



February 19, 2002

Music Department Puts on a Showcase

The soulful notes of a well-played guitar filled the theater, strummed thoughtfully by Joe LoPiccolo, drawing the audience closer, ever closer. The second of his own compositions played that night, Anthem, had a soft pseudo-Brazilian beat, and when it was done the air was left hanging with expectation.

The whole night was not like this.

The Performing Arts Center's Music Recital Hall hosted the 2002 Music Department showcase. The event included a mixture of instruments, in multiple combinations, all in an attempt to best show off the music department's best faculty and student musicians.

The evening started with Mt. SAC student Woo Young Lee's delicate renditions of a piece by Strauss and one by Rossini. Pro Mojica, one of Mt. SAC's two full time accompanists, was excellent in support, and would make a return later in the evening.

Next on the stage was Janice Haines, flutist and adjunct professor, performing Caprice for Flute and Piano, her own composition, and supported by Laurel Myers-McKenzie on piano. The piece was unnecessarily cinematic, clearly influenced by the work of John Williams. She followed the rendition with Handel's Sonata in F Major for Flute. On that piece the team did quite well.

When Haines and Myers-McKenzie were finished, next came a trio of pieces performed by Alex Lark, Susie Rios, and Colin Crumley, playing the accordion, flute and bass, respectively. The addition of Crumley's jazzy bass beats definitely spiced up the performance, and the combination of instruments was unusual and worth hearing.

Pro Mojica made his return on the piano with Susan Raygoza, member of the award-winning Chamber Singers, for Faurd's Les roses d'Ispahan and Bizet's Ouvre ton Coeur. This segment of the performance was sublime and quite excellent.

A piece of wedding music was next on the program. Margaret Meyer's Fountains Water the Garden, written for the wedding of friends, used the entire range of keyboard, and contained musical representations of the bride and groom. Its imagery was taken from a few verses of the Bible's only love poem, the "Song of Songs."

LoPiccolo, Mt. SAC adjunct professor, took the stage next. His work on the guitar was the highlight of the night, starting with Seulb, a piece LoPiccolo attempted to write as blues,

but ended up as something else. Seulf
is Blues backward.

The closer for the night was Bernstein's Four Recipes, performed by MaryBeth Haag, soprano, with Barbara Varellas on piano. The piece was lighthearted and comical, and the audience left in a warm mood, despite the chill outside.

-Andrew Moyle
Managing Editor