Polytonix Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Feb. 22

Ashly Hernandez, Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, February 19, 2018 3:17 pm

If you’re tired of listening to trendy pop songs sang in the same way, the Music Department will take some of those songs and will rearrange them to a jazzy tune.

The Music Department will present the Polytonix Vocal Jazz Ensemble with student vocalists at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22 in the Music Recital Hall.

“There’s a group of 11 singers in this ensemble, half vocal jazz and half a cappella,” director of Polytonics and music professor Kendra Vuk said.

The term a cappella is Italian, and it translates roughly to as it is done in the church, or chapel style.

Historically, a cappella refers to using instruments to express praise, however within the church, however was frowned upon by those spreading Christianity around the world.

Although a cappella has been in the music world for a long time, recently, it has achieved mainstream popularity.

In 2009, television viewers were exposed to a cappella through the competition series “The Sing-Off,” which featured a cappella groups instead of individual singers.

It aired until 2013 and received a holiday special in December 2014.

The Grammy award winning a cappella group, Pentatonix, was the winner of the third season in 2011.

“Pitch Perfect,” the 2012 hit comedy movie received positive reviews with a second film in 2015, and a third film last holiday season.

Movies such as these contributed to the popularity of the use of music performances without any instruments.

The Polytonics Ensemble’s a cappella performances will feature very recognizable songs.

Some songs will include Disney favorites from the movie Tarzan titled “Trashin’ the Camp,” which was written and composed by Phil Collins.
Student vocalists will also perform the popular pop song “Shape of You” by Ed Sheeran.

Kendra Vuk promises a great show with flavor swings, tight cords, tight harmonies and of course jazz.

Students are also scheduled to perform an arrangement of “A-Tisket, A-Tasket,” a nursery rhyme turned hit by the “Queen of Jazz” Ella Fitzgerald.

Aside from a cappella pieces, the ensemble will also feature vocalists singing alongside a concert trio who will play the bass, piano and drums.

Vuk is a piano and vocal coach and received a master’s degree from Cal State Long Beach in vocal performance.

She also began teaching during her years as CSULB, while studying music education.

Vuk also is part of her own jazz band, called Swing Set, where she is the main vocalist.

Her background in performance and teaching will prepare her students to put on an excellent show Thursday.

“You’re going to hear a collective mix of stuff,” Vuk said.

Tickets will be sold for $10 at the Recital Hall Box office noon to 1 p.m. Monday to Friday, and one hour prior to show time.

Tickets can also be purchased online at http://csupomona.tix.com.