Lindsley Memorial raises funds for scholarship

Jesse Rosales, Reporter | Posted: Monday, November 7, 2016 5:58 pm

The Charles Lindsley Memorial Vocal Scholarship Fundraiser was hosted by the Department of Music on Oct. 27 in honor of the late faculty member.

The fundraising concert directed by Susan Ali featured songs from various genres - the theme of the night, “Conflict and Confluence.”

The annual concert was created back in 1994 to honor Lindsley, the founder of the Kellogg Chamber Singers.

Janet Noll, the special guest of the evening, provided some words for her late colleague. She also played piano accompaniment for alumni who performed that evening.

“One of the things that he can be really thanked for is that he oversaw the move from the traditional Beethoven vocal program into a program in which we sing all kinds of styles,” said Noll. “That is still not real typical. Cal Poly is very unusual in its breadth of material that we offer here. In his memory, he would be delighted to hear what you are about to hear tonight.”

A Kenyan folk song, “Wana Baraka,” was performed by the Kellogg Chamber singers to begin the night.

Stevie Wonder’s “Superstition” and John Lennon’s “Imagine” were also on the set list.

A performance of “You’ll be Back,” from the hit musical “Hamilton,” was sung by Jared Ferree, a baritone who came onstage dressed as King George.

“I’ve been on a ‘Hamilton’ kick for the past month or two and I just love this song because it’s so much fun to play the crazy person,” said Ferree. “I mean, King George is crazy and being able to just deck myself out in this regalia, trying to stay in character for a person like this, oh it’s so much fun to get really into it and to get everyone to join in and really treat you like you’re the king. It’s awesome.”

The recipient of the scholarship, Patricia Mincheff, a mezzo soprano, was also honored at the concert.

Her first performance of the night was “Priez Pour Paix” (Pray for Peace) by Francois Poulenc. The somberness of the song reflected the concert’s theme perfectly.

“It’s actually funny the way it worked out. The first song that I did solo, I actually did it with my friend...
as opposed to our accompanist,” said Mincheff. “So we were kind of just doing it for fun and then when Dr. Ali came and told me the theme of the Lindsley I was like, ‘hey, I have the perfect song.’”

Mincheff also performed “For Good” from “Wicked” with Ali, who also happens to be Mincheff’s vocal teacher.

The lyrics express a poignant farewell between two friends who have made an impact in each other’s lives. The song was fitting, not only for the night’s theme, but also because of the relationship between Mincheff and Ali.

“I’m a performance major and when I started at Cal Poly I had this dream of just being a performer,” said Mincheff. “And I would even say, ‘I never ever want to be a music teacher.’ Not that that’s not great. That’s just not what I want to do. I don’t want to be a teacher.”

Mincheff went on to discuss how her interaction and work with Ali has altered her view of teaching.

“Dr. Ali is such an amazing teacher that I found this passion to want to be just as influential and amazing as she is,” said Mincheff. “I actually last year got a job teaching voice because of how much she’s inspired me and I can’t imagine not teaching voice for the rest of my life and that all because of Dr. Ali.”

The evening was a success in honoring Lindsley and his influence on the vocal program. It was also a memorable night for Mincheff.