

Concert brings holidays to UNC

BY KELLY YANG
STAFF WRITER

With soft gestures as fluid as each of her explosive notes, soprano Kathleen Battle sang in the holiday season to a filled Memorial Hall on Monday.

Accompanied by pianist Joel Martin, the two were presented by UNC's opera director Terry Rhodes.

Rhodes explained to the audience that Cyrus Chestnut, who was originally slated to accompany Battle, would be replaced by Martin. Their performance was a part of the Carolina Performing Arts Series.

"This is a beautiful program of well-loved holiday music, carols, spirituals and some unusual pieces such as a Chilean carol and a West Indian Christmas spiritual," said Rosemary Holland, director of artistic affairs for CPA.

The program opened with several of those "unusual pieces," as well as "Ave Maria," as Battle was positioned on a nearly bare stage next to the piano wearing simple attire.

Martin said he only recently met up with Battle in New York and began rehearsing a few weeks ago. "Six to seven hours of rehearsal had been standard," he said.

And Monday night, six rehearsals later, Battle and Martin meshed their two different genres of music to produce a unique sound that resonated throughout Memorial Hall.

Kris Ford, a biomedical engineering graduate student who attended the performance, said he saw releases with information about Battle's concert online and decided to attend.

"I've always been big into piano music having played the saxophone," he said.

Lauren Schultes, a Kenan Music

Scholar, said she enjoyed Battle's musical expressions at the concert.

"She expresses each piece with such great emotion that she's able to connect with the audience," Schultes said.

Junior Chase Beck said he had seen Battle on television and jumped at the opportunity to see her perform.

"I've never attended an opera concert, and this seemed to have been a great starting point into the exposure of the opera scene," Beck said. "To have her in our own backyard was an opportunity I couldn't pass up."

After intermission, Battle returned wearing a golden shawl to close out her performance with new and favorite holiday tunes.

"It gave me goose bumps to hear a beautiful ring come out of a beautiful lady, simply accompanied by one instrument," Beck said. "This concert gave me a new light on operas and the classics."

Audience members began to bob their heads and hummed along as Martin's musicality energized the hall. He played interludes that transitioned into the next song and showed off the pianist's interpretation of each song.

These piano transitions were highlighted in the final Christmas carol medley, which included "Away in a Manger," "Silent Night," "The First Noel," "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "O Holy Night."

Following a standing ovation, the audience was treated to an abbreviated, solo performance by Martin, which featured his "jazzical" style.

Emil Kang, UNC's executive director for the arts, said this concert was the prelude for Battle's concert at the Kennedy Center.

"This was a great way in showing that Chapel Hill is an important location," Kang said. "And a great way to send her off to the Kennedy Center."

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tion that supports limited government, urged caution.

"That is always what is said when there is a big proposal to do something," he said of proponents' claims. "Studies like these are usually designed to come up with pre-ordained conclusions."

Woodhouse said the state would

GARDEN

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something gets watered.

"As a department, we've really pushed sustainability, perennials and drought-tolerant ornamental grasses," he said.

He said that during the warmer months, the ideal time to water the flowers and other plants is in the morning, before students with 8 a.m. classes begin roaming the campus.

"It's not as great this time of year because of the seasonal change. But in summer, evaporation plays a big part in watering," he said.

"It's a good practice to water early so whatever you're watering has the opportunity to use that water before losing it to the heat of day."

Fortunately, Pelland said, many flowers around campus don't need

ENERGY

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the process of negotiating 10 contracts from six different sources of renewable energy.

She said biomass, which includes animal waste, and solar energy are the primary sources that Duke Energy is considering.

"You have to ask what's most economical and look at how you can do the most good for the most people," Sheehan said.

But putting the chicken waste to use might not be a picture-perfect solution to North Carolina's renewable energy problem.

Douglas Crawford-Brown, director of the UNC Institute for the Environment, said biofuels such as chicken waste aren't cleaner than coal, as they produce the same amount of carbon emissions.

He said that although using chicken litter as energy serves as a

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be better off spending those dollars on infrastructure improvements.

But Carroll said he thinks an inland port would be beneficial for everyone involved.

"It would be good for the region; it would be good for the state; it would be good for this part of the country."

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a great deal of water to sustain themselves.

"We can get enough water to keep plants alive much more easily than we can solve the drought."

Some campus officials worry that a loss of beauty could mean a loss of applications.

Admissions Communication Director Ashley Memory said the campus's beauty has always been something potential students focus on.

She said that people across the state are noticing changes in the landscape caused by the drought but that she is confident UNC's beauty will uphold its legendary status.

"Overall, the beauty of Carolina continues to be a strong point of campus," Memory said.

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AIDS CEREMONY

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the world and takes up 275 NCAA basketball courts. Only 19 percent of AIDS deaths in the United States are represented on the quilt.

Family and friends of those who have succumbed to the AIDS virus can make a quilt panel honoring that person.

"There are four panels on the quilt that represent close friends of mine," Phoenix said.

About 30 people gathered for the event — many with personal stories and great passion for AIDS awareness.

"I feel real strongly about the cause," freshman Kelley Mathys said. "I have been interested in AIDS/HIV awareness for a while. ... We need to teach kids early. People don't realize they have (AIDS) and continue to spread it."

Monday's event was part of an AIDS awareness week that aims to bring information to the forefront of people's minds and remember those whose lives were taken by the virus.

"World AIDS Week is a week-long program that occurs because AIDS is something that is affecting humanity today," said Elizabeth Bernold, presi-

"What was most impressive about this project is the humanity shared."

ELIZABETH BERNOLD, N.C. HILLEL PRESIDENT

dent of N.C. Hillel, one of the event's sponsors. "It creates a connection between the student body."

Bernold said she cared more about what people took away from the events taking place on campus than the number of attendees.

"It's the personal connections, not the numbers, that are important," she said.

And the different groups sponsoring this week's events also are making connections through their collective efforts.

"What was most impressive about this project is the humanity shared," Bernold said. "All these groups working together is incredible and brings commonalities between them."

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DECORATE

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UNC, said she appreciated the snowflake design.

"It's good that they went with a secular holiday symbol because it's more appropriate for such a diverse town," Hartley said.

Hartley suggested that the town add some blue lights, as the color would be season-appropriate, as well as University-appropriate.

Other Franklin Street patrons made suggestions Monday for additional holiday decorations.

"I think we should get more of a variety of holiday symbols, like wreaths or candles," Chapel Hill resident Stephanie Hunt said. "Green and red lights would make the street feel more Christmas-y."

Tulsi Craddosk, a volunteer raising money on Franklin Street for various local soup kitchens, said that she did not care what the light design was but that she would like to see more lights put up.

"It would be nice to see the whole street lit up on both sides with lights," Craddosk said. "It would really make this street come alive."

McGurk said the Downtown Partnership does not have any plans for additional decorations. Instead,

"And it's that (Christmas) cheer that can brighten up the gloomiest of days."

NYOKA NORMAN, UNC SENIOR

the group's goal right now is to successfully complete this year's holiday decoration campaign.

"We still have money to raise and decisions to make about the banners we want to get for the off-season," McGurk said.

But Nyoka Norman, a senior at UNC and an employee of Four Corners, said any amount of holiday decorations on Franklin Street is an improvement.

"They're nice because they bring a little bit more Christmas cheer to the street," Norman said. "And it's that cheer that can brighten up the gloomiest of days."

For more information about how to make a contribution to the holiday decoration campaign, call the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership at 967-9440.


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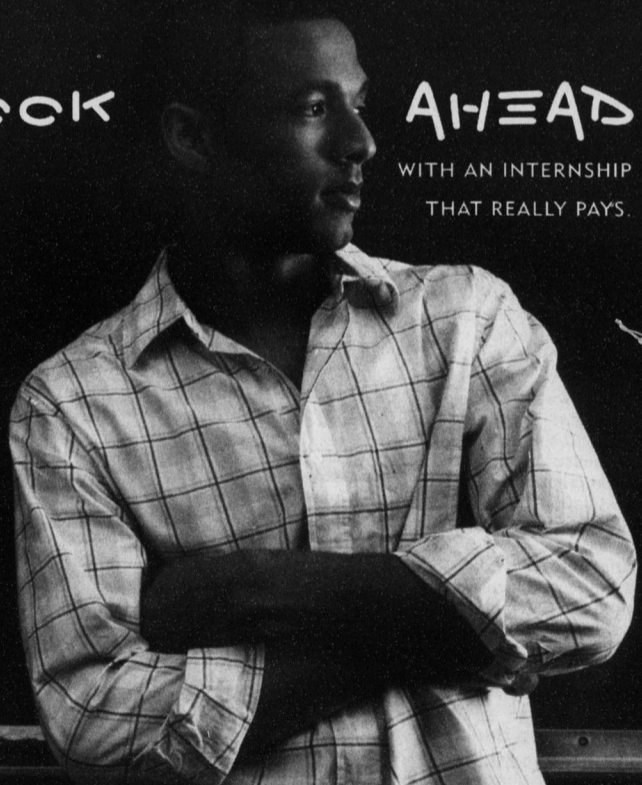
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