



Take Note!

Noteworthy Headlines from the
College of the Ozarks Music Department

MAY 2014 • VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 7

Students Attend Kristin Chenoweth Master Class

Music Theater and Business of Theater students attended “An Evening with Kristin Chenoweth” in Chenoweth’s hometown of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. The event was a master class, where Chenoweth coached ten performers ranging from high school to college ages.

After each student performed, Chenoweth instructed the singer in how to bring their performance to life by using their own experiences.

Learning from Chenoweth encouraged students by giving them a fresh perspective of musical theater. Students were surprised that many of the things Chenoweth discussed were things that they had been learning in their classes.

Mr. Gregg Busch, Assistant Professor of Music at C of O, said he enjoyed hearing the students recognize Chenoweth’s teaching was similar to the material and techniques they have been studying. “This really confirmed that we are working in the right direction with our students,” he said.

Students and teachers alike treasured the experience the trip gave to the students. “To see these professionals currently working on Broadway and hear how they approach the song or audition is material you just can’t get out of a book,” Mr. Busch said.

For Elizabeth Stuart, just getting to see Chenoweth was the highlight of the trip. One of Stuart’s dreams was to see Chenoweth in real life. She enjoyed

listening to Chenoweth’s lessons, techniques, sense of humor and voice.

This trip couldn’t have come along at a better time for Stuart. During the week of the trip, she had experienced stress in her declared major, but going on this trip brought her reassurance. “The one thing that really stuck out to me the most is to not be afraid to follow your dreams,” Stuart said.



College of the Ozarks Hosts Brass Festival

The College of the Ozarks brought a new festival to campus this year. C of O brass professor Bob Smither arranged the first annual Brass Festival, which took place the weekend before spring break.

Smither organized the event to give area brass students, from both C of O and local high schools, an opportunity to learn more about their instrument. “I have had the idea for the festival for some time, and decided this semester was a good time to start putting it together,” Smither said.

Throughout the morning, professors and local professionals taught master classes in the Gittinger Music Building. Students separated into classes based on their instrument: trumpet, taught by Smither, horn, taught by Mr. Darrel Barnes, tuba and euphonium, taught by Dr. Brad Coker, and trombone, taught by Mr. Dwight Davis.

Twenty-five local high school students attended the event, which took place just a few days before district contests. This gave students a chance to perform their pieces in the master classes and allowed them to be coached by an expert before performing for a rating at contests.

After the master classes, rehearsals began for the evening concert. All participants of the master classes rehearsed a selection for brass quintet and organ, which they performed at the evening concert in Williams Memorial Chapel.

Concert repertoire consisted of several brass works performed by C of O students and faculty. Selections included *Procession of the Nobles* by Rimsky Korsakov, *A Centennial Fanfare*, and *Concerto for Two Trumpets and Organ*. The concert concluded with *Sonata Pian e Forte for Brass and Organ*, performed by all of the festival’s participants.

In both rehearsals and the performance, Dr. Kevin Powers conducted the larger ensembles. Smither said that this, along with the ability of the students, helped the festival to be a success.

A C of O based group, The Revelations Brass Quintet, also performed at the concert. Paytience Markle, horn player for the quintet, said she really enjoyed performing for the festival. “I loved being able to show the students another ensemble that the students could put together even after they graduate high school,” she said.

The festival concert also featured Dr. Bruce Gerlach on the organ. He accompanied the brass players on many songs. “It was a great delight to bring the timbre of the organ together with the brass,” Dr. Gerlach said. He especially enjoyed playing the theme from Holst’s “Jupiter” with Mr. Smither. “It was a musical highlight of the year for me,” he said.

Dr. Gerlach played an organ solo for the concert, in addition to accompanying. He performed Bach’s *Little Fugue in G minor*,



Spring 2014 Senior Recitals

Noah Fry

Date: April 12, 2014

Instrument: Piano

Advice for future performer's attitudes: "If your aim is to honor God with your performance, ask Him for help to concentrate and persevere. Most importantly, ask God for contentment with the progress you make in the time He allows you to devote to practice. Humility is not refusing a compliment because you did not perform as well as you wanted. It IS being able to admit you're not great. God is, and he can use the your gift of talent to bless others."



Hannah Mahan

Date: April 13, 2014

Instrument: Vocal

On her performance: "I absolutely loved it! I had the best time of my life on that stage. The audience was very responsive and encouraging, and it drove me to do better and better, because I wanted to give everyone a good time. I didn't want a single person walking out of that room feeling like they had wasted a minute of their afternoon."

Sabrina Elliott

Date: April 26, 2014

Instrument: Vocal

Advice for future recital performers: "Please don't stress. This is something I had to really teach myself during my preparations. Stressing or worrying too much about a recital accomplishes nothing. It only makes you feel even more unsure about yourself, and it also can take over your mind. Keeping myself at a low stress level is what really helped me to push through it and finish out strong. I did this by believing that God would get me through it somehow, and I also took plenty of breaks and time out for myself even if I thought I couldn't afford it."



Elizabeth Anne Mall

Date: May 4, 2014

Instrument: MIDI recordings, multi-media worship night

On doing an alternative recital: "The cool thing about College of the Ozarks is there are often opportunities to mold projects around your unique interests. I have been blessed to go to a school where I can use recording equipment to make an original CD, and then have a concert with a live band, dancers, and music videos to present that music, all in place of the traditional internship Music Ministry Majors do."



From the C of O Music Department workers to you:
Have a wonderful summer!



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