

Chamber music series puts vocal duets on stage

■ Tonight's performance will feature a world premiere of a piece by a local composer

By Mandy Toomey
Oregon Daily Emerald

World-renowned vocalists Milagro Vargas and Lucy Shelton will perform a series of duets tonight at Beall Concert Hall.

The show is one in a series of performances organized by the School of Music and the Department of Dance showcasing faculty, student ensembles and guest artists. The night begins at 7 p.m. with a lecture by professor Robert Hurwitz describing the music, and the performance begins at 8 p.m. Reserved seating tickets range from \$10 to \$25.

"We have some treats in store, which I can't divulge," Vargas said.

"But there will be something for everyone in there."

Vargas has taught vocal performance at the University since 1992. As a mezzo-soprano, she has performed in opera, orchestral works, chamber music and recitals. She spent 10 years in Europe singing opera and just completed a series of concerts in New York, California and Washington. Vargas has premiered work by Philip Glass, Krzysztof Penderecki and others.

She said the goal of her performance is to "make more people fans of this music."



SHELTON

Shelton currently teaches at the New England Conservatory and Tanglewood Music Center. She has performed as a soprano with the Cleveland Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic as well as many others. A number of contemporary composers have written music especially for her, and she is the only artist to receive the International Walter Naumberg Award twice, for both chamber music and solo singing.

Vargas and Shelton have performed together a number of different times, including in November when the Eugene Symphony premiered Robert Kyr's "The Spirit of Time."

Vargas said there are many different challenges in performing a duet of chamber music.

"You have to breathe together,



VARGAS

and you have to feel the words together," she said. "Chamber music is about making music together."

The performance will feature a world premiere of Tom Manoff's "Honor is so Sublime," a piece inspired by the English poet John Donne. Manoff is a local composer and a music critic for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered."

"The piece is a beautiful work in minimalist style," said Fritz Gearhart, a violinist and faculty member who will perform with Vargas and Shelton. Kathryn Lucktenberg, also a faculty member, will join Gearhart in

playing violin during the piece.

The performance will also include pieces from the 17th century to the 20th century, including works by Handel, Brahms and a set of duets by Mendelssohn.

In his lecture preceding the performance, Hurwitz will examine the relationship between the words of the pieces and the way the composer set the music. He said this will help the listener understand how "the music provides a window into the way the composer interprets the words."

Gearhart said Beall Concert Hall, which seats about 500 people, provides the ideal setting for an intimate interaction between the audience and the performers.

"Beall Hall is one of the best chamber music halls in the country," he said. "The sound is beautiful and robust."

Forum calls for hazing awareness, prevention

■ A nationally acclaimed author and journalist warns that the problem extends beyond the Greek system

By Lauretta DeForge
for the Emerald

When hazing results in injury or death, it is a serious problem that impacts the whole community. The problem is also easily preventable.

These were two of Hank Nuwer's central messages in an anti-hazing forum Monday night in the EMU Ballroom.

Nuwer, a nationally known authority on hazing, delivered a speech, "When Rites Become Wrongs," to headline the event. He is an author and television journalist whose segments about hazing have appeared on NBC Nightly News, CNN, ESPN and ABC's 20/20.

"From 1970 to 2000, there was at least one death of a student from hazing each year," said Nuwer, also a former fraternity member.

He called on audience members to help make 2001 the first year free from hazing deaths.

When Acasia Wilson, contemporary issues coordinator for the Cultural Forum, introduced Nuwer, she asked the audience how many had actually heard of a hazing incident. The majority of the audience members raised their hands.

"Hazing is an issue that affects the entire campus," Wilson said. "There is hazing in sports, housing and the military — not just the

Greek system."

Though there have been few recent deaths in Oregon from hazing, "it is still a topic that is worth discussing," said Hannah Unkefer, spokeswoman for the University's Panhellenic Council.

Hazing is defined as "a power struggle where someone who is new to the group gives up power with the expectation of getting it back later," Nuwer said.

"My next book will be about hazing in the Russian military since my grandfather, who was Polish, was conscripted into the Russian military for life," she said. "My grandfather and his brother managed to escape."

Hazing incidents often include alcohol, which makes the victim and the perpetrators both do things that they would never do sober, Nuwer said. One example is fraternity members' pouring alcohol down the throat of someone who is already unconscious.

Nuwer said that though hazing is often considered a fraternity problem, it is also rampant in bands, military organizations and sports.

He presented stories, including photographs, of five young men who died in hazing incidents and described how catastrophic the deaths were for the victims' families and fraternity brothers.

Hazing can involve verbal abuse, physical abuse and excessive calisthenics. It also includes the rite of passage in the military known as "pinning," or shoving a metal pin into an aviator's chest, Nuwer said.

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