Students and their families gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral Wednesday evening, March 15, 2017 for the Music Club recital. The M.C. Tanis Asselstine invited each performer to play the piano or sing their song. Most are entered in the Music Festival which is happening next week so it is a good time to practice with an audience.

Grace Helstrom and Emily Kreller opened the program by singing With a Smile and a Song. The venue was large for their gentle voices but the quiet audience gave them their full attention. It was a pretty way to begin the evening.

Graeme Dawe played My Invention which sounded well put together. It think it was going to work. Next was Men from Mars which sounded like they were walking on stilts with very long arms.

Jane Dunham’s When Rivers Flowed on Mars opened with a floating feel well played. Then some rapids were felt in the tune though all was calm at the end.

Kali Gibb’s piano solo entitled Copycat was a memorized performance. The left hand played the echo of the right’s tune. No glitches were heard tonight. The Firefly showed off her careful preparation for this performance.

Kenzie Battam’s Drifting Clouds was very pretty with the use of the sustaining pedal and some very high notes. Her clouds glistened much like her dress. Then she switched to The Wild Colt which appeared to be a rather tame bronco until her teacher joined her in a duet. Then the colt showed more spirit.

Dean Anderson performed Hot Cross Buns. They sounded “carefully crossed” and ready for an Easter treat. His piece “Best Friends” sounded like Dean was calling for his friend who only answered when his teacher joined in. The friend sounded more chatty than Dean.

Caileigh Muilenburg played Silent Moon. I heard a rather odd sounding rocking tune with lots of pedal work but it was too short. I wanted to hear more!

Meagan McIntosh’s Struttin was a finger-snapping jazzy piece. Good job Meagan. First Waltz sounded too short because by the time my Waltz partner asked me to dance, the piece was over.

Jacey Hogg’s All the Stars are Shining used that sustaining pedal for a good effect of shimmering stars. Good ending Jacey. She then switched to a different style with Old McDonald Had a Song. All recognized this theme and tapped our toes to the steady tempo.

Lieb’ Schwesterlein translates as Dear Little Sister. Catryna Muilenburg had a pretty opening with a swaying feel so I wondered if we were on a swing? Midsection had a few sterner words but still gentle overall.

Our young vocalist Grace Helstrom sang Everybody wants to be a Cat. The piano intro was jazzy as Grace sang about this silly cat. Smiles on everyone’s face as we followed the cats antics.

Snake Charmer was performed by Hailey McIntosh. Of course we could all ‘see’ the snake rising and curling out of his basket. Next Hailey played Mr. Brahms who is well known for this most famous lullaby. It left all relaxed but hopefully not asleep as the recital continued.

Caileigh Muilenburg sang How Can I Keep from Singing. Her lovely clear voice shows good growth in clarity and projection. We could hear the words as she had good diction.

Tyler McIntosh played The Roadrunner so we were expecting speedy playing. Tyler kept it under control but did keep moving. Then I heard a sneaky section in the middle and a drop off at the end. Where did he go? Next Tyler played Forest Drums with good control of his drumming left hand that did not overpower the right hand tune.

Handel’s Largo was performed by Marianne Rowbotham. Largo means slow but from Marianne we heard a majestic procession. She showed good dynamics as it swells to a climax.

Jamie Bignell performed her version of When Rivers flowed on Mars. This river was flowing gently yet with turmoil and whirlpools. She next polished off a very tricky Minuet in G minor. Well done Jamie. The younger students should hope to play as well as you.

Maggie Dawe enjoyed her All the Stars are Shining as the pedal creates such a lovely effect. She wasn’t done yet though as she played the C-D-E-F-G- March with its steady tempo.

Caleigh Muilenburg returned to sing Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again demonstrating that clear high voice. This selection was made famous in Phantom of the Opera. Good breath control was evident – simply a lovely performance. Was that a high F you hit at the end? (It was – I checked!)

Marianne Rowbotham added to the musical evening with a reading from Macbeth. (Shakespeare) Since she is entered in the Speech Festival, we provided an audience for a practise session. I don’t think our young audience had heard much Shakespeare before but they watched and listened and were amused by the changing of the hats.

Sue Harper sang The Ash Grove to complete our evening. Vocal students likely noted all the good things she does when she sings that they have been told to aim towards. Sue is relaxed when she sings so her stage presence makes her audience feel happy.

Sue thanked and recognized the accompanists of the evening – both Tanis Asselstine and Michelle Brauer.

The organizers of the Music Club had a short meeting following the performances so plans are already set for 2017-18 season. Keep practicing everyone.

Recital report written and submitted by Elaine Bollman