

PRISM *continued from Front Page*

To successfully run a concert with multiple groups performing, organization is key. “We try not to have a lot of movement. The groups are mainly sitting in the auditorium ready-to-go so that the concert’s very fast and people are in and out in under an hour but get to see everything that we do in one quick shot,” Craycraft said.

The organization of this concert pays off by providing audience members with a unique viewing experience. “For the audience, it’s amazing. They get to see all the groups at one time. We don’t do that any other time of the year,” Craycraft said. “It’s really fun to see all the ensembles and also see how much crossover there is between the different ensembles,” Johnson added.

Combining all of the school’s ensembles in a single concert also provides a sense of unity for the music students. “This is a great way to come together for the audience, but more importantly, it also helps us with the students feeling part of the community. You’re united in power when you know you’re with 150 other people making music,” Craycraft said.

Two new members of the music ensemble faculty, Director of String Orchestra Jessica Schroeder and Director of Bands Derek Bromme, will have the opportunity to showcase what they plan to add to the St. Scholastica musical community at their first PRISM concert. “This will be the first time they’re in public at the College with their ensembles. It’s a special day for them, and I know they’re going to be excited to have their groups play,” Craycraft said.

As a band student, Johnson looks forward to seeing what Bromme contributes to the concert. “Being as we have a new band director this year, I’m excited to have his perspective on things and have him be able to showcase what he’s bringing to the table as well as to see what the rest of the music department brings to the table,” she said.

While the concert is a rewarding experience for the music students and faculty involved, the short timeframe leading up to the event provides a challenge. “The tricky thing about this concert is the

timing. Homecoming is sometimes a little bit later, but this year it is pretty early,” Craycraft said. “We only have three and a half weeks to get ready. There’s some pressure, but it’s a good pressure.”

These preparations will pay off when students have the opportunity to showcase their talents to a packed auditorium on Saturday. “We get a great audience because a lot of people are here for homecoming weekend, like alums, parents, and siblings. The students themselves are usually proud that they’re in the band, so they tell their friends who are not in the band and they come,” Craycraft said. “We actually have one of the best crowds of the year for this concert. Mitchell Auditorium may not be full, but it’s close.”

Despite the time change of the concert, Craycraft anticipates substantial attendance numbers. “It’s been in the morning for the last four or five times it’s happened. College Advancement asked us if we wouldn’t mind going in the afternoon after the football game to make it more of a concert, as opposed to in the morning when people might not be ready for a concert,” Craycraft said. “We don’t know if this is going to work or not, but we’re hopeful that people who go to soccer, volleyball and football would also take time to come to a concert after that.”

No matter the outcome of the attendance numbers, the PRISM concert represents a valuable display of fine arts during a weekend dominated by athletics. “We’re just excited to be a part of homecoming weekend,” Craycraft said. “It’s important that all students feel a part of it, even if they’re not an athlete. They can go to the game, but they can also have something that other alumni might want to come back and see too. We’re really proud to be involved in this.”

Although Craycraft did not originally brainstorm the concept behind the PRISM concert, he is honored to carry on this memorable tradition. “One of my former faculty members came up with this idea,” he said. “It’s been awesome and I’m happy to keep it going because I think it’s a great opportunity for our music students to feel like they’re also part of the homecoming festivities.”