

## REVIEW: Philosophy & Music After the Great War "Concerto for Left Hand" Amazes Well-Informed Audience

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At first glance, it is difficult from a scientific standpoint to see the reason for music in human society. While it has proven to be good for our minds and physical health, why would something relatively purposeless have such an effect? The answer is likely, as Nick Susi, assistant professor of music at St. Scholastica, in aiding communication among social creatures such as ourselves.

The evening presented last Friday April 20 at 7:30 p.m. consisted of a lecture on the Wittgenstein family and Maurice Ravel, began with philosophy professor Steven Ostovitch telling the tragic story of the Wittgenstein family, plagued by depression and suicide but for Paul Wittgenstein, who began adulthood as a concert pianist, lost his right arm fighting in World War I and spent many years as a prisoner of war, and went back to being a concert pianist with only his left hand.

Ostovitch then focused in on Ludwig Wittgenstein, a brilliant modern philosopher before he, like three of his brothers, died by suicide. Ostovitch told of his inspiration from Leo Tolstoy's retelling of the gospels emphasizing Jesus as an ethical figure, going so far as to complete his master work in the same format as the influential book. Unfortunately, as a German speaker in a foreign land, it was very difficult to communicate his ideas to anyone, and in frustration he fell silent.

And this is where it was handed over to Susi to speak of the relationship between Paul Wittgenstein and Maurice Ravel, to whom

he commissioned a concerto for left hand only and the reflection of both men's mental states in the music. Susi described Ravel as a sort of "Swiss watchmaker of composers," with intricate stacked and layered melodies. As a result, the "Concerto for Left Hand" has the intricacy and richness of a two-handed piece. Susi explained how the left thumb is responsible for the melody, while the fingers must create accompaniment, often jumping all over the the keyboard to adequately mimic the sound of two hands.

And so, after an intermission in which the stage was rearranged to feature the two beautiful pianos (one for Susi, and one for Emily Valine who accompanied as the "orchestra"), the audience was dazzled by "Concerto for Left Hand" as Valine played a fantastic accompaniment that started low and muddy, and brightened up to an awakening, which then handed the song over to Susi for an intricate, tangled cascade of notes.

As the piece progressed, the seeming bonelessness of Susi's rapidly moving left hand put a cramp in my own. The rapidly weaving melody climbed upward in both energy and on the keyboard, only to collapse into a methodical march with a rippling treble extension. As the piece went on it energized into the repetitive, energetic motives and dense, heavy sound that crumbled downward "under its own weight" over and over again, finally finishing with a flourish. The audience in turn picked their jaws up off the floor and thanked the performers and speakers with a standing ovation.

## The Script

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This brings us to present day. After another budget mishap in the fall, The Cable was left to seriously consider how to continue doing what we do. There was a policy change in Student Senate where clubs were no longer allowed to offer stipends to their members, which has been a fundamental part of The Cable for years: it's both a club and a job.

After numerous emails and countless Skype calls, as I was abroad last semester, we came to a solution. Instead of being a club, The Cable would become an official form of student employment under Student Activities.

With this change, we decided we might as well go and change everything else too. Jordon Moses, the Student Activities director, suggested the rebranding and has been incredibly helpful throughout the process, even designing the new logo.

We chose The Script after the original Scriptorium as a way to draw upon our history while creating something new. As fond as we were of The Cable, there are no records revealing why that name was chosen, and it was oftentimes confusing to those who didn't know what it was.

We hope that this transition to Student Activities will help the student newspaper be seen as a more permanent part of campus.

## Northern Exposure - Enger Tower

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As the snow melts and the flowers begin to bloom, it is the perfect time to take a break from studying and step outside. One well known place in Duluth is Enger Tower. When you drive in to Duluth, the top of the tower can be seen from all around as it is the highest point in town.

Enger Park is located in a wooded area just off Skyline Parkway. The area is well kept and full of beautiful flowers throughout the summer months. Located on one side of the park, a large gazebo over looks the lake and is a hot spot for many weddings.

According to [www.engerdulduluth.com](http://www.engerdulduluth.com), Enger Tower is "a five story structure constructed of national Blue Stone" and is 531 feet above Lake Superior.

In order to see the city, one must climb five flights of stairs, but the work is worth it. The view from the top is incredible. You can see a large portion of Duluth, including Canal Park.

For some visitors, a highlight of the trip is the wildlife. Aside from the slightly tame squirrels, stray cats often roam the park that they call home.

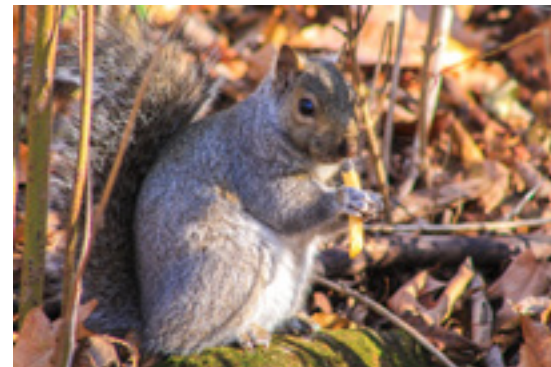
We want students to know about The Script before they even begin classes, strengthening our connections both campus-wide and community-wide.

Though many of these changes will not be seen until next school year, our current team has been working extremely hard over the last few months to make things happen. We aim to reinforce our online presence with potentially more videography, podcasts, or even an app, and overall be more responsive to what our readers want to see. Our goal is not to create something static, but something that shifts and grows along with the student body.

With that, we present The Script: The College of St. Scholastica's student newspaper, The Script, aims to provide well-written, unbiased journalism to the CSS community in an environment which allows young writers, photographers, and artists to grow and develop their skills. Using both online and written platforms, The Script keeps students, staff, and faculty alike informed on campus happenings and institutional changes. Our bi-weekly printing schedule allows students to get a taste of the publishing industry, and our student-centered approach lets students experience how to promote, advertise, and keep a business running. Therefore, The Script educates both internally, teaching invaluable skills to its student employees, and externally, keeping the campus community informed.

Whether you are looking for an outdoor adventure or a day of sightseeing, Enger Tower is the perfect place to start. The park is a perfect blend of nature and city life. Even on a busy day, the park is peaceful and relaxing.

As finals week nears, every student needs a getaway. Duluth is full of places to go and get your mind off of homework. Find some friends and explore town for an hour or two. Just make sure to stop at Enger Tower and take in the city.



The wildlife within Enger Park is surprisingly tame, including squirrels who feed from the trash cans and enjoy french fries. Cable Photo / Sabrina Jacobson.

## REVIEW: "Mission IMPROVable" Leaves Audience Laughing

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Last Monday, April 23, the improvisation group "Mission IMPROVable" performed for St. Scholastica students, hosted by the Campus Activities Board as part of Mayfest. The group consisted of four "agents" who all worked together, along with suggestions and volunteers from the audience, to put on a truly hilarious improv show.

The skits performed by the group were creative and original and felt truly spontaneous to the audience. The group had a suggestive sense of humor, but was respectful to the audience. Everything from the banter between agents to the

audience volunteers was funny; the entire crowd of various ages was laughing the entire performance. The group was well-dressed, and stayed in character for the duration of the show. The agents took the names America, Suave Destroyer, and Trail Mix.

CAB served mini donuts to the audience, and conducted a drawing for two free Mayfest tee shirts. The winners were announced at the end of the performance, along with a clue to find the Mayfest Medallion.

"Mission IMPROVable" was truly amusing with a universal sense of humor. It was a fantastic break from end of the year stress and brought many laughs from start to finish.

## Nova, the "Healer of Hearts," Brings Joy to CSS Community and Beyond

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If you are a regular visitor to the College of St. Scholastica's Duluth campus, odds are, you have run into Nova, a giant black Newfoundland with bright pink feather extensions.

Her owner, Jack Lee, is in the clinical graduate program of social work at the college, and he and Nova are a busy team. Besides their regular stress relief therapy for students, Nova has also worked at the St. Scholastica Monastery, in speech pathology, and at the Solvay Hospice House of the Miller-Dwan Foundation. She will soon be working with Lee at Essentia in adult partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient for his internship as well.

Lee, who is a service connected veteran, was drawn to the idea of animal assisted therapy after the loss of his first Newfoundland, Oolum.

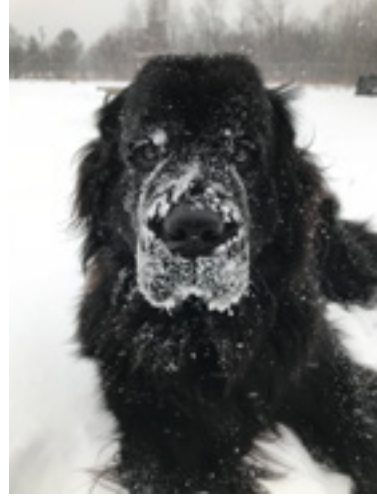
"I found there were things coming back into my life ... that I hadn't felt in a long time, and I couldn't figure out what was wrong," said Lee regarding his mental health after losing Oolum.

When Lee found himself in a social work research class with assistant professor Shelly Richardson, he decided to explore the subject further. Through his research, he discovered that animal assisted therapy has numerous health benefits including reductions in anxiety, stress, and depression. In addition, clients are far more likely to show up to their appointments if a therapy animal is present.

Lee decided to give it a shot. He purchased Nova, whose name means "healer of hearts," as a puppy and she began her training at six months old. By the time she was one, she was certified with "flying colors."

"The things that were bothering me went away," said Lee. "I started to feel this sense of relief that I hadn't felt since my last dog was gone."

Since then, Nova has worked in numerous environments from on campus to hospice



Nova, a giant fluff of a therapy dog, plays in the snow. Submitted photo/Jack Lee.

care.

"I have story after story after story of her impacting people on a level that's really just profound," said Lee.

So why did the duo choose hospice? Lee said he prefers crisis work over the more long term client-professional relationship often associated with social work. And hospice is just that: a crisis.

"I think [hospice is] a really vulnerable time, not even so much the patient/client/resident, but for their family and their friends. And that's where [Nova] has been really effective at Solvay in providing that comfort and support for the family members and staff," said Lee.

The College of St. Scholastica campus has been overall supportive of Nova's visits as well. From Richardson assisting Lee with his research, to dean of students Megan Perry-Spears, to the director of the Student Center for Health and Well Being Tad Sears, to Jessica Johnston of the Veterans Resource Center, Lee has "not run into one problem on campus where people haven't supported her."

As for Nova herself, she never tires of the constant attention, preferring the company of humans over other dogs. During the interview, several students stopped to give her a pat, in which she would place a big furry paw on their lap as if to let them know that everything was going to be alright.