Submitted by Susan Harper

On Tuesday, March 15, 2016, we were treated to an evening of beautiful music by the young members of our musical community. Pianists and singers displayed their talents for all to see and hear. Our program started with Ella Nagle who set the mood for the recital and played very well, “Sounds from the Gumdrop Factory”. Next up a piece called “Rigadoon” was played masterfully by Miss Jane Dunham. Michelle Kostyk sang “Castle on a Cloud” with great feeling. Caileigh Muilenburg was at the piano next to play for us “A 15th Century March” and had the 4/4 timing down pat. Gabriel Froese played “Copy Cat” showing us a really good feel for the piece. Kali Gibb played for us “Alouette” and had fun with this piece. Our second singer and first time soloist, Amelia Cooper, sang “Candle on the Water”. Michael Froese then played for us “Drifting Clouds” with a lovely touch. Our third singer was Caileigh Muilenburg. She sang “On My Own” from Les Miserables with the right amount of pathos and strength. Grace Helstrom, a first time soloist, gave us a happy rendition of “I Whistle a Happy Tune”. Miss Meadow Hynes then played “Ode to Joy” accurately, and I might add, joyously. Catryna Muilenburg treated us to a lovely piece, “Aria”. Our next pianist was Michelle Kostyk playing “Colourful Sunset” with a good interpretation of the feeling we get when a sunset is seen. Michael Froese gave us another good performance with “Song for a Scarecrow”. Jamie Bignell gave us a really lovey rendition of “Arabesque” a piece full of runs that really can tire the fingers out! Mr. Odin Cooper then played for us “Men from Mars”, a first time soloist on the piano, and played it very well. “To fly like an Eagle” was our next piano piece performed by Caileigh Muilenburg. Gabriel Froese performed “Yankee Doodle” very seriously when he soloed, but relaxed a bit when his teacher joined him. Kenzie Battams played “Allegro” very accurately and lightly. Next we had our only vocal duet of the evening. Chloe Strong and Grace Helstrom sang “I’d Do Anything” for us. Kali Gibb then told us “Let’s Play Ball”, why, you ask? The music provided the reason – it’s fun! Catryna Muilenburg played a second number, “Happy Time Jazz”, and it was played so very well. Michelle Kostyk was on stage once more, singing “The Rose and the Butterfly”. This was a complicated piece done very well by this young singer. Miss Jamie Bignell played for us “Musette” a lively piece, well played. Meadow Hines performed “Sea Story”, very well. Jane Dunham gave us a lovely rendition of “Sonatina in C Major”. Sonatinas are very difficult to play, but Jane aced it. Caileigh Muilenburg, sang for us “A Change in Me”, very well. Grace Forward played “The Trumpet and the Echo”, both of which we heard clearly. A busy Michelle Kostyk came to the fore once more to play for us “Prowling Pussycats”. Our second to last performer was Kenzie Battams, and she played “Russian Folk Song”. To close off the evening, Marianne Rowbothan played “Anne’s Theme”. There was a problem with the lighting, however, Ms. Rowbotham persevered till the end, and I quite enjoyed the tune. Also, thank you for your input into this article.

I want to thank all of the performers, on behalf of all the teachers and parents, for all of the hard work and practice that went into perfecting the pieces of music performed this evening. I know exactly how difficult it is to get up in front of people and act as though it’s the normal thing to do. It takes a lot of bravery and courage to expose yourselves to possible ridicule and scorn. Keep up the good work!!!! (and Jean, thanks for brushing off my car)