Invitational showcases music department talent

Jocelyn Oceguera, Writer | Posted: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 12:31 pm

The Department of Music featured some of the best student talent Wednesday at the National Honors Invitational in the Music Recital Hall.

Directed by Susan Ali, the well-attended recital provided a showcase for students who did exceptionally well in their jury examinations.

The department presented a program of different musical pieces that highlighted a variety of musical instruments, including the cello, marimba, electric bass, guitar and vibraphone.

“I’m always excited to see [my son] perform,” said Cristina Oseguera, mother of one of the performers, James Oseguera.

Students, parents and alumni nearly filled the auditorium to full capacity in anticipation of viewing their loved ones’ performances.

“Pampeano No. 2” by A. Ginastera was the concert’s opening piece. Adriana Curcio Rizzato played the cello, with Michael Tran on piano. They were both in sync and demonstrated just how fast a person could move his or her fingers along an instrument.

Kevin Garnica then took over piano duty for the remainder of the night, playing alongside several other students as they showcased their solo instrumental and vocal talents.

Emmet Berktold showcased his guitar skills during a performance of “Mysterious Habitats” by Dusan Bogdanovic.

Belia Aldana stood out during her performance of “Oh, Quand je Dors” by Franz Liszt. She surprised the audience with the transformation of her voice and ability to hit the high notes.

Another musician who stood out was Tim Laguna, who played marimba for “Three Movement for a Solo Dancer I. Mysterious Love and II. Dance on a Shattered Mirror.” The auditorium was quiet as an unfamiliar instrument was brought onto the stage. The marimba, a percussion instrument that consists of a set of bars struck with mallets to produce musical notes, was played skillfully by Laguna.

All solos brought something different to the concert as they rocked their unique performances.
Joshua Tessler took over the piano for his performance as he played “Intermezzo No. 2” by Johannes Brahms. The audience’s reaction to his introduction made it clear that they looked forward to his performance. It was as if Tessler was in his own world while performance, forgetting the audience as he outdid himself on the piano.

The next performance left many in awe. Taylor Donovan sang “Precious Lord, Take my hand” by Thomas A. Dorsey. Although she had been shy when she was presented, her demeanor changed as she began her performance. Donovan hit high note after high note and captivated the audience with her voice. The performance elicited thundering applause and raucous cheering from the audience.

“I’ve been performing all my life,” said Donovan, a third-year music student.

The closing performance was close to a standing ovation. Laura Pluth performed “Der Holle Rache” by W.A. Mozart. Dressed all in black with a tiara and black veil, she put on an enthusiastic performance using colorful facial expressions to tell the audience a story.

“We must give credit to the music department,” Pluth’s parents said of their daughter’s performance.

The Honors Invitational is an annual recital held by the music department to exhibit talented students in the music performance program.