

Piano composition tests professor's mettle



BRIAN ALLENBY | Staff Photographer

An hour is a long time to do anything, but performing a single piano piece is among the most trying pursuits one can attempt during that time. Assistant professor of music, Omri Shimron, performed his first solo recital at Elon on Thursday, Sept. 15 in Whitley Auditorium.

The recital featured a single

composition, but one that lasted for a full hour. Frederic Rzewski composed "The People United Will Never Be Defeated!" in 1975 around the theme of a Chilean protest song. The tune goes through 36 iterations of the original tune. It also references other protest music and political songs.

Shimron will be performing the piece at Duke University, Virginia Tech

University and Winthrop University later this year. Shimron said in a previous interview that modern piano compositions may be overlooked in favor of more traditional, classical music.

"This piece is a really good glimpse of the 21st Century and all the styles it went through in classical music," he said.

Acorn's open mic night showcases student talent

Cassie Grimm
Reporter

Acorn Coffee Shop's familiar smells of brewing coffee and toasting sandwiches mingled with sounds of student performers. Acorn hosted its first ever Open Mic Night Thursday, Sept. 15. The event was hosted and set up by Acorn employee Eddie Talley, who was assisted by junior Katie Nelson. Talley said the purpose of the night was to bring entertainment into the coffee shop.

"I've worked here for six years and there's never been entertainment, just yelling," Talley said.

Nelson agreed.

"We hope to create a nice atmosphere in the shop. We want students to come and engage in the activities, to notice what's going on," she said.

The night included various acts which showcased the diversity and talent in the Elon community. Not only singers and guitarists performed, but also sophomore mandolin player Mills Gorrie, senior stand-up comic Jay Light, freshman poet Christina Lewis and senior rapper Raj Rawal.

Light said he decided to perform his stand-up routine at the open mic night because "stage time is everything no matter the venue. It's experience."

Lewis said that, while it may seem unconventional to some, she perceived open mic night as a perfect opportunity to showcase her poetry.

"I love to write," Lewis said. "I want to write poetry as a career and I had a fun time tonight. My best friend came to support me which helped give me confidence."

The event brought business into Acorn, and by the end of the night, every seat in the house was occupied. Talley concluded the night by awarding a grand prize of 100 food dollars to be split between the winner and runner-up. The grand prize winners were singer and freshmen guitarist Patrick Dinnsen and singer Leah Greene who performed a duet of "Hallelujah" originally written by Leonard Cohen. The runner up was fellow freshman singer Hunter Brown (also accompanied by Dinnsen on guitar) who performed "Yesterday" by the Beatles.

Dinnsen, Greene, and Brown are all musical theatre majors. Dinnsen said he has met so many talented people through the program, and when he heard about Open Mic Night he wanted

to come and sing with his friends for others. Throughout the night, Dinnsen performed a couple of songs including the winning number "Hallelujah," and an original composition titled "Is There a Love There?"

"I had a good time tonight," Dinnsen said. "It was cool to get to share my stuff with people, especially from other states. I don't know what I would do if I didn't get to perform for the rest of my life."

Brown also had positive things to say about the evening. He said he decided to sing "Yesterday" because he loves the Beatles, and the song has always been meaningful to him.

"I think tonight went well," Brown said. "I had a lot of fun, and there's nothing I'd rather be doing than singing."

Greene said she had been trying to find open mic nights on campus, so she was excited when she heard about the Acorn's event.

"I've been singing since I could talk," she said. "Winning felt really awesome. It was cool to see how much talent there is at Elon. I'll definitely come back next time with my ukulele."

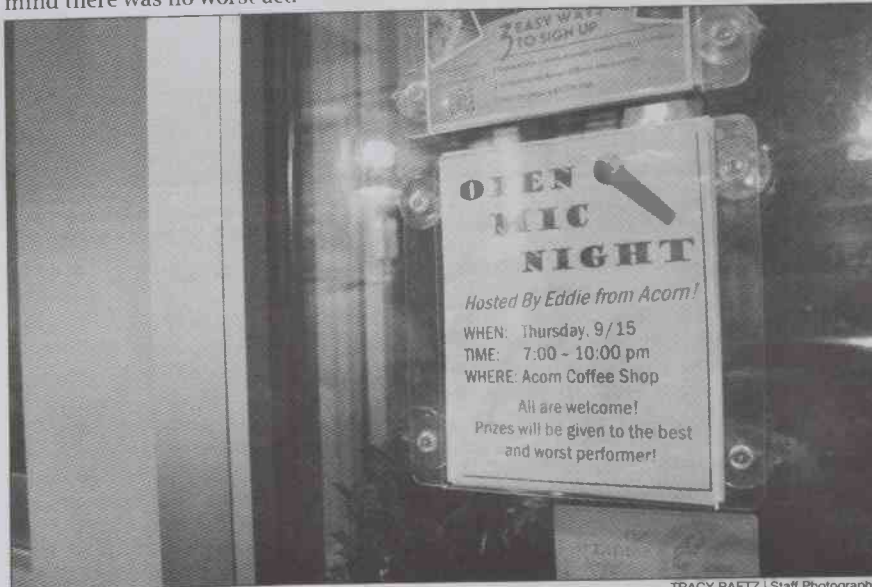
Due to the success of the evening, Talley has decided to make Open Mic Night a monthly event.

"I think the night went wonderful," Talley said. "It was so hard to determine who won the food dollars because in my mind there was no worst act."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Guitarist Patrick Dinnsen accompanied both the winner and the runner-up of Acorn Coffee Shop's first open mic night. Dinnsen and singers Leah Greene and Hunter Brown are musical theatre majors.



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

Acorn employee and host Eddie Talley said the open mic was so successful, there may be another one next month. Every seat in the store was full. Falling around Halloween, the next theme is tentatively a costume contest.

Don't touch that dial: what to expect on TV this upcoming season

Asha Michelle Wilson
Columnist

Fall is great for one important reason. Sure, the leaves change, sweaters come out of drawers, and coffee shops start serving pumpkin spice lattes. None of that compares to the real reason autumn is golden: fall television season. During the next few weeks, everyone's favorite old shows — and plenty of new ones — start airing once again, each like a tiny Christmas present you've been waiting all summer long to open.

The New...

The 2011 fall lineup is chock full of new television shows to watch. Two actresses that have been missed from television sets, Rachel Bilson and Sarah Michelle Gellar, both return with their own shows. Bilson stars in "Hart of Dixie" (Sept. 26) and Gellar, in her first television show since "Buffy," stars in "Ringer" (Sept. 13). Fans of Zoëy Deschanel can tune in weekly to watch the actress be socially awkward and obviously adorable on "New Girl" (Sept. 20).

Those who like fairytales should try "Once Upon A Time" (Oct. 23), created by "Lost" writers Edward Kitsis and Adam Horowitz, about a town frozen in time with fairy-tale figures, like Snow White and Prince Charming, who have no recollection of their real identities. "Mad Men" enthusiasts should check out "Pan Am" (Sept. 25), to see a show about the glamorous, and surprisingly sexy, lives of airplane stewardesses in the 1960s.

The Returning...

Many shows ended their previous seasons with a lot of unanswered questions. Returning Sept. 22, "Parks and Recreation," "Community" and "The Big Bang Theory" all left fans on the edge of their seat, but "The Office" definitely takes the cake with anticipation. Since Steve Carell left and took the lead of the show Michael Scott with him, everyone is wondering if this season will be any good, with actor James Spader taking over "The Office." And popular comedy-musical "Glee," (Sept. 20) is losing Sam, played by Chord Overstreet.

In the world of drama, "Fringe," (Sept. 23) and "Gossip Girl" (Sept. 26) also have characters not returning. "Fringe" last saw the disappearance of Peter Bishop, and Vanessa and little Jenny Humphrey have officially left the "Gossip Girl" building. On the other hand, both in their respective final season, "Desperate Housewives" (Sept. 25) and "Chuck" (Oct. 21) bring in new faces to stir up the drama: "Housewives" has new love interests and "Chuck" brings in Mark Hamill of "Star Wars" fame as the new villain.

And the Exciting...

Not to say that all the old and new shows aren't exciting, but there are three series that definitely have people talking. "Terra Nova," (Sept. 26) the new dinosaur show, is the most buzzed about series for the fall, in large part because it's being produced by Steven Spielberg. "The Vampire Diaries" (Sept. 15) left fans with more cliffhangers than almost any other show on the air. Good guys turning bad, vampires coming back from the dead and romance blossoming in new places — the new season is a must see.

Lastly, "Two and a Half Men" (Sept. 19) will get a spike in viewership, with Ashton Kutcher permanently joining the cast. After the premiere, though, curiosity will probably wear off. With so many other great shows to watch, this one might hit the bottom of the barrel.