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HOUGHTON CHAMBER CHOIR

JOSEY IKKER ('24)

On Friday Feb. 9, the Houghton Chamber Choir will present their concert titled "Christ With Me" at 6:30 p.m. for Greatbatch School of Music's upcoming Preview Day.

Every semester, Houghton hosts a School of Music Preview Day for prospective students who are looking to either major, minor or have a concentration in music. This preview day consists of a tour around the Center for the Arts, sitting in on a classroom setting, such as Music Theory, observations of Houghton Choir, interacting with current students and faculty, a student recital and a featured ensemble performance.

The Chamber Choir is a fourteen-member select ensemble. In order to audition, students must be at least a sophomore who is also in the Houghton Choir.

The Chamber Choir was started in Dec. 2022 by Dr. Kevin Dibble, conductor of



Chamber Choir Spring 2023

COURTESY OF D.R. SHARON JOHNSON

the Chamber Choir, Men's Choir and Women's Choir, and the Associate Director of Choral Activities.

The Chamber Choir as Dr. Dibble described, "is a unique organization. It's small, it can fit in different spaces. It can take advantage of different things."

Recently, the ensemble participated in a Choir retreat before the first day of

classes in which they learned a list of repertoire in less than a week and had the opportunity to perform for a Senior's Luncheon at Family Life Ministries on Jan. 11.

The ensemble's repertoire consists of Renaissance music and traditional hymns, and the works featured for the upcoming Preview Day performance are by composers such as

Gjelio, Flummerfelt, Paulus, Fleming and Stroope.

Dr. Dibble explained the theme of the concert as "a representation of different stages in life in which these songs are used to inspire and remind us that Christ is with us."

One of Dr. Dibble's favorite pieces in the concert is "The Deer's Cry" by Arvo Pärt because, "that's

where the title of the concert [Christ with Me] comes from. Musically, seems to not do a lot but textually is very powerful." He also shared that, "the simplicity of the music drives the listener and the singer to the significance of the text."

Another factor for this concert is the location which will not be in the Recital Hall but in the atrium.

"Visually the atrium presents a different aesthetic than a typical concert hall," Dr. Dibble stated, "and this is the Chamber Choir's first stand-alone concert...let's do a little something out of the ordinary."

Dr. Dibble has expressed his enjoyment of working with the Chamber Choir, because they are a group of high-level, talented singers who "move quickly and make really great music."

Rachael McVeigh ('23), a first-year graduate student, will be featured as another conductor for the concert. She will be con-

See **CHOIR** page #2

Voice Recitals

JULIANA SCHMIDT ('25)

On Monday Feb. 12 in the Center for the Arts Recital Hall, Sophia Pantea ('24) will perform her Senior Recital at 6:30 p.m. and Evelyn Simanowski's ('25) Junior Recital will begin at 8 p.m., respectively.

Professor Kimberly Prins Moeller, the Associate Professor of Voice, disclosed that Pantea's recital will be full of beautiful and romantic music. It will involve a lot of "soaring melodies" and "heartfelt moments."

The title Pantea chose for her recital is "Fill My Heart." She chose this partly because it is from her favorite musical "The Sound of Music", but also because of the people at

Houghton who have inspired her.

"I am so blessed to be at Houghton and I have grown so much thanks to my loving teachers," Pantea said "This recital is a thank you to my friends and professors for helping me through [these] past few years."

As this is Pantea's senior year at Houghton, she has worked very hard to get to this particular recital. While she is nervous, Pantea expressed that she is also super excited.

Simanowski chose a French title for her recital called, "Scenes de Nuit" (translated as "Night Scenes"). She shared that the overall feelings for her recital are ones of excitement.

Professor Prins Moeller revealed that there will be some unexpected twists and a few

laughs to look forward to in Simanowski's recital.

"I've been present for many of her countless hours she's put into practicing her French and it's been quite a journey to get here," Hannah Sturdivant ('25) commented. "Getting to see her vision come to life in her recital hearing, photos, and poster has been uplifting to experience."

Simanowski confessed that it was very personal picking her own program, rehearsing and then presenting. She shared that her recital is her "passion project" and that sharing it with an audience will give her a feeling of satisfaction.

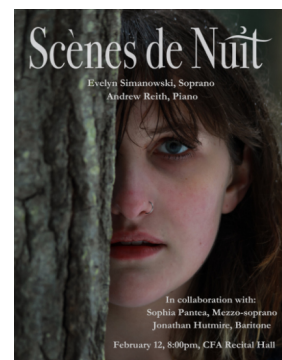
"I'm expecting it to be a pretty vulnerable experience," Simanowski admitted, "but I'm hoping in that vulnerability I can share the joy and meaning

I found and this music with whoever comes."

Professor Prins Moeller said that recitals are her favorite part of being an applied voice instructor.

"I get to know these wonderful singers over several years of working together, then walk with them through the recital preparation process and witness their determination and growth, and finally get to see them bring all of the elements together into a cohesive evening that celebrates their talent, skill, and artistry," Professor Prins Moeller commented. "It's incredible!"

With both Pantea and Simanowski performing on the same night, it will prove to be an evening full of ups and downs, heartfelt lyrics and perhaps a few laughs. Overall, not a recital to be missed! ★



Bottom: Evelyn Simanowski

Feature: Mercy Seat and Koinonia

REBECCA DAILEY ('25)

Both Mercy Seat and Koinonia (Koin) are just two of several ways students can participate in worship on Houghton University's campus, with each bringing its own unique forms of fellowship. Mercy Seat first began in 2001 and Koin was originally called Celebration in 1978, until it was renamed Koinonia in September of 1999.

Mercy Seat is flexible but is held on Mondays through Thursdays at 8 p.m. and on Fridays at 7 p.m. in the Wesley Chapel basement. Different teams form the Mercy Seat gatherings, with some participating in worship music and others using the time for silence and prayer.

Susannah Denham ('26), who is on the Mercy Seat Cabinet states, "It's really a great chance to worship and pray with friends or with people that you don't know too."

Mercy Seat worship is open to all students who wish to take part. Teams are also always looking to fill open spots.

"Mercy Seat," Isabella Matton ('24), the Mercy Seat president, says, "is a club for students to lead their own worship to serve fellow students. It's leadership based and gives

the opportunity for students to serve Houghton and build character."

Mercy Seat holds many events throughout the semester, such as caroling in the local area during Christmas, hymnal night and The Cry during finals.

Matton also explains, "We are working on an event with International student Alliance (ISA) as a multicultural night with songs from different cultures."

Koinonia is Greek for fellowship among believers, and occurs on Sundays at 7 p.m. as a worship concert including both music and prayer. Four teams rotate throughout the semester and often partner with the Houghton Wesleyan Church for events such as Sunday services.

Kayleigh Verspoor ('24), one of the student directors of Koin and a music leader for her team, explains, "Some sit, some dance, some sing but they all come seeking the same thing, the atmosphere of worship."

Each week of Koin has a theme for music and the devotion, which are rehearsed throughout the week.

A music team leader, Matthew Arndt ('25) says, "We try to create an atmosphere of worship, share our musical abilities and bring people closer to God. We do the best we can to serve students through

fellowship and reaching out with prayer baskets and prayer leaders."

Dr. Sharon Johnson has been the faculty advisor for Koin since the Spring of 2021. She is uniquely positioned as both a member of the Houghton Wesleyan Church and a faculty member at Houghton.

"I'm there as a resource and encouragement for them," Dr. Johnson explains. "I might give them ideas about music but, they really rehearse on their own and choose the passage of scripture and devotions. Part of supervising is letting them make their own decisions."

In the spring, Dr. Johnson sits in on interviews for the team leaders, co-directors and the band interviews and auditions. She meets with the Koin members before the service to talk about their weeks with the music team for that night and the sound team and prays with them.

"I see it as worshipping God," Jackson Collins ('27), a band member of a team states, "I don't see it as a performance but a way of worshipping with the audience and exalting God. Worship starts early in the day and goes on throughout the week as we receive the spirit and go out serving God." ★

Puzzles

Confounding challenges to puzzle and please.

Send your completed puzzles to star@houghton.edu to join this semester's Puzzle Leaderboard!

(Answers will be printed in next week's STAR)

	2		7	9		5		
1	4						7	
				1				
					9			7
6		8		7		9		2
4			5					
				5				
	9						3	5
		2		8	1		4	

Difficulty: Medium

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ducting "O Radiant Dawn" by James MacMillan and "Estoy Les Digo" by Kinley Lange.

"I like doing these two pieces together because they're so different that I can work on two different skillsets," McVeigh explained. "Estoy les Digo has a lot of slow and legato versus O Radiant Dawn which has a lot of sharp dynamic contrasts with similar interesting chord progressions."

McVeigh has been singing with many of the Chamber Choir members for the past four years.

"It's fun to get to conduct with my friends," McVeigh said, "and have that support as I step into this new role."

All are welcome to attend and listen to the Chamber Choir in "Christ With Me" in the Center for the Arts Atrium. ★

Last Week's Answers

Medium

7	5	3	1	9	6	2	8	4
9	1	4	3	2	8	6	5	7
8	2	6	4	5	7	1	3	9
5	6	7	8	3	4	9	1	2
3	4	9	2	1	5	7	6	8
2	8	1	7	6	9	3	4	5
6	3	8	5	7	2	4	9	1
1	7	5	9	4	3	8	2	6
4	9	2	6	8	1	5	7	3

Easy

4	8	2	5	7	9	6	3	1
5	7	6	4	3	1	8	2	9
1	3	9	8	2	6	4	7	5
3	1	5	6	4	2	9	8	7
7	6	8	9	1	3	2	5	4
2	9	4	7	5	8	1	6	3
6	4	7	1	8	5	3	9	2
8	5	3	2	9	4	7	1	6
9	2	1	3	6	7	5	4	8

Diabolical

9	2	7	3	6	5	4	1	8
4	6	3	1	7	8	5	9	2
8	1	5	2	9	4	6	7	3
3	7	2	5	1	6	8	4	9
1	8	9	7	4	2	3	6	5
5	4	6	8	3	9	1	2	7
7	9	1	4	8	3	2	5	6
2	3	4	6	5	7	9	8	1
6	5	8	9	2	1	7	3	4

		3		4	7	1		
8								5
	4						2	
			3	5			9	1
9	2			8	6			
	3						1	
1								2
		5	7	1		4		

Difficulty: Fiendish

The Power of Faith in God



REBECCA DAILEY ('25)

It seems impossible that I once sat writing about coming to Houghton. I can remember a crisp summer turned fall day, being in my room working away, never thinking I would follow that particular article to write its sequel. God has a way of making things happen even when we least expect it. The original article that I'm referring to was from the September 2, 2023 issue, which doesn't seem that long ago. I wrote about transitioning from my community college to Houghton and how wonderful it had been so far. It's been a full semester and we're four weeks into the second semester with a whirlwind of new

experiences.

I've learned, and not only in class or practicum, which is required for Education majors (it simply means I'm out in the field in a school setting). I've learned a lot about myself and strengthened my relationship with God. I come from a very religious family, but it didn't quite feel like something for me at the time. However, the older I've gotten, the more I have come to understand it: God's undying love for me, for all of us. It's not just something we say we are, it's something we do. We choose to not only follow God, but to actively spread His love and show grace and support to those around us. It's not some-

"I came here because it was God's plan for me. He wanted me here because He loved me and wanted to show me that even in my darkness there is still a life with Him."

us. However, the community of Houghton builds upon this love to bring their community together, whether it's sports events, activities around campus, or just even morning Chapel.

The building of community has been such an important aspect to my growth in God and Christ,

terms with it, but also knowing that it's not just about reading the Bible or attending church weekly. It's about loving everyone around you, serving others, even simply helping with homework or comforting a friend after a long day.

I was reading a book the other day called The Love Stories of the Bible Speak by Shannon Bream. I didn't even pass the dedication page without pausing to stop and think about what it said. The verse came from 1 John 4:19, "We love because he first loved us." He loves us when we're wrong, He loves us when we're right, He loves us when we're upset with our friends and even when we're upset with Him. He loved us and loved us still to sacrifice His only son for us so that our sin could be washed away. And yet sometimes we still do things that we know are wrong but we do them in anger, loathing or envy for another person. Being purely good is an uphill battle that we will win because we have God on our side and the knowledge of His love for us.

God's love doesn't only directly come from Him, it comes from those around us who live God's word

and serve the community around us. The entirety of humanity is a steadfastness of God's love for us because we are created in His image. We are created to love and to be loved by all. With His love comes our faithfulness to Him and for Him. We are God's children and brothers and sisters in Christ. It's who we are as people and who we are as Christians.

Coming to Houghton was probably one of the most wonderful things that has ever happened to me. I came here because it was God's plan for me. He wanted me here because He loved me and wanted to show me that even in my darkness there is still a life with Him. There is a life for all of us as an earthly community and with God. Whether we have admitted that or not, there are documents for all of us. In those dark moments, we can either hide or we can cry out to God because He loves us to show us the way out of the darkness and into the light. We will come into the light in our own way, on our own time, but in the end we will all come together as children of God. ★

Rebecca Dailey is a junior English and Adolescent Education double major who is constantly all over campus for events and class. When she is not doing homework or writing STAR articles, she enjoys reading, spending time with her friends or working on her next big story idea.

"However, the older I've gotten, the more I have come to understand it: God's undying love for me, for all of us."

thing that can be simply done like a snap of your fingers. It takes time to build a relationship with anyone, but God especially, because it is so easy to forget His sacrifices for

knowing that there are others who have walked for years and those like me who are just coming to terms with what it truly means to be a person of God. Not only coming to

Have an opinion you want to share?

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SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be less than 600 words

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The Houghton
STAR

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Review

Southern Tier Symphony

Grace Vuolo ('24)

Saturday night, the Southern Tier Symphony performed at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University, continuing their twenty-first season, "Journey On!," with its second series, "Adventure." The symphony features Houghton's own Dr. David Clem on viola, Daniel Zambrano on cello, Dianna Clem on piccolo, and graduate Jack Smith on trumpet.

The music director and conductor, Benjamin Grow, opened the concert by conducting the ensemble and audience in The Star-Spangled Banner before smoothly transitioning to John Philip Sousa's The Star and Stripes Forever. Grow's conducting was lively and displayed precision that would set the tone for his conducting throughout the rest of the concert. This Sousa composition featured portions that highlighted Dianna Clem's proficient piccolo playing as well as Jack Smith's strong trumpet and a well-synchronized string section. The next piece played was Giacomo Rossini's Overture to The Barber of Seville. Grow conducted the dynamic changes with clarity that encouraged accurate playing for the ensemble. The softer sections stood out as the strings and winds maintained an impressive quality of sound through soft dynamic levels. The violins remained well in sync throughout the piece, following the concertmaster, James Ieda, who led with serenity and prestige. The Waltz from Sleeping Beauty by the illustrious Piotr Illych Tchaikovsky stole the show from the moment it began. Commonly associated with the classic Disney film, this Tchaikovsky piece bore much nostalgia that was phenomenally brought to life through the sweet strings, rhythmic winds, and soaring brass. Grow's conducting perfectly communicated the style of the song and gave clear cutoffs for a synchronized orchestra. The next piece, Hungarian March, was composed by Hector Berlioz. The strings sounded loud and full as the other sections played in good harmony with one another. The brass section entered strong upon the conductor's cue yielding an even fuller sound. The fast-paced sections within the piece also were played with precision and distinguished talent. Roses of the South by Johann Strauss followed, bearing the same excellence in dynamic and stylistic transitions accomplished by the ensemble and conductor as the previous songs. This piece was succeeded by another one of the best performances of the night, another Tchaikovsky composition, Act 1, No. 2 from Swan Lake. I was excited to see this in the program and surprised when the conductor had a lapse of memory and nearly skipped over it. Fortunately, members of the ensemble reminded him, and the nostalgic, powerful sweetness of the piece enveloped the audience. The brass and percussion played in perfect synchronization, and the featured oboist played out the melody beautifully, making this a highlight of the concert. Leroy Anderson's Bugler's Holiday featured Jack Smith along with the other trumpeter who were both surprisingly joined by Grow also on trumpet. A brief intermission followed this piece. During intermission, there was an undeniable anticipation building. If the first half was so incredible, what did the second half have in store?

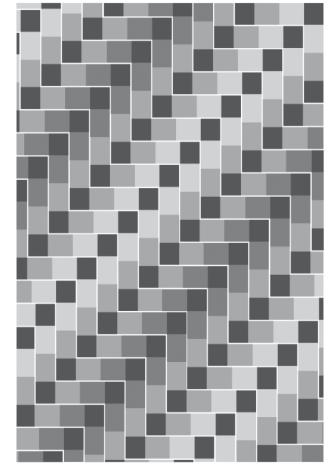
Apparently, not much. The second half opened with the Poet and the Peasant Overture by Franz von Suppé which was a rather generic composition compared to the other songs that had been played. The percussion was overpowering, particularly at the end, and the piece overall brought down the level of anticipation for the rest of the performance. The following well-known piece, The Blue Danube by Johann Strauss II, although played well stylistically, featured tired strings and poorly-timed percussion that contrasted the lively conducting and strong brass section. Next was Radetzky March, written by Johann Strauss I, wherein Grow encouraged audience involvement by clapping to the beat during the main musical motif. The audience kept the beat well, but the strings majorly messed up rhythmically and harmonically, possibly thrown off by the external involvement. At this point, with such a blatant mistake, I had lost hope in the rest of the performance. Fortunately, the show was pulled together beautifully for the Waltz of the Flowers from The Nutcracker, another piece by Piotr Illych Tchaikovsky. Perhaps this reviewer is just partial to Tchaikovsky, but this was the third highlight of the entire performance. Cristin Kalinowski opened with a harp solo free from the conductor. This lilted throughout the room, encouraging dynamically balanced winds and unified strings that followed Grow's masterful guidance. Finally, the symphony closed out the performance just as it was opened, with a piece by John Philip Sousa, The Washington Post, which was an upbeat, precise, and successful end to the concert.

Overall, despite the mistakes, watching the Southern Tier Symphony was a beautiful and inspiring experience for this young musician and reviewer. Given the opportunity, I would certainly encourage going to see them perform, as I would hope to as well at the next chance, which will be again at St. Bonaventure University on May 4th. ★



Artist of the Week

Graeme Roberts ('25)



Hi, my name is Graeme Roberts. I'm an Applied Design and Visual Communications major, which, despite its length, is a single major. I started down this path when I took a Graphic design class in highschool on a whim, and I've been hooked ever since. I prefer to do my design work digitally, as it gives me a lot of both freedom and precision when doing my work. In my work, I like to use simple colors, geometric shapes, and basic image compositing to focus more on the message or emotion of a piece over its form.

