Music showcase highlights talent

Heather Martin, Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, February 5, 2018 12:29 pm

The Music Department presented a free Winter Showcase Music Hour directed by music professor Susan Ali

Students, parents and faculty filled the Music Recital Hall Tuesday, Jan. 30 to watch the performance.

“We present the showcase each quarter because it is designed to highlight and give our students an opportunity to perform and demonstrate their various talents such as, singers, pianists, guitarists, and other instruments,” Ali said.

The show featured eight unique performances that included three vocal numbers, three instrumental duets and two instrumental trios.

Some of the pieces have been performed at other venues.

“Sometimes faculty members will perform an ensemble piece they have been preparing,” Ali said.

The opening piece featured a collaboration of a music professor and two students.

Professor Nadia Shpachenko, Michael Jung and Michael Tran performed a piece named “qsqsqsqsqqqqqqqq” that featured three toy pianos and 3-channel 1 bit-electronics.

“I love performing with my students,” said Shpackenko.

“I think they learn so much by collaborating with a professional.”

Mezzo-soprano vocalist Camrie Lucey then sang “Les anges musicians,” followed by soprano vocalist Alissa Vasquez with, “There are Fairies at the Bottom of Our Garden.”

The second instrumental trio was composed of Ilka Bradvica on the violin, Adriana Curcio Rizatto on cello, and Michael Tran on piano.

The piece “No. 4, Op. 90, Dumky” was interpreted beautifully, and they were able to showcase their individual talents, as well as their ability to perform as a trio.

“Black” was then performed by Jose Moreno on bass clarinet, and Nick Martinez on baritone saxophone
followed by a guitar duet featuring Abraham Trujillo and Esteban Munoz with their rendition of “Nuages.”

The audience was amazed by Belia Aldana’s beautiful performance of “Je veux vivre.”

Singing alongside Kevin Garcia on piano, Aldana consistently hit each high note with grace and power, while singing entirely in French.

Shpachenko and Tran closed the event with the performance “wgah’ nagl fhtagn.”

Composed by Thomas Kotcheff, the piece demonstrated unique sounds that can come from a piano. They prepared certain notes of the piano with tuning mutes and socks full of bb-gun pellets.

The audience was at the edge of their seats in awe and amazement at the incredible sounds coming from one piano.

Tran demonstrated his percussion ability when he moved from the piano, to using a toy piano to make beats with his drumsticks.

“Michael is a pianist and a percussionist so he was the perfect person to play this piece said Schpackenko.

The next free event will be the Nouveau Classical Project Workshop that will take place at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6.

For more music events, you may visit www.cpp.edu/~class/music/calendar-of-events.shtml.