Concert ensemble celebrates jazz

Blaze Benham, Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, November 27, 2017 4:26 pm

The Music Department wants to end the Fall Quarter on a high note, and they shall, with the, ‘Centenary Celebration of Jazz.’

The concert will feature music of Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie and Thelonious Monk.

Three music ensembles will perform, including the CPP Jazz Band, directed by Dave Kopplin, the CPP Jazz Combo, directed by Jeff Miley and the CPP Polytonix Vocal Jazz Ensemble, directed by Kendra Vuk.

“We’re presenting this concert because this year marks the 100 anniversary of Fitzgerald’s birthday,” fourth-year music performance student and lead trombonist in the Jazz Band Raymond Fong said.

The “Centenary Celebration of Jazz” Concert will begin at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 28 at the CPP Music Recital Hall.

Since all three of the featured artists were born in 1917, the music is sometimes performed using modern arrangements.

There are bound to be a few surprises along the way.

“We’re doing a challenging arrangement of Night and Day (by Dave Kopplin), that I haven’t heard before – something funkier,” fourth-year vocal performance student Morgan Semrau said.

“I sing in choir, and I sing with another woman in the jazz band, and I sing in Musicals.”

“This has been my first quarter in jazz band, so that’s been exciting.”

“I didn’t quite know what to expect, so it has been fun being able to do your own thing with the songs, instead of having it be so structured all the time, which for me is really different from what I’m used to, but it’s been a real challenge this quarter.”

The CPP Big Band will also be performing, ‘Blue Skies,’ by Irving Berlin, ‘I Got Rhythm,’ by George & Ira Gershwin, ‘Birks’ Works,’ by Dizzy Gillespie, and ‘Blue Monk,’ and ‘Green Chimneys,’ by Thelonious Monk.

The CPP Jazz Combos will be performing several Jazz Standards, as well.
“We will be performing, ‘Honeysuckle Rose,’ by Fats Waller, ‘I Get a Kick Out of You,’ by Cole Porter, and ‘Well, You Need It,’ by Miles Davis,” jazz combo pianist and third-year transfer music education student, Abraham Martinez said.

If CPP students want to end the Fall Quarter on a “high note,” they need look no further than tonight’s concert.