

## With CD and new members, Twisted Measure starts on right tune

Leigh Wiley  
Reporter

The crowd hushed in anticipation, as a group of 12 students took the stage, all dressed in black T-shirts that declared "Twisted Measure" in bold red letters. Students eagerly waited as the group began to harmonize, echoing through the gym's rafters.

Twisted Measure performed for the first time this year, opening up for Tom Deluca, the hypnotist in late August.

"It was just incredible to watch; it would be even more incredible to be a part of it," said sophomore Audrey Ball, who was in the audience and recently became a new member of Twisted Measure. If audition numbers are any indication, she was not the only one to think so.

Like many with other Elon organizations, the a cappella group Twisted Measure has just started to prepare for the this year.

Members of the group said that Saturday was a nerve-racking day for most, since they held auditions all day for interested students.

With 40 students auditioning, competition was fierce. Callback auditions were held Sunday and freshman Taylor

Barr, tenor, Ball, alto, freshman Katie Olsen, soprano, and freshman Barrett Risley, tenor, were added to the group. All new members said they were excited to be a part of such a close-knit and talented group of singers.

Ball admits she was nervous during auditions because her competition could be heard through the door.

"It was so amazing that there was so much talent in one place at one time," said Ball.

Twisted Measure members have to be dedicated, said Jason Smith, the group's president. He said members must have a good solo voice and blend with the group well. Some members also play the piano and arrange and sight read music.

Singing in Twisted Measure can be a time commitment. Twisted Measure practices are three to four times a week for two hours each session.

During the year, the group performs and competes all over the state. Last year they participated in the International Competition of Collegiate A Cappella and took second place. Smith also won Best Soloist with the song "Gone" and the group received Best Vocal Percussion. Brian Hecker, Twisted Measure's musical director, received Best Arrangement for "Demons" by



Photos by Mary-Hayden Britton / Photographer

On Tuesday night Twisted Measure had its first rehearsal with its new members. They stood in a circle harmonizing and then broke off into individual voice parts. Left to right: Katie Howell, Audrey Ball, Michelle Payne, Jason Smith, Barrett Risley, Leslie Price and Kelly Bonner.

Guster and the group's cover of Blu Cantrell's song "Hit 'em Up Style" was a runner-up in the same competition.

"I joined Twisted Measure my second semester of freshman year, and it was by far the best thing I've been a part of," said junior Katie Howell. "The people in the group that have come and gone have touched every member's life in some way, and every present and former TM [Twisted Measure] members hold a near and dear place in their heart for the organization."

Twisted Measure began four years ago during Parents' Weekend. Two years ago they officially became an organization and were named Best Student Organization With Under 30 Members in 2003.

"I think that Twisted Measure stands out because of the group's dynamics. You can tell that we all love what we're doing when we're on stage," says Howell.

The singing group is small; they try to keep membership between 12-16 students, which Smith said "is the perfect size for our kind of style and music."

The group uses no instruments. Instead, they make up the beat and background music

themselves. While one or two of the members performs a song, the rest sing backup or add sound effects.

Twisted Measure sings contemporary songs which have been re-arranged by different members of the group, which adds a personal tone to each song. Other songs in their repertoire include some by the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Vanessa Carlton.

The group picks new songs by taking five suggestions from each member and then voting on those songs to pick a reasonable number to learn every year. Songs are chosen by majority vote.

The group is in the process of putting together a CD that will be released this fall.

Members said that the CD

can be pre-ordered for \$15. Twisted Measure will perform on Friday, Nov. 14 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 16 in Whitley Auditorium. They are also scheduled to perform with Sweet Signatures and other a cappella groups at Acappellooza Sept. 27 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the Academic Village.

Members said they hope for even larger crowds from the student body and community to attend their concerts.

Students can purchase tickets for both shows for a total of \$5.

Check out their Web site at [www.elon.edu/twistedmeasure](http://www.elon.edu/twistedmeasure).

Contact Leigh Wiley at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or 278-7247.



From left: Katie Olsen, Bill Cleveland, Taylor Barr, David Parsons, Andrew Frace and Brian Hecker practice their songs.

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