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## LAMBEIN'S GOT TALENT

ISABELLA BRATTON ('26)

Lambein's Got Talent will take place on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 8-9 p.m. in the CFA Recital Hall.

11 Lambein Hall residents will be showcasing their unique talents with the potential to win up to \$100. At the end of the show, the audience will have the opportunity to choose a winner to receive the prize.

Senior Nuri Park ('24), the Assistant Resident Director, explained that they took the name "Lambein's Got Talent" from both the famous show "America's Got Talent" and "Britain's Got Talent." The talent show was created last 2022-2023 school year by the male Resident Assistants (RA)

of Lambein.

All of Lambein's RAs have been involved in the preparation process in different ways; advertising, emailing, hosting and judging.

Park said that, although the audience will be choosing the winner, the RAs have a part in making sure it's a fair competition.

"The RA's," Park stated, "mediate the votes to make sure there is no audience bias, but the audience ultimately decides the winner."

The performers will provide a wide variety of entertainments for the audience, such as singing, poetry recitation, dancing, playing instruments, a weather forecast and more. Park mentioned an exciting act called "Master of balance," although he wouldn't

divulge the details about it. At last year's show, Junior Ethan McCarthy ('25) remarked that groups played kazoos, the piano and danced.

"Guys are excited to show off to the school," McCarthy, a judge for the event, said, "we have put a lot of work into this, and it will be a fun night."

It won't just be one person walking away with \$100. There is a second place award of \$50 and third place will receive \$25.

Students are highly encouraged to attend, and the hosts are sure audience members will walk away entertained.

"I think the campus needs an event where people can just have fun and relax," Park stated. ★



Lambein's Got Talent poster

COURTESY OF CALEB WELKER

## Houghton Baseball Team's Double Header

CALEB WELKER ('26)

Houghton University's baseball team is scheduled to open the season with a Double Header in the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 12 p.m. and then at 3 p.m. against the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. The team will then travel to Florida for the RussMatt Central Florida Invitational Tournament over Winter Break.

Last season the baseball team finished in third place with a record of 19 wins and 20 losses (11 wins and 7 losses in conference play) and clinched a spot in the Empire 8 Conference Play-



Men's baseball team practicing

COURTESY OF SOPHIA TEMPLETON

offs. Although the Highlanders fell short in the double-elimination tournament, they look to bounce back and work their way into the playoffs again this semester.

After ten seniors graduated last Spring 2023—including the leader in batting average (Zach Parr), the team's ERA Leader (Hunter Kendall) and the program's all-time stolen

base leader (Jason Kaufeldt)—the Highlanders welcomed in twelve new players: ten freshmen and two transfer students.

Another addition to the team includes the new Graduate Assistant Pitching Coach Nick Pettit. Coach Pettit graduated in the Class of 2023 after four years at Covenant College in Georgia, and joined the team in Aug. of

2023. His wife, Riley Pettit is the Graduate Assistant Coach of the women's volleyball team.

Freshman pitcher, Marshall Cummings ('27) commented, "Coach Pettit, has brought a new sense of life and rejuvenation to the pitching staff and has helped us tap into our full potential, both mentally and physically."

Senior Captain Chris

VanCheri ('24) noted that many upperclassmen, and even sophomores, have been stepping up into leadership roles after pivotal players graduated from the team. VanCheri pointed out that this highlights the Highlander baseball team's ideals.

"We always say in our program that as you progress through your four years, each year you have to start putting others before yourself," VanCheri stated.

"Nothing excites me more than taking the field with my brothers," VanCheri expressed. "At the end of the day, we truly are a family. We have a tight-knit group that I see only getting closer as the season progresses. I'm excited for the younger guys to get their first taste of college ball, and I'm excited to see the challenges we will face and how we will overcome them."

See **BASEBALL** page #2

# Senior Composition Recitals

JIANA MARTIN ('26)

Two senior composition recitals are coming up with Citlali Sanchez-Acosta's ('24) occurring on Monday Feb. 19 and Kaitlin Kleinau's ('24) recital on Wednesday Feb. 21. Both will be in the Center for the Arts Recital Hall at 6:30 p.m., and each hour-long performance will feature the artists' original works.

Sanchez-Acosta is a music composition major who transferred to Houghton University from her local community college and has enjoyed her time in the Greatbatch School of Music program. "It's a really good program. It's pretty close-knit, which is really nice and everyone supports each other," Sanchez-Acosta reflected.

Her recital will include eight to nine pieces, most of which she has written while at Houghton, which will be performed by around 20 performers. It will be a mix and match of solo instruments, smaller ensemble pieces and vocal songs.

Inspiration for her

music comes partly from need-based occasions and partly from pure inspiration.

"Inspiration comes and goes and sometimes I just start messing around. This recital is a little bit of both necessity and inspiration," Sanchez-Acosta commented.

Although there is no overarching theme, identifiers for the pieces are developing skills and time passing. The recital is a culmination of everything she has written.

"The pieces themselves are not a series of anything," Sanchez-Acosta explained, "there are a bunch of different themes and motifs. I'm bringing back a lot of my old works. One thing I know I'm definitely going for in this recital is seeing the progression."

She likes keeping the original versions of her old works and then later refine them to see how she's progressed and improved. During her time at Houghton, the community and her professors have greatly influenced her.

"My professors have definitely been a part of [influencing me]. Dr. Magin

and Professor Ashbaugh have been super helpful in guiding," Sanchez-Acosta thoughtfully said, "and community has definitely helped motivate."

Kleinau is also a transfer student pursuing a music composition major with an additional vocal performance minor. The theme for her recital is "Woman Becoming: Love Letters" which deals with the idea of love in different forms, especially grief and love. Her inspiration for this theme came from an interest in different types of love such as familial and agape love, and wanting to explore more of it.

"I usually come up with a cool title and see how that works out," Kleinau explained.

One of the pieces, "Echo" talks about a lost love and begging him to return while another piece, "Daffodils Never Die" is about her grandmother who passed away.

Kleinau's recital will include eight pieces that are both vocal and instrumental ranging

from choral pieces to a piano solo to a flute piece, and more. She will be performing in "Daffodils Never Die" and many classmates will help bring her music to life.

"Most of them have been so gracious and willing," Kleinau gratefully said.

Reflecting on her time at Houghton, Kleinau considers it being a sort of rebirth as she has grown so much since she started. Kleinau attributes inspiration for her music to classes, professors and music she has listened to. Helpful advice she received from Dr. Carrie Magin was to listen to a hundred pieces before writing an original.

"Theory classes and music history are helpful. A lot of times it [composing] comes from listening and from what you want to write and hear. It is creativity paired with prior knowledge," Kleinau noted.

For Kleinau, a valuable part of being in the Greatbatch School of Music program is that she is seen as a person first and a musician second. She's

experienced grace and care as a person and has been encouraged to become the best musician she can be.

"I see music as an expression of one's soul; therefore, you want to do it in a way that honors God," Kleinau expressed. "You want God to be a part of that. It's not for my own glory, but for God's glory."

Dr. Magin, Associate Professor of Music Composition and Theory, has enjoyed working with both Sanchez-Acosta and Kleinau, and watching their growth. As a professor, she loves hearing how audiences react to her students' compositions.

"I look forward to the final product as their work is shared with our community," Dr. Magin commented. "It's a unique gift to be able to create something that moves people, and even more special to help bring that ability out in student composers. These students have worked very hard to put on their recitals, and it's a great joy seeing and hearing it all come together." ★

## BASEBALL *from page #1*

"Pitt-Bradford is returning off of a decent season, and we know they're going to be competitive," noted Senior Captain and pitcher, Ethan Cetton ('24). "This game is going to be our first stepping stone to finding success as a team with lots of raw talent."

Houghton lost to Pitt-Bradford (8-3) at the beginning of last season, so they look to push back and take two wins against the Panthers on Saturday. ★

## Last Week's Solutions:

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

Medium

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

Fiendish

The STAR is Looking for a new **MEDIA EDITOR!**  
For additional information reach out to us via email: [star@houghton.edu](mailto:star@houghton.edu)

## EVENT CALENDAR

- FEB. 14** / Hoedown Snoedown / Nielsen Center
- FEB. 17** / Intercultural Worship Event / Van Dyke Lounge
- FEB. 17** / Men's Tennis vs. Oswego State / Tennis Courts
- FEB. 17** / Women's Tennis vs. Oswego State / Tennis Courts
- FEB. 17** / Tea, Coffee, and a Talk / Gillette 2<sup>nd</sup> Main

Check CampusGroups for additional information

# Puzzles

Send your completed puzzles to [star@houghton.edu](mailto:star@houghton.edu) to join this semester's **Puzzle Leaderboard!**

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

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

Difficulty: Medium

All Sudokus provided by [sudokuoftheday.com](http://sudokuoftheday.com)

# The Constant Pursuit of Something Greater



EVELYN SIMANOWSKI ('25)

What is a Vocal Performance major's art? Short answer: I spend a lot of time singing songs I think are pretty. That probably seems like a rhetorical question and an even more obvious answer, though it's not an answer I'm adverse to giving. I could say "I spend hours in a tiny practice room every day," or "I'm taking 19 credits before ensembles," or best yet, "I've shaped my entire lifestyle to meet the physical demands of being a vocalist." Are these answers dramatic? Absolutely; but they hold just as much truth within them as they hold drama. I wouldn't be in this major if these truths weren't worth it.

I consider the art of singing to be one of complete connectivity and a far more dynamic art form than

it appears at surface level. My career as a vocalist relies almost entirely on my ability to interpret and bring life to song, requiring me to view the piece through its historical, cultural, and artistic contexts. This idea of connection begins when I start studying a new piece of music. I'm first connecting with the notes and rhythms on the page, that's a given, but during that time I also consider myself to be connecting with the composer and their intent. Despite having never met any of these composers, there's a real closeness I feel with them when I consider what inspired them to write this music and exactly what they were trying to share with their audiences. There's no guarantee that the circumstances and narrative they

*"I recognize the gift it is to bring new life to the work of my predecessors and to connect with countless individuals through a language that only He could create."*

were writing in will fit my own; they hardly ever do. There is, however, a guarantee that each of these composers I'm honoring is an image bearer that shared in the human experience and used their God-given talents

*"There is, however, a guarantee that each of these composers I'm honoring is an image bearer that shared in the human experience and used their God-given talents to express such experiences."*

to express such experiences. My connection with the piece only grows as I spend more time with it and begin pouring my own personal experiences into the piece. The art of song, like any art form, requires interpretation. In this case, I the performer can interpret the piece in a way that is personally meaningful to my story and maintains the in-

sideration I spend interpreting their work makes it feel as though there's active collaboration going on between the two of us. They spent hours writing these pieces and now I have the privilege of spending hours working them in the practice room to bring them their due respect.

Any time I perform a piece of music, I believe that life is truly breathed into it when it's shared with others and given what my voice professor and I call "people energy." The exchange of energy that happens at this point in the process is electrifying and quite frankly what keeps me coming back for more. Within a single song, I'm exerting pure energy in my performance, exchanging energy with my collaborator(s), and feeling reciprocated energy from the audience. This dynamic energy exchange grants me the opportunity to share the meaning I've found in the composer's piece with a group of individuals that can receive the meaning and interpret it through their own personal experiences and convictions. Standing on the stage and baring a little bit of my soul to an audience is, of course, a vulnerable experience. But in that vulnerability, there's an even greater opportunity to share the joy and meaning I've found in the music.

My job doesn't end when I step off the stage, nor is there any discernible goal or finish line I'm trying to reach. There are goals I have along the way, each of them indicative of a certain accomplishment or level of progress, but none of them representing perfection. It's a grim thought, honestly, that no matter how hard I work or how talented I am, I will never achieve perfection in my performance, just as I will never be a perfect Christian. Still, I strive for excellence in all that I do, reminding myself that it's okay to never achieve perfection. I remain conscious of the fact that I am honing the gifts God has given to me to be used to the best of my ability for His glory. I recognize the gift it is to bring new life to the work of my predecessors and to connect with countless individuals through a language that only He could create. I thank God for the art He has given me and the course He has set before me so that I may be in the constant pursuit of something greater. Soli Deo gloria. ★

*Evelyn Simanowski is a junior Vocal Performance major. She is deeply passionate about arts advocacy, strong coffee, and the Adirondacks.*

Have an opinion you want to share?

CONTACT  
Victoria.Arndt25@houghton.edu

## SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be less than 600 words

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The mission of the Houghton STAR is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have been the ideals of Houghton University since its inception. This is done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

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Review

The Beatles: In Review

Josey Ikker ('24)

I don't know anyone else who has a good knowledge of the Beatles except for maybe a Houghton professor and a sibling, but I've been listening to the Beatles since I was about 7 or 8. The first instance I was introduced to this classic boy band was Yellow Submarine, a jukebox musical adaptation, based on the song of the name, released in 1968. The story focuses on a fantasy world that is taken over by henchmen called the Blue Meanies and numerous other villains who despise music-making. A captain, Fred, then travels to Liverpool, London to seek help from the fab-four to return to Pepperland and bring music back into the paradise. The film uses a lot of unique art styles done by Czech-German Heinz Edelmann; however the voices for the Beatles were done by counterpart actors with a live-action sequence at the end of the film of the original members.

Growing up, I often overheard my sibling, who is also a Beatles fan, listening to a handful of albums throughout the day including, Rubber Soul, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts, White Album, Abbey Road and a handful of others. Recently I began collecting vinyls and my first Beatles record, as a birthday present, was Rubber Soul, which has been in my top 3 favorites for some time now. Though Rubber Soul showed a lot of growth in their style, I was a little shocked, but realized that it made sense when I found out that the Beatles were in a rush to complete Rubber Soul. Yet they put most of their time and effort, not even on a Tour or filming session. It took almost 2 weeks to record and another six days to mix everything together.

In November 2023, I had discovered news that the Beatles would be releasing their "Last song." This final song would be called Now and Then. But how was this possible? John Lennon hasn't been with us since December 1980 and George Harrison since November 2001. Well,

back in the '90s, Paul, Ringo and George had attempted to use demo recordings of John Lennon's and mix those with their instrumentation. They had completed 2 of 3 songs from John Lennon; those being Free as a Bird and Real Love as part of their Anthology project. However, the one that wasn't completed at the time was of course Now and Then as the vocals muffled with the piano made it too difficult to interpret and they didn't have the technology at the time to complete it.

Fast forward to 2022, Paul and Ringo, as George had passed away in 2001, came back to tackle Now and Then again. Peter Jackson, director of the Lord of the Rings films, had done a lot of work restoring archives of The Beatles, specifically for the Disney+ documentary series: Get Back from 2021. Jackson was able to create a technology to create separate tracks for the vocals, and accompaniment. Jackson shared in the Get Back Short Film, found on YouTube, "That ultimately led us to develop a technology, which allows us to take any soundtrack and split all the different components into separate tracks based on machine learning."

Now and Then represented a legacy the Beatles created and is still recognized to this day, with uses of 1970s vocals and contemporary instrumentation with simple, yet powerful lyrics. A week after Now and Then's release, The Beatles had also come out with re-releases and expansions of the Red and Blue Albums including the new single. Overall, The Beatles, to me, still hold a place in my heart with the many genres and styles in rock and roll they portrayed, including creating that final song for a whole new generation. I would recommend listening to Now and Then, even if you're not into the Beatles as much. You might be surprised how deep and meaningful it is. ★

Artist of the Week

Katie Naprawa ('25)



Hi, my name is Katie Naprawa. As an Applied Design and Visual Communications major, I am passionate about blending creativity with functionality. I find inspiration in digital art, photography, and clay, exploring how each medium can express new meaning. Through my work, I hope to initiate a conversation between the viewer and the artwork to ultimately provoke both emotion and thought.

