Spring Music Showcase displays student talent

Sean Goodwin, Reporter | Posted: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 12:26 pm

Students of the music department banded together on Thursday to perform a variety show of piano pieces, vocal pieces and more.

The Spring 2017 Music Hour Showcase was designed to give a sample of what the Department of Music will be offering later this quarter.

Janine Riveire, a professor of the music department, put the event together.

She sent out a call to the many professors of the music department looking for performers, and the musicians at the showcase were the ones who were recommended.

“It was really just a question of the students choosing what pieces they wanted to present,” said Riveire. “Because we had so many that wanted to perform, we had to limit everybody to one piece.”

Each performer was a student who represented another ensemble or concert.

They hoped to inspire the audience to return to the recital hall to see their favorite performances extended at later shows in the quarter.

A song that stood out that night was a piano piece performed by Candy Tsai.

It was titled “Elegie in E-flat minor, Op. 3, No. 1,” and was written by Sergei Rachmaninoff.

It was a dark piece that relied heavily on the contrast between quiet and loud segments.

The loud moments sounded extremely powerful because the quiet segments set them up so well.

The piece also wouldn’t have sounded nearly as good if Tsai didn’t play it as well as she did.

The ending showcased her ability because she played at just the right pace and volume in order to be graceful while not removing the powerful emotion of the song.

Tsai’s playing can be witnessed again at her senior recital on May 26 at 3:30 p.m.

Another piece worth noting, “Beautiful Dove,” was a vocal piece with piano accompaniment written by Kevin Garnica and performed by Garnica and Patti Mincheff.
Garnica played the piano in a very light and emotional way while Mincheff sang over it in a powerful opera style.

The piece caught the audience’s attention because the style had not been heard yet that night.

A third-year liberal studies student, Blanca Miranda, found the piece to be very nice.

“At the end, it sounded like her singing was like the bird singing, I thought that was pretty cool,” said Miranda.

Although similar pieces were performed afterwards, this one really stood out as unique, particularly because it was an original composition.

The closing piece, titled “2+1,” was written by Ivan Trevino and performed by Megan Dickinson and Kumiko Yamaji.

Both performers held two mallets in each hand and played a beautiful piece that was mesmerizing to watch due to its complexity.

This fan favorite definitely gave the showcase the ending that it deserved.

“I think we did really well,” said Dickinson. “So we got a practice performance today and are looking forward to improving.”

The piece is being performed again on May 26 at 1 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall for Yamaji’s senior recital.

Many of the performers at the concert can be found performing again later this quarter.

From now until May 5, there will be a senior recital every Friday in the Music Recital Hall at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

In addition, the music department is excited about the 14th Songwriter Showcase that will be presented on May 18 and 19 in the Music Recital Hall at 8 p.m.

“We have four student bands that perform about 20 songs that are all written by students,” said Dickinson.