Students perform at fall music showcase

Brittney Fleshman, Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, November 3, 2014 9:37 am

Cal Poly Pomona’s music department held their Fall Music Hour Showcase on Thursday during U-Hour, and featured a variety of vocal and instrumental performances by music students.

The showcase took place in the Music Recital Hall and was free and open to the public.

“All of our events are presented with the first goal of student education,” said Teresa Kelly, publicist for the music department. “Most of the students who performed in the showcase are working toward a senior recital, which gives them another opportunity to perform and practice in front of an audience.”

Music student Ryan Tiegs started the showcase off with a self-created piece on the drums. Tiegs got a few laughs from the audience during his performance because of his humorous personality and facial expressions while playing.

Music student Carlos Cardenas performed two pieces: “Crucifixion” by Samuel Barber and “Lost in the Wilderness” from “Children of Eden” by Stephen Shwartz. Cardenas sang fearlessly along with Janet Noll, the department’s accompanist, on the piano.

Music student Andres Meza performed the clarinet and played with Noll as well. His piece was the first movement by Johannes Brahms, “Clarinet Sonata no. 1” in F minor.

On the guitar, music student Sergio Oliver played “Capricho Arabe” by F. Tarrega.

“It’s very influenced by Arabian music and is somewhat of a dance,” said Oliver. “The composer made it slow and just enjoyable.”

Oliver has played the guitar for seven years now, and hopes to one day teach music theory and band.

“Today I prepped an hour in advance by warming up with five minutes of scales in music,” said Oliver. “Then I kept playing my piece over and over again.”

Music student Matt Borgialli memorized an impressive piano performance. He played the vigorous and fast-paced “Valse Oubliee No. 1, S. 215/1” by Franz Liszt. His second performance was a piano piece titled “In the Mist: I: Andante” by Leos Janacek.
Music student Kimberley Chan performed on the piano, aided by Borgialli who turned the pages for her. “Wedding Day at Trolldaugen, Op. 65, No. 6” by Edvard Grieg transitioned from a fast-paced piece to a slow piece.

Finishing off the showcase was a saxophone quartet performing “Amazing Grace” by J. Eric Wilson. The quartet included student Kinsley Hickman on the soprano saxophone, student Brian Hooser on the alto saxophone, student Alex Gonzalez on the tenor saxophone and student Nizhoni Pigott on the baritone saxophone.

To participate in a showcase, a music student must be recommended by their studio professor.

“It’s usually high performing top-tier students who can represent the music department well with their talents,” said Jonathan Gould, a fourth-year music education student.

Students in the music department all have a performance requirement as part of their degree.

“They are usually required to perform in an ensemble of some kind and they count as a final exam,” said Kelly. “Part of their requirements is their senior recital.”

Despite choosing a career dedicated to performing, music students are no strangers to being nervous before a performance.

“It’s good to use that adrenaline in your performance to play better,” said Juno Wilson, a fifth-year music education student who is a vocalist and plays the saxophone.

Gould’s advice was to trick nerves into excitement.

“I even noticed vocalists become less nervous after their first song,” said Gould. “You can see Carlos was way more comfortable in his second song because his nerves went away.”

Music students have the opportunity of improving over the years at CPP, and they encourage each other along the way.

“I can see people improving and that’s really cool,” said Gould. “I think it went well.”