Music Club Recital December 7, 2016

This recital was held at St. Paul’s Care Home as the usual venue was under repair. They just happened to follow the Community choir who sang from 6:00 pm until 6:50 pm. Recital began at 7:00 under the direction of Andrew Legeny as emcee.

The program opened with young Maggie Dawe playing gently on the low notes for her The Echo selection then making the note clusters very pretty in her song All the Stars are Shining.

Sarah Forward chose a good tempo for the recognizable Jingle Bells. Michelle Kostyk was the first vocal student of the evening. Her piece Maybe had pitches well placed even though the tune tended to jump about and go to strange places. Well done Michelle.

Catryna Muilenburg had lovely rolling bass notes to accompany the very clear melody line in her It Came Upon a Midnight Clear. It was very effective with good dynamics.

Graeme Dawe had memorized his Old MacDonald had a Farm which was right on the beat. The teacher came along and added more notes to fill in the total effect. Kali Gibb sounded confident with her Come See the Parade. It showcased a steady tempo. Then she switched to the always pretty tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. Caileigh Muilenburg’s Angels We Have Heard on High was a rather different modern version but we could still hear the two voices in the echo section.

Kenzie Battam was next up with more Christmas selections. We could feel some pep in his Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer and Jingle Bells was carefully performed. Caileigh Muilenburg’s vocal solo of It Came Upon a Midnight Clear demonstrated her clear high voice. The words were well formed and projected. It was enjoyed by all as we also need to recognize the valuable accompanists of the evening. Michelle Brauer and Andrew Legeny each played for some of the vocal students.

Dean Dawe could reach the pedal for his All the Stars are Shining to give that lovely shimmering effect. He had a nice soft touch and quiet playing. Meagan McIntosh was confident to play her Home on the Range which moved along at a good clip and then the teacher added more layers of interest. Then a different piece started very growly as it was called The Loch Ness Monster. The middle part sort of pranced along but it certainly ended descending to the very bottom.

Jane Dunham chose to play God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen even though this rendition had a minor accompaniment giving a modern feel. You could find the familiar tune but you couldn’t trust it to stay where you expected it to go. Well done Jane as you kept us all listening. Meadow Hynes played a clear concise tune for her Up on the Housetop followed by Jingle Bells at a good tempo.

Caileigh Muilenburg returned to sing I Dreamed a Dream from Les Miserables. She showed a very pure tone on a great range of notes. The memorized performance showed good breath control as all enjoyed this selection. Hailey McIntosh is a confident performer which we knew before she even started. She knew she had to adjust the bench to her liking which was a good thing. Then we heard Home on the Range so well played we nearly sang along and wasn’t it fun when the duet part was added. Then she played that sneaky piece The Snake Charmer. We could all visualize that snake rising out of the basket as the charmer played his strange tune.

I consider The Gypsy Rover a classic vocal solo which Michelle Kostyk sang with a bounce and good stage presence. Tyler McIntosh had good control of his running notes in The Roadrunner and chose a nice fast tempo for King’s March. He was all smiles for us too.

Owen Dawe played a pretty introduction to his Yankee Doodle and enjoyed it when the teacher joined him on the duet. In Oh Come All Ye Faithful the tune disappeared for a second but then we all recognized the familiar ending to this hymn.

Another classic piece that students like to play is Beethoven’s Fur Elise. Grace Forward did an admirable job as this is not easy to learn and perform.

A group of four vocal students sang Up on the Housetop and Away in the Manger. We heard Grace Helstrom, Michelle Kostyk, Caileigh Muilenburg and Emily Kreller give a very pleasant performance.

Lastly two piano teachers performed a Weber Sonatina duet to the delight of all in the audience. Michelle Brauer is an active piano teacher and Elaine Bollman is a retired piano teacher. They find duet playing a fun thing to do.