

Name: Amanda Aubrey

City/Town of Residence: Milwaukee, WI

Instrument: String bass

How long have you been with Concord?

The 2019-2020 season will be my first full season, but I joined CCO in 2018.

What is your earliest musical memory? Music has always been a huge part of my life and was a huge part of my upbringing. My mom was a singer and pianist, so really my earliest memories involve hearing her singing around the house or playing piano in the music room.



What got you interested in music, and what was your involvement growing up? Because my mom was a musician, my sister (a soprano) and I were involved in church music from our earliest childhood, and eventually I was able to join the strings program in 5th grade. I started on viola, but only because I wasn't fast enough to claim one of the two available basses when our teacher told us to choose the instrument we wanted to play. In 6th grade, one of the bass players quit, and I immediately jumped in. It was love at first sight and sound, and I never looked back.

Why do you perform with Concord? I love playing with CCO because of the dedication of the individual members of the orchestra, and because of the ambitious programming Jamin always employs in the concerts. As a lifelong avocational bassist, it's always nice to play a satisfying mix of the new and familiar – it's a challenge each time, and I appreciate the attention to detail.

What has been the high point of your involvement with Concord? Playing in the Basilica of St. Josaphat is hands-down one of my favorite all-time musical experiences. Acoustical challenges aside, there are few experiences more moving or visceral than to play in such a gorgeous sacred setting.

What do you do for a living? I'm a staff attorney at a nonprofit legal services firm, providing family law and other emergency legal services to victims of domestic violence/abuse and other crimes.

Tell us about your family? My mom's entire side of the family are musically oriented, and she regaled us throughout our childhood with tales of the square dances, bluegrass jam sessions, and other groups she played in and watched as a child. My late grandfather played banjo, my mom played piano, and her uncle played guitar. My sister (three years older than I) is a beautiful singer, as are her three daughters (and the oldest two are also talented French horn players). My partner Elizabeth played flute in marching band, and our three cats – Rita, Bandit,

and Maude – show little to no tolerance for music, let alone for my nasty habit of practicing where they can hear it.

What are your hobbies besides practicing and playing? My copious free time (ha) is usually spent reading (historical fiction/mysteries with strong female protagonists is my current favorite), playing softball/basketball, or expanding my bartending skills.

What is your favorite recording? Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, conducted by Robert Shaw and featuring the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra & Chorus

Who is your favorite composer? I will only choose because you're making me, but John Williams is my personal hero and I can listen to any/all of his music on repeat to infinity. In the historical realm, however, it's a tie between Tchaikovsky & Dvorak.

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I'm ambidextrous and can write in mirror-images: I can write backwards with my left hand while simultaneously writing the same words with my right hand.

What is your advice for kids who are interested in music? Play often, play early, and while private teachers/instruction is enormously useful, learn what works for you as far as practicing, method, etc., and dive in. Just like no two people are the same, no two practice methods work exactly the same way for two different people. If you love to play, don't ever let anyone tell you not to play.