Cuisine.
- A stipend of $1.00 per guest, with a minimum payment of $500. Periodic updates on the expected number of guests will be provided.
    - **Additional $100 stipend if participation is confirmed by December 1, 2026.**

Participation Requirements

- Provide a sample-sized appetizer, mini-entrée, dessert, or non-alcoholic beverage for approximately 1/2 of attendees. We expect more than 600 guests.
- Create a table display that appeals to guests and attracts samplers to your station.
- Food must be prepared off-site for serving at the event.
- Appropriate insurance coverage is required for off-site food service.
- Provide personnel to staff your table throughout judging and serving (4:30pm – 7:30pm).

Judging & Silver Tray Awards

Only one menu item is required, but you are welcome to enter as many categories as you wish! Categories include Appetizer, Entrée, Dessert, Non-Alcoholic Beverage, and Best Table Presentation.

Judges will sample all submitted dishes and award the coveted Silver Tray Awards based on four criteria: Taste, Appearance, Aroma, and Creativity. We encourage participating chefs to stay for the awards and photographs.

What We Provide

- Two 8-foot tables—one front and one back.
- White tablecloths for both tables, if needed. You are welcome to decorate your table differently.
- At least one electrical outlet at your station.
- Disposable plates, bowls, napkins, utensils, and cups.

Event Day Schedule

Setup	11:00 AM–4:30 PM
Judging	4:30 PM
Serving	5:30–7:30 PM
Tear Down	7:30 PM
Awards	8:30 PM

Important Deadlines

December 1, 2026 — Confirm participation to receive the additional $100 stipend.

January 8, 2027 — Confirm participation by this date to be included in the event invitation.

March 22, 2027 — Final menu descriptions and Chef Name and Title due for inclusion in the printed event program.

KEEP PAGES 1–2 FOR YOUR RECORDS | RETURN PAGES 3–4

Count Me In!

Your Information

Business or Restaurant: _____

Title: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

1. Please indicate the course(s) you wish to serve. **This is NOT needed to confirm participation. Final menu descriptions and Chef Name and Title are due March 22, 2027.**
2. Give a brief, detailed description that will be **listed in the program and used by the Judges**.

Electronic typed submissions are preferred, but if written, please print clearly – thank you! For electronic submission, this entire form can be emailed to Cayla Minear at gala@wcoconcerts.org.

Course #1

☐ Appetizer ☐ Entrée ☐ Dessert ☐ Non-Alcoholic Beverage

Course #1 Description:

Course #2 (optional)

☐ Appetizer ☐ Entrée ☐ Dessert ☐ Non-Alcoholic Beverage

Course #2 Description:

Course #3 (optional)

☐ Appetizer ☐ Entrée ☐ Dessert ☐ Non-Alcoholic Beverage

Course #3 Description:

Please indicate what your needs/requirements will be:

- ☐ I will require ice.
- ☐ I will require electricity (maximum of two 110-volt outlets)
    - You are required to bring your own extension cords (at least 25' recommended) and power strips (if needed).
- ☐ I will require two white tablecloths.
- ☐ I will require:
    - ☐ Plates
    - ☐ Bowls
    - ☐ Cups
- ☐ I will require:
    - ☐ Plastic forks,
    - ☐ Plastic spoons
    - ☐ Knives

Please indicate if you will be donating a silent auction item:

- ☐ I will donate a gift certificate or other item(s) valued at $100+ from my business for the silent auction.

  If you checked the box above, please select one of the following options:

    - ☐ I will drop off or mail the auction item to the address below by April 3, 2027
    - ☐ I will bring or mail the auction item(s) to the WCO (address below)
    - ☐ Please pick up the item(s) at the address above.

Item Value: $_____
Description:

Please note: Gift cards or packages should be valued at $100 or more. Any item(s) you donate will be placed on the auction table next to your station at the event.

Please remit the participation form to:

Cayla Minear at gala@wcoconcerts.org 608-257-0638 x105
Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra | 1 South Pinckney St., Ste 818 Madison, WI 53703

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