Music performance dedicates Steinway Concert Grand

The Georgia College Department of Music’s latest piano addition is a sleek Steinway concert grand. On Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m., Professor of Music and Chair of the music department, Dr. Sergio Ruiz, will perform on the piano in a dedication concert titled “Simply Piano.”

The event, in the Max Noah Recital Hall at Georgia College, will not only show off the new addition, but also the musical talent of Steinway artist Ruiz, who has performed around the world, most recently in Bolivia, Ecuador and Mexico.

Attending “Simply Piano” one can expect a wonderful performance showcasing the Steinway piano as well as some classics selected by the performer.

“Our people who attend the concert will hear some of my favorite piano works by my favorite composers such as Mozart, Chopin and Liszt on a world-class Steinway instrument,” said Ruiz. The dedication concert performed by the accomplished pianist and music educator proves how far the entire GC Department of Music has come.

“It is an honor to be able to give the inaugural concert on the new Steinway Model D,” he said. “In acquiring this lovely instrument, I am thrilled to help contribute to and continue the tradition of excellence at Georgia College that began with a handful of donors in 1946. Concert admission is free; however tickets are required. For tickets or more information, call 478-445-8297 or email music@gcsu.edu.”

Wind Symphony performs ‘Raise Your Voice’

Georgia College’s Wind Symphony will perform “Raise Your Voice,” under the direction of Dr. Clifford Tower, in Russell Auditorium Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. “Raise Your Voice!” refers to the instrumental voice, or timbre. The human voice is only one part of the musical performance, which seeks to emphasize the range of many different instruments’ voices, starting with the organ. The band will begin by performing the Prelude and Fugue in Bb Major BWV 552, after which all the organs with different woodwind and brass colors.

Common McClain, winner of the 2014 Wind Symphony Concerto Competition, will play this new piece as his selection for the competition. His collaboration with the Wind Symphony will include a translation of “O Dol Ne Amo Brav” from Donizetti’s collection of “36 Arie di Stile Antico.”

The concert is free to attend. Donations are accepted and will be used for music scholarships. For more information, contact the Department of Music at 478-445-8297.

The stars align with ‘Romeo and Juliet’ at Georgia College

It will be at first site this Feb. 26-28 and March 1, when patrons enjoy the revival of Shakespeare’s iconic tale “Romeo and Juliet,” at the Georgia College Blackbox Theatre.

“It’s going to look unlike anything we’ve done here in a long time,” said director Lynna Hoganson, GC senior and theatre major. “We’re really running with the ‘star-crossed lovers’ theme.

The stage, designed by scenographer Kaylee Carson, marries form and design with images of shooting stars and horoscopes, invoking the audience to question the tragic outcome for the two lovers. Hoganson wants viewers to explore the concept of defying fate’s design – the difference between what should happen and what we decide should happen. This production stands alone from other classic renditions of “Romeo and Juliet” because of its modern and minimal aesthetic – it will not take place in any specific time period.

Everyone will be dressed in black and white, with hints of lace and leather. All of what Hoganson refers to as a non-realistic “elaborate punk rock” style appears.

The lead actors, theatre majors Allie Kangas and Eric Burleson will be backed by a six-person ensemble, a total of eight actors to play 23 characters. “It’s good to have a cast that’s so focused and so passionate,” said Hoganson. Hoganson had been preparing for this production, her senior capstone project, for more than a year. Her cast will have had five weeks to prepare for their individual roles.

Shows are at 8 p.m. from Feb. 26-28 and at 2 p.m. March 1. Tickets are $14 for general admission, $10 for GC faculty/staff and non-GC students and $5 for GC students. Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.gcsutickets.com.

For more information, please contact the Department of Theatre at 478-445-8297.