

Violinist **Sonja Harasim** has been described as being an “undeniably impressive” performer (James Chute, San Diego Union-Tribune, August 21, 2011), and hailed for her attention to detail, making “every note count deliciously” (Joel Luks, Culture Map Houston, April 26, 2011). Ms. Harasim is on the faculty at Concordia College, where she teaches violin and chamber music. In addition to her dedicated teaching, she maintains an active performing career locally, nationally, and internationally as a solo, chamber, and orchestral musician, including serving as Assistant Concertmaster of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony and collaborating with her colleagues in the Concordia Piano Trio and String Quartet. Prior to joining Concordia’s faculty, Ms. Harasim frequently performed with the Houston Symphony, Houston Grand Opera, and Da Camera of Houston. Performance highlights include those at the “Grieg in Bergen” concert series in Norway, Library of Congress and Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and La Jolla SummerFest in California. Ms. Harasim is dedicated to the performance of new music and little known works worthy of great acclaim. Several composers, including Karim Al-Zand, Benjamin Krause, and Christopher Walczak, have dedicated pieces to her, and in 2010, she premiered Mr. Walczak's *Concerto for Violin and Chamber Orchestra*, with Cristian Macelaru conducting. The concerto served as the centerpiece of their documentary, a behind the scenes look at a unique collaboration between composer and performer. Ms. Harasim is a sought after pedagogue and chamber music coach, teaching previously at Rice University’s Michael P. Hammond Preparatory School. She has given masterclasses at the University of North Dakota and St. Olaf College, among others. She completed her undergraduate studies with David Updegraff at the Cleveland Institute of Music and returned to her hometown, Houston, Texas, to pursue graduate studies with Kenneth Goldsmith and doctoral studies with Cho-Liang Lin at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music. Ms. Harasim plays a violin made especially for her in 2011 by Mario Miralles.