Jazz ensemble performs a cappella

Ashly Hernandez, Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, February 26, 2018 3:35 pm

Students filled the Music Recital Hall in anticipation for the Polytonics Vocal Jazz Ensemble performance last Thursday.

Vocal and piano coach Kendra Vuk, who originally started the concert in winter 2015, directed the concert.

“Vuk either gave us a list of what we could perform, or we could bring her some ideas and start from there,” third-year computer information systems student Roderick Nappier said.

Nappier is a bass vocalist and soloist who performed a Disney song from the movie Tarzan “Trashin’ the Camp,” a cappella.

The song was originally composed by Phil Collins and arranged by Moses Hogan.

The program included a dozen songs performed a cappella, or accompanied by a trio playing the piano, bass and drums.

Student vocalists spent two hours every Thursday in preparation for the concert.

First-year business and marketing student Juan Solano and first-year music student Melanie Maldonado said this concert was definitely a favorite.

Both students attended the event for their love of jazz music.

Maldonado enjoyed the Portuguese piece by Antonio Carlos Jobim “Chega de Saudade,” performed by Polytonics ensemble singer Gio Thomas.

The entire vocalist group and concert trio began the show with Kirby Shaw’s arrangement of Ella Fitzgerald’s “A-Tisket, A-Tasket.”

The first a cappella piece of the night was Marvin Fisher and Jack Segal’s “When Sunny Gets Blue.”

Many of the pieces in the program included scat singing, which is a popular style in jazz music.
“Straighten Up and Fly Right,” a piece by notable figures in the jazz world such as, Nat King Cole and Irving Mills were also performed.

Dan Satter performed one of Ed Sheeran’s most popular songs “Shape of You” a cappella, with arrangement.

Another popular song performed was Ken Neufeld’s arrangement of “When You Wish Upon a Star.”

The group also performed a song by Grammy award winning a cappella group, Pentatonix’s “Save the World/Don’t You Worry Child.”

The night concluded with the performance of “Alright, Ok, You Win,” a song by Sid Wyche and Mayme Watts, and arranged by Steve Zegree.