

Music Department to Host Prism Concert



Ensembles perform for last year's Prism Concert. Photo via College Communications.

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For the third consecutive year, the College of St. Scholastica Music Department is hosting its Prism Concert. The show features nearly all of the department's ensembles, including Cantus Chorale, Vocal Revolution, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Concert Choir, Vox Anima, String Orchestra, World Drum Ensemble, and Steel Band. Bella Voce has performed in past concerts, but will be absent this year due to a previous engagement.

Jeremy Craycraft, the chair of the music department and associate professor of music, explained the history behind the name "Prism."

When light is shone through a prism, every color shines through the other side and the concert has a similar effect in that all of the ensembles that perform showcase the department as a whole.

Each ensemble will perform one piece with nine performances in total. Craycraft said as a result of the concert being less formal, the Mitchell Auditorium doors will be left open. Open doors

will be more inviting for the St. Scholastica community who will, after experiencing the concert, hopefully gain a sense of the entire music program.

The Prism Concert will take place Homecoming week. Craycraft said this is intentional, as it adds a "fine arts presence" to Homecoming, making the whole experience more communal.

The concert will be held Oct. 13, starting at 1 p.m. It is free of cost and open to the public.

Preview of Homecoming 2018 Events

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After a college-wide vote, students selected "We Duluth it Better: Saints for Life" as the College of St. Scholastica's Homecoming theme for 2018, taking 46.3% of the vote.

Homecoming 2018 will take place Oct. 8-14. Preparation has included not only celebrating CSS, but the Duluth community as a whole.

Laura Johnson, who works in the alumni engagement office as part of the Student Alumni Association (SAA), said the emphasis this year is to have lots of Duluth pride at CSS from faculty, staff, and students. Being one of the largest Homecoming sponsors, SAA's major focus is to make alumni events more present at Homecoming through integration with the Campus Activities Board (CAB).

"We have a committee that's made up of folks from all different departments on campus who play a role in the planning, promotion, and execution of the entire week of homecoming," said Johnson.

According to Johnson, all past alumni of CSS will be celebrated at Homecoming this year in various ways, including the presentation of the Young Alumni Award, honoring football alumni at Saturday's game, and celebrating the 40th anniversary of the men's

soccer team.

Johnson added that each weekday of Homecoming has an event planned to further emphasize CSS and its role with community.

Monday will consist of a potluck called "Heck-uva Hotdish" from 6-8 p.m. in front of Science. "Taste of Duluth Food Day" is on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union.

Women's volleyball, and both women's and men's soccer will be playing at home on Wednesday against the Northland Lumberjacks. The Quidditch tournament will be on Thursday at 11 a.m. on Science front lawn, and a chili feed in Storm's Den is scheduled for Friday from 5:15-6:30 p.m.

A couple Friday highlights include the athletics Hall of Fame social and dinner, where the 8th Hall of Fame class will be inducted into the college, and the annual SAA Student Talent Show.

Saturday will be action-packed with more men's soccer at 11 a.m., women's volleyball at noon, and women's soccer at 1:30 p.m., all versus the Minnesota Morris Cougars. The football tailgate begins at noon and goes until 4 pm, complete with food trucks and vendors featuring a wide variety of meal options.

Students can also join the CSS music ensembles at 1 p.m. for the annual Prism Concert

in the Mitchell Auditorium. The Homecoming Parade will begin at 2:15 p.m. in Parking Lot #8, and the Homecoming football game against the Greenville Panthers starts at 6 p.m.

Students who want to actively participate in this year's Homecoming events can be involved in multiple ways. Sign up for the SAA talent show on Friday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. Special guest Sung Beats will be the show's emcee. The top three acts will win a cash prize.

If you are a member of an on-campus club, organization, or athletic team, consider designing a float for the Homecoming parade. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, so be creative and show your CSS Homecoming spirit.

Volunteers are always necessary to keep Homecoming fun and running smoothly. Choose to volunteer and you will receive a free Homecoming t-shirt.

Deadlines for these events are approaching fast, so sign up NOW! Visit css.edu/homecoming for a complete schedule of events and to register for any of these Homecoming activities.

"One thing that makes Homecoming so popular is student participation," said Johnson. So, come on out and celebrate the beautiful communities of Duluth and CSS!

Behind the Scenes: Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?

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Everyday life in the Catholic school system is turned into an enticing love story with rebellious teens in this year's fall musical "Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?"

Directors Merry Renn Vaughn, associate professor of Communications, Theatre, and Art (CTA), and Sharon Dixon Obst, lecturer of CTA and the School of Arts and Letters, chose the musical after many years of wishing to direct this show together. Both directors felt connected to this musical, and Vaughn gave a short description of her take on the story.

"It's a very cute story," said Vaughn. "It has a lot of nostalgia and reminiscence, especially for people who grew up in Catholic school. It's a love story at its core, but it has a little edge to it too."

As the cast and crew start to form the show, they must break apart practices into singing and acting. Musical director, Obst, was able to give some insight.

"We are asking them to explore who their character is while they're learning the music. Then we are going to get them up on stage and moving. One day a week is dedicated to choreography," said Obst.

The breakdown of singing and acting can be complicated when you have a new cast, but directors Vaughn and Obst have a history of working together and find their complementary viewpoints make great show.

"She sees the characters from the acting viewpoint, and I see it from the music viewpoint, so we are able to compliment each other's skills seamlessly," said Obst.

Review: Emanuel Ax Mystifies Audience

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There is always something so soothing about piano music, and Emanuel Ax's concert was no exception. The seven-time Grammy winning pianist drew a large crowd of mostly older adults, filling the Mitchell Auditorium in anticipation of Ax's return after almost 43 years.

The performance was the "Legacy Concert" of Matinee Musicale's 2018-2019 season, in partnership with Twin Ports area schools College of St. Scholastica, University of Minnesota Duluth, and University of Wisconsin Superior. There will be three more performances in the Mitchell Auditorium throughout the year as the series commences.

Ax performed a colorful, two-part set, consisting of "The Rhapsodies Op. 79" by Johannes Brahms, "Fastasiestucke Op. 12" by Robert Schumann, "Valses

Vaughn and Obst are amazed by how well the actors are doing this year, especially with how their voices are blending. In addition to acting and singing, a lot goes on behind the scenes. Tech director, Kevin Seime, was able to elaborate.

"I usually do the sound and the lights for the shows, but for something as big as this, I have some guest designers come in to enhance the experience," said Seime. "Alex Flinner with sound design, and Tom Thatcher with light design."

The set and props also play a huge role in the musical production. Props manager, Tasha Wagner, revealed that this show has 90 props. Seime also let out some secrets on this year's set.

"You're going to see a lot of the same scenery in all the scenes, but there will be elements of the classroom, the confessional, the church windows, and there will be a swing to get a feel for being outside," said Seime.

The musical this year is a very large production with many important elements. Through all the hard work, the directors and crew are excited to see how all the pieces they have worked so hard on come together. Vaughn, Obst, and Seime all shared a specific part of the show they are excited for.

"I'm really excited to see opening night," said Seime.

"I'm excited for the first run through, when we put the music and the dancing and the acting together to see the continuity from beginning to end," said Obst.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing what these actors can do with these characters. They're already doing really fun stuff, so I'm excited to see where they go," said Vaughn.

nobles et sentimentales" by Maurice Ravel, "Nocturne in B Major, Op. 62 No. 1" by Frederic Chopin, "Mazurkas Op. 50 by Chopin," and "Andante spianato et grande polonaise brillante in E-flat Major Op. 22" by Chopin. Ax had planned to play "Piano Figures" by George Benjamin, but bashfully declined as he had not finished learning the piece.

If one was not well acquainted with chamber music of the 1800s, however, this performance may have seemed erratic. In these pieces, composers experimented with various tempos and chord combinations, making them unpredictable.

However, Ax played them effortlessly with great emotion; the audience was enthralled throughout the concert, offering enthusiastic bouts of applause when appropriate. It was truly a treat to hear Ax's return to the Mitchell stage, and audience members felt a surge of calm by the music.

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