

# Recitals showcase talents of music majors

## Help prepare for future auditions

BY CHIARA AUSTIN  
STAFF WRITER

Juniors Emily Riehl and Katie Curtis will don their old prom dresses Sunday, but this time they won't be dancing the night away.

Instead the two will be singing in their junior voice recital.

For Riehl and Curtis, the recital will allow them to perform for family, friends and even people who have never heard them sing before.

UNC music majors have been showcasing their talents during junior and senior recitals since the beginning of the semester.

Riehl and Curtis' voice teacher, Terry Rhodes, said the recitals prepare many students for auditions for summer programs and graduate school auditions.

"I don't know any people who are voice majors and don't do a recital," Riehl said.

Voice teachers have been recommending students to do joint recitals this year because of the large number of voice majors.

Performances are highly encouraged by voice teachers, Riehl said.

"It's really important, especially if you're going to look at grad schools, to have a lot of performance-ready material so you can show that you are versatile," Curtis said.

Curtis said that when choosing music for this year's recital she tried to find music from different time periods or genres to provide variety.

"It was definitely in collaboration with my voice teacher, but I also chose songs that would reflect who I am and songs that I love to perform," Riehl said.

Rhodes said there are 23 or 24 voice majors giving recitals this semester.

"It's something that's not a

requirement, but they all do it," she said, adding that students have to get faculty approval three weeks before their recitals.

And though preparing for the recital is intense, many students said they enjoy the experience.

"You have other performance opportunities, but this is taking it to a different level," Curtis said.

Unlike vocal students, music performance students are required to give a recital, junior saxophone player Ben Crouch said.

"Almost everything I'm going to play on it I've played before," he said of the performance he will give Saturday, noting that his performance will be graded.

Riehl and Curtis decided how they wanted to organize their concert. Riehl said most recitals are organized into sets of music with a common theme or composer.

Student recitals are also a chance to creatively showcase talents.

"The entire program is up to

*"You have other performance opportunities, but this is taking it to a different level."*

KATIE CURTIS, JUNIOR

the person that it's for," said junior Florencio Martinez, who plays the guitar. "You really can collaborate with other students and even other musicians who use other instruments."

Martinez chose to play a ukulele during his recital, playing a Hawaiian version of "Over the Rainbow."

Curtis and Riehl's decision to wear prom dresses was their own.

"I love a formal dress, so I went for it," Curtis said.

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).



COURTESY OF BEN CROUCH  
Junior saxophone player Ben Crouch performs at a recital in March in Hill Hall Auditorium. Crouch will perform his junior recital Saturday.

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