The tree lights are lit and the bells have been rung...it’s that time of year again where we gather together to spread the warmth, fellowship, and pure joy that we have in Christ. As in years past we will gather together here at College of the Ozarks and have a wonderful time enjoying the God-given gift of music.

We have several different programs this year to celebrate the Christmas Season. We will hail in this exciting new season at the annual Christmas tree lighting hosted by the Keeter Center. This is an event that you won’t want to miss! With the chorale singing traditional Christmas carols and the scent of evergreens and warm cider filling the room, you will be just as excited as the children whose chatter fills the room! The evening will begin with the Christmas tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. this Friday, December 2. This will be followed by a Christmas Concert given at 7:00 p.m. by the C of O Concert Band and Handbell Choir in the Royal Oak Forum. This is sure to be a festive evening!

The next event that we will be looking forward to is our annual Christmas Card Concert to the community. With contributions from the Chapel Choir, Chorale, Handbell Choir, and the Concert Band, there will be cheerful Christmas music filling the night air. Both Sacred works and Christmas classics will be performed and we would love for you to join us at 7:00 p.m. on December 11th in the Williams Memorial Chapel!

In the midst of all the festivities we remember the reason for our joy this season: the mystery and wonder of our dear Savior’s birth! May we join together as we celebrate this miraculous event which effects all of us!
What first comes to mind when thinking of the Christmas season? Helping children in need? Listening to great music? Probably not shoeboxes. But in the month of November at College of the Ozarks, all three were present as Operation Christmas Child participants filled shoeboxes with all sorts of Christmas gifts for needy children worldwide who may not otherwise receive any gifts during the holiday season. Music students from College of the Ozarks used their talents to provide live entertainment at the event. Sophomore Hannah Mahan was one of the students scheduled to perform. She says, “Christmas is my favorite genre of music!” She and Jachin Mann entertained with piano, saxophone, and vocal solos and duets. The Chorale also participated by providing music for volunteers.

Samaritan’s Purse, which is a non-profit Christian organization, sends shoe boxes with Christmas gifts in them to needy children all over the world. College of the Ozarks is an official shoebox collection site every fall. Boxes brought to the College were wrapped by students and sent off to the Operation Christmas Child Headquarters. Shoeboxes were collected at the chapel parking lot in a large semi-trailer.

Thanks to a few people, a little work, and a lot of fun and generosity, the event was a great success and we thank our guests for sharing their time and talents!

Article submitted by

Senior Highlight: Lindsay Fitzpatrick

Lindsay Fitzpatrick is currently student teaching at Ozark South Elementary. In high school, she was the lead singer of her praise band- Living Waters. She attended a community college before coming to College of the Ozarks. Since coming to C of O, she participated in Chapel Choir for four years, the Chorale for three years, and Concert Band for two. Lindsay has been blessed with many opportunities such as traveling with the Chapel Choir to Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City. In January 2011, she was selected to be a member of the Missouri All-Collegiate Honors Choir as an alto. She is pictured above in front of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, where she visited in May while touring with the Chorale. Lindsay hopes to teach in this area after graduation and she hopes to teach elementary music. Lindsay aspires to continue her education at Drury University, and looks forward to starting a family with her fiance, Clayton.
Music Seminar and Exploration of Music students were treated to a very unique day of international music. On November 2, guest speakers, representing a wide variety of cultural backgrounds, presented music from around the world. Hillary An, a visiting professor from China, introduced the audience to an interesting video of the 12 Girls Band. “The 12 Girls Band is just that, a dozen young women who play compositions on traditional Chinese instruments such as the pipa (a lute that resembles a pear), the erhu (the Chinese Violin, and the hulusi (a three-pied gourd flute). The members were selected from a pool of over 4000 entrants, and in the past five years have released over ten records. They are truly something to see and hear, a swirl of timeless melody and symphony of sound.” If you’d like to hear this group, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=

Next, Señor Wellington Espinosa, faculty member from the Spanish department, introduced the audience to merengue music! He provided an interesting power point explaining the possible origins of the merengue dance, which is the national dance of the Dominican Republic. Señor Espinosa told a story that explains the use of syncopated rhythms in the music. One story alleges that the dance originated with slaves who were chained together and, of necessity, were forced to drag one leg as they cut sugar to the beat of drums. The second story alleges that a great hero was wounded in the leg during one of the many revolutions in the Dominican Republic. A party of villagers welcomed him home with a victory celebration and, out of sympathy, everyone dancing felt obliged to limp and drag one foot, thus introducing an off-beat and syncopated rhythm to the dance. Go here to hear an example of merengue: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0

The last two presenters, Paul Stephans, father of music major Roxie Stephans and Dr. Carol Christopher, retired music professor and friend of the College, presented folk music from Croatia and Israel. Mr. Stephans’ family migrated to the U.S. from Croatia. He grew up playing in his family band and delighted the audience by playing a typical stringed folk instrument and singing in his native language. He currently plays guitar and bass at the Rankin Brothers theatre. This is a typical Croatian folk song and perhaps comparable to Ozarks Bluegrass? http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mV6oJJFdKwM

Lastly, Dr. Christopher engaged the audience by bringing everyone to the stage to dance an Israeli folk dance. She explained that the rhythms and traditions of folk dancing have been passed down from generation to generation and since Biblical times, the Jewish people have expressed joy through dance. Throughout the centuries, dance has become a part of religious, communal, and family celebrations. With that in mind, audience members enjoyed learning a typical folk dance led by Dr. Christopher. A typical Israeli dance is demonstrated here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lSakToFMQsw

Following the presentation, the audience enjoyed an international buffet of many delicious treats. It was a great success and we thank our guests for share their time and talents.
The evening of Saturday, November 12 was a time of musical enjoyment for all of those in attendance to the performance of Grant Allen’s senior recital. Grant is a music ministry major who will be graduating from College of the Ozarks this December. The senior recital was a strong portrayal of his talents as a musician, and of the hard work it took for him to develop those skills. The performance consisted of his two main instruments: the french horn and the piano. On the horn, Grant performed the three movements of “Sonata in F Major, Op. 17,” by Beethoven. He also played “Villanelle for Horn” by Paul Dukas, which involved using the varied techniques of the natural, stopped, and muted horn. During the second segment of the recital, Grant performed two separate movements of “6 Preludes and Fugues, Op. 35,” by Felix Mendelssohn and the three movements of “Sonata in C Minor, Op. 10, No.1” by Beethoven. His other repertoire involved the dramatic piano concerto played with Dr. Huff, called “Concertino for Two Pianos, Op. 94,” by Dmitry Shostakovich. Grant’s recital was impressive all the way through, but his ending piece, “Chaconne in D minor” put the icing on the cake. This master work was originally created by Bach for violins, but was later transcribed for the piano by Ferrucio Busoni. The composition was created to capture the essence of God, and Grant was able to bring that meaning to life, ending his recital with a successful demonstration of a dramatic, purposeful piece. With the support of his family, friends, and music professors, Grant’s recital was a great success, and a blessing to everyone present.

Submitted by Anna Zachary
Keeter Center Performers
Dobyns Dining Hall

Friday, December 2 — Sadie Huff, Piano
Saturday, December 3 — Elizabeth Clark, Piano
Sunday, December 4 — Kourtney Pyle and Noah Fry, Piano

Thursday, December 8 — Sadie Huff, Piano
Friday, December 9 — Sadie Huff, Piano
Saturday, December 10 — Anna Zachary, Piano
Sunday, December 11 — Grant Allen, Piano

Thursday, December 15 — Noah Fry, Piano

Upcoming Events

December 2 - Concert Band/Handbells, 7:00 p.m. - Royal Oak Auditorium
December 6 - Handbells/Chapel Choir, 7:00 p.m. - Williams Memorial Chapel
December 7 - Music Department Student Recital, 4:00 p.m. - Newman Recital Hall
December 11 - Christmas Card Concert, 7:00 p.m. - Williams Memorial Chapel

Contact Us!
Feel free to call or e-mail us with your questions or comments regarding our department or the college.

music@cofo.edu
Student Work Office: (417) 690-2244