Spring concerts blossom at Lied

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Spring usually brings the music of birds that have found their way back to Nebraska. For Creighton students, the month of April brings music of another kind.

The first event to grace the ears of audiences is the Wind Ensemble Concert, which takes place Tuesday at 7 p.m. Under the direction of Music Coordinator Dr. Frederick Hanna, assistant professor of Performing Arts, the students have been practicing for months.

The Wind Ensemble will play classic concert band literature, but also has worked on some new songs. After an entire semester of rehearsals, it is finally time to harvest the fruits of the musicians' labor. Hanna said the concerts are a good way to expose the community to classical music.

"It's a nice opportunity to show off the students' talent," Hanna said.

For an exciting kickoff to the weekend, the University Orchestra performs April 15 at 7 p.m. Hanna also will conduct this performance. The orchestra will play a classical repertoire.

The Choral Concert finishes off the week of musical activities on a high note Sunday at 2 p.m. The concert will consist of the Chamber Choir and the University Chorus, both under the direction of the Rev. Charles Jurgenmeier, S.J., assistant professor of Performing Arts. The concert also includes the Gospel Choir, directed by music faculty member Dr. Claudette Valentine.

April's entertainment does not stop there — the Javanese Court Gamelan, "Son of the Good Earth," will present a performance under the stars at 8 p.m. on Sunday, April 24. The gamelan is an Indonesian orchestra that consists of percussion instruments such as gongs and xylophones. The outdoor concert features an ensemble of current students, alumni, faculty, staff and other members of the Omaha community under the direction of Fine and Performing Arts Department Chair Dr. Marilyn Kielniarz. The concert is planned to be on the north lawn of the Lied Education Center for the Arts, but it will be moved to the main lobby if there is inclement weather.

The concerts, which take place each semester, are financed in a number of ways, including the Richard and Mary McCormick Endowment Fund for the Fine and Performing Arts. The Grace Keenan Fund.

For all four groups, these concerts are really the only chance to display hard work from the past semester. The performances give the entire Omaha community the ability to appreciate the variety of artistic aptitude available in the community.

April events at the Lied

On Lied Center Mainstage:
Wind Ensemble
Tuesday, April 12, at 7 p.m.

University Orchestra
Friday, April 15, at 7 p.m.

Choral Concert
Sunday, April 17, at 2 p.m.

Jazz Ensemble
Friday, April 22, at 7 p.m.

On Lied Center North Lawn:
Gamelan Concert
Sunday, April 24, at 8 p.m.