

UNCW Life

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Symphony orchestra comes to campus

LINDI WHITTEMORE

STAFF WRITER

One of the most awaited holiday events each year is the performance of the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra. Coupled with the Wilmington Choral society, this year's concert is sure to be a success.

The performance will be conducted by UNCW's Steven Errante in celebration of the holiday season.

The concert titled "Holiday Concert," is Dec. 7. The Orchestra and Choral Society will be performing Part One of Handel's "Messiah," as well as "The Festive Sounds of Hanukkah" and Corelli's "Christmas Concerto" for strings.

Soloists Sarah White, Melvin Ezzell and Monica Silero will be featured along with director Alan Porter to bring these traditional sounds of the holidays to the Wilmington area.

The Dec. 8 concert is titled "Sing-In." Messiah will join the soloist performers of the Orchestra and Choral Society to sing along to the seasonal favorites. This concert will be quite different from the formal presentation Saturday night; this performance is intended to be a sing along event. "Messiah" scores will be available at the door for purchase.

"Holiday season tradition is important, so I have tried to let that tradition evolve and have both the

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Courtesy of the imaginaryworld.com

Wilmington is home to the world's largest Christmas tree.

Local tree lighting kicks off Christmas

EWART DE VISSER

STAFF WRITER

In less than a month, Wilmington will mark its annual tradition of lighting the world's largest living Christmas tree. On Dec. 6 this unifying event will leave children in awe and allow adults to reminisce the past.

Starting at 6 p.m. the 400 to 450-year-old oak will be lit for the 74th year in a row and will remain illuminated through the end of the month. Santa Claus himself will be there from 6-8 p.m. to ensure that the lighting goes as planned.

The tree is located in Hilton Park, which is a few minutes north of downtown Wilmington on N.C. Highway 133/U.S. Highway 117.

"This magnificent oak has been lit every Christmas since 1928," said Tammy Skinner, program coordinator of the lighting event.

Skinner said that the tree was chosen by school children who competed in a contest to find Wilmington's Municipal

Christmas Tree. This competition was started by Mayor J.E.L. "Hi Buddy" Wade.

The only time the tree was not lit was during World War II.

The oak stands 50 feet tall and is 75 feet wide. When ice damage shortened the height of the tree by about 15 feet in the 1940s, a utility pole was driven into the ground beside it to give off a more traditional triangular shape.

The Wilmington Parks, Recreation and Downtown Services Department takes care of the Christmas tree, along with its decorations. The department installs approximately 7,000 lights and two miles of 12-gauge, industrial-type wiring.

The Wilmington Christmas tree is similar to other trees around the country. One of the trees is the National Christmas tree in York, Pa., a 40-foot Colorado Blue Spruce.

In 1925 a giant sequoia that stood over 300 feet tall and was located in California's Kings

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Local artist on display

CHELSEA MARTI

STAFF WRITER

A local artist had his first series of artwork chosen to be part of the UNCW Arts in Action series.

Erik Arnebold is a 26-year-old Wilmingtonian who paints for the sheer joy of it, not for monetary income. From his leather jacket to his electric blue Kawasaki, this painter is in it for the soul-searching.

But Arnebold is not a typical starving artist. Besides his artistic endeavors, he is co-owner of Intention Media Inc. and represents an air purification company.

Two years ago, he began painting for the first time. He taught himself how to paint, and everything that comes



Aaron Watson/the Seahawk

Erik Arnebold's paintings are on display in the Warwick Center.

helped to along with painting, such as creating his own canvases, a task difficult to master.

Arnebold considers painting a skill he'd like to continue developing, but not pursue as a career. However, he is currently being commissioned to do various paintings for interested customers, ranging from house to pet portraits.

Originally from Red Hook, N.Y., he pushes the artistic envelope with his provocative oil paintings. They thematically feature religion, rebirth and other inspiring abstracts. His two most

prominent influences are Salvador Dali and Georgia O'Keefe.

Through these first artistic endeavors, he is discovering both his artistic styles and how to work with the medium. All the while, he is searching for meaning to life's biggest questions.

"Religion is very intriguing and interesting to me, mostly because I don't understand it," Arnebold said.

His preliminary artistic efforts are part of UNCW's Arts in Action series. Jaclyn Burns, a senior art history major, suggested Erik Arnebold as a candidate for the series.

"Erik's work is both striking and bold. He presents familiar ideas with an imaginative and creative spin," said Shannon Hooker, who works for Campus Activities and has

helped to organize Arts in Action. "I think his work could spark lively discussion among students -- there are elements in his work that people will recognize and understand while at the same time stretching people to see something new."

Arnebold considers his work to be genre-free. He jokingly coined it "Erikism." All of the works featured are some of Arnebold's first paintings, each of them are still in progress.

Arnebold's works are on display in the Warwick Center lobby and will remain hanging until Dec. 13.