Music students to put on string of performances

Amber Frias, Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, December 1, 2014 10:51 am

Throughout the week, students from the Department of Music, as well as other majors, will be performing in ensembles in the Music Recital Hall.

Monday’s performance featured the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, directed by Assistant Professor Rickey Badua.

There is no required audition for the Concert Band, but Badua still has performers play for him to be able to place them according to their musical talent. Students in the Wind Ensemble are required to audition for the position.

“They do more extensive preparation,” said Badua. “They have to play a couple of musical excerpts and scales.”

Tuesday’s performances will include showcases from the MIDI band, directed by Assistant Professor Jennifer Amaya, and the Kellogg Soul Ensemble, directed by lecturer Michael O’Neal. MIDI instruments are all electronic. The performance begins at 8 p.m.

“There are violins, an electric wind instrument,” said Teresa Kelly, publicist for the music department. “It is very different. The drums are all electronic.”

The MIDI Ensemble will perform works by composers such as Joe Wiedemann and Patrick Glenn Harper. The Kellogg Soul Ensemble will be performing soul, rhythm and blues classics and contemporary works.

Performances from the Jazz Band and Jazz Combo is up next on the department’s program, held Wednesday night at 8 p.m. The Jazz Band, directed by lecturer Tom Luer, will welcome Grammy-nominated trumpeter Wayne Bergeron.

Thursday’s performance features the Kellogg Chamber Singers, directed by Department Chair Iris Levine, and the University Concert Choir, directed by lecturer Niké St. Clair. The program, which begins at 8 p.m., is called “Joy to All The World.”

“In the fall, they will always do a holiday program, but they embrace music from all different cultures,”
said Kelly.

According to Kelly, the choir is the most popular of the ensembles. The performances always sell out, especially the holiday shows.

A free Percussion Ensemble concert will also be offered on Thursday during U-Hour. The concert, directed by lecturer Bill Schlitt, is open to the public.

The Guitar Ensemble, directed by Professor Peter Yates, will be performing on Friday at 8 p.m. According to Yates, the guitar is a popular instrument not only among the students, but also the community.

“The community appreciates hearing its ancient and modern context,” said Yates.

Kelly said that this performance is a large ensemble.

“They’ll have students performing in solos, maybe in trios or the whole ensemble will perform,” said Kelly.

The Guitar Ensemble will be performing pieces by composers such as Bach, Heitor Villa-Lobos and Erik Satie.

“[The audience] can expect their lives to be changed in a positive way,” said Yates.

All majors are welcome to perform in the ensembles. If interested, students must meet with the director. Ensembles perform once every quarter as part of their final.

“I’d like to invite as many campus community members to come and check it out,” said Badua. “This campus has a lot of potential, and has a current music department that is really fantastic.”

Tickets to the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, MIDI and Soul Music Jazz Band and Jazz Combo, Chamber Singers/Concert Choir, and the Guitar Ensemble performances are $10 general, $10 students or $7 student subscription. To purchase tickets, visit the music department website or the Recital Hall box office, open Monday-Friday from noon to 1 p.m. or an hour before showtime.