

Media

Catholic schools present music from classical to jazz

To hear young Catholics making good music is one of the great experiences of our faith. When a hundred of them join to provide us with a vibrant concert, we are indeed fortunate.

Musicians from St. Thomas More Collegiate (STMC) and students from several Catholic elementary schools will give a concert titled A Little Knight Music (STMC students call themselves Knights) at the Douglas College Performing Arts Theatre on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m.

STMC's Voices Utopia Chamber Choir and Chancellor Concert Band will be joined by students from St. Francis de Sales, St. Michael's, Ecole St. Sacrement, and Our Lady of Fatima elementary



Music Reviews

Patrick Raynard

schools in an evening of music ranging from classical to jazz.

The program will include three Renaissance dances, Faure's Cantique de Jean Racine, a Gene Puerling arrangement of Joni Mitchell's Both Sides Now, a Jester Hairston arrangement of the Hold On! spiritual, and many audience-pleasing old favourites.

The Voices Utopia Chamber

Choir is made up of senior students at STMC, while the Chancellor Concert Band is an intermediate-level ensemble consisting largely of Grade 9s.

Chris Trinidad, the director of the school's music program and conductor of all its choirs and bands, is especially proud of the inclusiveness of these ensembles.

"Anybody can join any of the

groups," he told me last week. "I believe in music being available to absolutely every student who wishes to work hard to develop a gift which everyone has been given."

"I do not believe in 'music only for the gifted,' though it can certainly come more easily for some," he said.

"If you work to develop it through practice and perseverance, music can be such a positive part of every person's life."

Trinidad, who lives an intensely musical life outside his teaching job at STMC, emphasized that music is essential in a young person's healthy discovery of him or herself.

"You can ask some of my student musicians, who have taken a chance on being a part of something wonderful and something transforming, and some will tell you that they never realized they had this 'thing' inside them. That thing is the gift of music."

The ensembles include various vocalists, as well as such instruments as the oboe, French horn, baritone, tuba, and various clarinets and guitars. Trinidad encourages his students to practise their conducting skills by directing their colleagues whenever possible. The activities of these groups are fully credited as STMC courses.

All tickets to the Feb. 16 concert cost \$5 and can be obtained at the STMC office or by calling 604 521 1801. More information on STMC's music program is available at <http://music.stmc.bc.ca/>