

# PUMPKIN: AGRIscares holds Pumpkin Festival

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were the traditional events like the pumpkin seed spitting contest where contestants compete to see who can spit seeds the farthest and the most popular one, the pie eating contest.

Children had their own miniature corn maze as well as another pumpkin patch that contains smaller pumpkins.

“For the winners of the contests we give them trophies and sometime the vendors at the festivals will give them gift certificates,” said Craig Walters, the AGRIscares director.

To add more fun to the

festival experience, the Bronco Pep Band performed along with other musical acts that played bluegrass and country music.

“I just love seeing how kids get excited with simple things like playing chess with mini-pumpkins instead of chess pieces,” Walters said.

Over 20 student clubs from the College of Agriculture were involved in the pumpkin festival this year.

Those clubs sold pies, pumpkin bread and had many games for festival goers to play.

“Last year the clubs earned approximately



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The petting zoo is one of the Pumpkin Festival's most popular attractions.

\$70,000 from the club's booth activities,” Walters said.

“It is a huge fund-

raiser for them and they get a chance to talk to different people and be fully engaged.”

People will be able to stop by and pick up pumpkins from the patch throughout the

month of October.

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# 16th annual Songwriter Showcase holds auditions

By MICHAEL UBA  
Staff Writer

Two nights at the Music Recital Hall were filled with sounds of both the singer-songwriters and their respective instruments as the 16th annual Songwriter Showcase kicked off.

Auditions took place last Tuesday and Wednesday and gave about 60 students the opportunity to perform their original songs.

Out of those 60, 20 students will have their songs chosen for the upcoming showcase concert later this spring.

The showcase was founded by Professor Arthur Winer, who also serves as judge and directs both the songwriting showcase and auditions. He gives feedback to the students auditioning.

“It started out as just something that I did as a creative activity and then I turned it into an official ensemble and a class, so it's a class that has regular rehearsals in the spring semester,” Winer said.

The two-day auditions had a mixture of performers waiting for their auditions, as well as students who were just there to watch the



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Although 60 students audition every fall only 20 are given the opportunity to perform in the Songwriter Showcase in the spring.

songwriters showcase their original work.

The songwriters ranged from varying sounds, genres, skills, instruments and renditions despite it being the audition stage. Overall, it was a series of solo performances.

Performances included the songwriters singing and playing either the guitar, piano, bass, other stringed instruments and well as their electronic devices as the instruments.

Third-year music industry studies stu-

dent Zachary Corrales auditioned during the Tuesday takes which was something that he looked forward to as a transfer student and one of the reasons he attended Cal Poly Pomona.

“I really wanted to practice my songs hard and try to get into this ensemble,” said Corrales, who also wishes to be part of the ensemble as a background guitarist, singer or instrumentalist. “I've been really looking forward to doing my auditions

for the songwriting auditions on campus and I'm really glad I'm taking place and I got to participate in it.”

All songwriters zoom in and out from the stage while Winer — on his secluded seat center of the hall and away from the waiting songwriters and audience — secretly decides the 20 finalists.

Fourth-year music industry studies student Adrian Maldonado was another student who auditioned for the chance to be a part of

the Songwriting Showcase.

“There's a lot of talent, there's a lot of great songs and I'm excited for when the show comes; I auditioned last year but — shout-out to my boy Jordan [one of the audience members] — I got in but I had to take another class so I couldn't; so, this will be the first time if I get in I will be performing, so that would be cool.” Maldonado said.

The 20 students chosen out of the roughly 60 participants will be

announced soon and will be required to take the songwriting ensemble class at the spring semester.

The 20 songwriters will be divided into smaller groups alongside one or two producers where they will meet once a week to produce and perform their original songs.

Sonia Ohan, a fourth-year music industry studies student, is one of the producers alongside other students.

“Generally, I listen to the songs and I listen to the songwriter's ideas on what they want the song to become and then I try to work with them to make it sound as good as possible,” Ohan said.

Winer points out final thoughts on the Songwriter Auditions and Showcase.

“It is not a contest, it is a show — it is a show; it is a big deal, the concert usually sells out both nights that we perform,” Winer said.

The 16th Songwriter Showcase will take at April 25 and 26 at the Music Recital Hall this spring.

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