



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

PURSuing TRUTH · DEFENDING LIBERTY SINCE 1844

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 1, 2025

CONTACT:

Emily Stack Davis

517-803-3745

PR@hillsdale.edu

Follow [@HillsdalePR](https://twitter.com/HillsdalePR).

Hillsdale College Symphony Orchestra Performs Fall Parents Weekend Concert *The performance featured repertoire from the late Romantic and early modern periods.*

HILLSDALE, Mich. — The Hillsdale College Symphony Orchestra performed a Fall Parents Weekend Concert on Oct. 25 and 26 in Christ Chapel. This opening concert of the 75th season featured repertoire from the late Romantic and early modern periods, including a symphony by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

“Sibelius has been compared to Beethoven, and we see that in this symphony, though we also see his original style gradually bringing together different themes over the course of the four movements,” said James Holleman, music director of choirs and orchestras. “It was an exciting work for our orchestra students to learn and share with their families and our community.”

The orchestra performed Sibelius’s Symphony No. 2 in D Major, op. 43.

The concert also included excerpts from two operas: the Prelude to Act III from Richard Wagner’s opera “Lohengrin” and excerpts from Engelbert Humperdinck’s opera “Hansel and Gretel,” which featured solos by soprano Rachel Dunphey ’26 and mezzo-soprano Sophia LaBonte ’26.

More than a quarter of Hillsdale’s student body participates in one of the College’s music ensembles, which include the College Choir, Chamber Choir, Symphony Orchestra, and Jazz Big Band.

For photos from the performance, click [here](#). For recordings of Hillsdale College music performances, click [here](#). For more information about Hillsdale’s performing ensembles, click [here](#). For photos of Hillsdale College, click [here](#). For a high-resolution copy of the Hillsdale College clocktower logo, click [here](#).

About Hillsdale College

Hillsdale College is an independent, nonsectarian, Christian liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, *Imprimis*, with a circulation of more than 7.1 million. For more information, visit hillsdale.edu.

###