

Lanetta Paul and Friends give winter concert

By Sabrina Thompson
EO Media Group

The melodious sounds of music will fill the La Grande United Methodist Church as Lanetta Paul and Friends put on their annual winter concert at 3 p.m. Dec. 15.

The show will feature select artists performing a variety of songs and genres including EOU Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences Peter Wordelman, Jason Lineback, scholarship winner Daniel Durrell and a surprise guest.

"I wanted to bring music that audience members would like," concert organizer Lanetta Paul said.

The concert has been held for more than 20 years, and at the suggestion of Wordelman, it offers a select EOU performer a scholarship. Endowed scholarships have ranged from \$10,000 to \$40,000, with this year's recipient receiving \$15,000.

"It means quite a lot to me," Durrell said. "I didn't have to take out loans this year."

Durrell has been playing piano for 16 years, ever since his parents required him to take up an instrument. When he had the option to stop in high school, he chose to continue and then to pursue a degree in music at EOU.

"Music allows you to express yourself," Durrell said. "The easiest way for me to express myself is through piano. I love the way it sounds, the tones you produce."

Durrell said he loves to perform because it is a celebration and it gives him an opportunity to be vulnerable. He enjoys showing people what he has to offer, especially when not everyone may be familiar with the particular song or type of music.

Another EOU student performing in the concert will lend his tenor voice to a number of songs. Although Lineback has been singing since only 2014, he has strong control of his voice.

"I like to do it because it's the one thing I'm good at," Lineback



Jason Lineback, a student at EOU, sings tenor.

said. "Singing is such an excellent form of storytelling and conveying emotion."

Before his senior year of high school, Lineback said, he had little idea of what he wanted to do in life. When he joined the choir, he found his passion in performing. He has been in several EOU productions and welcomes the chance to get on

stage and have his voice heard.

"There is something so uplifting in making someone's day better by performing," Lineback said. "And seeing your hard work come together is great too."

Admission is free. Donations will go to the Lanetta Paul Foundation, which funds the scholarship and the annual concert.



Lanetta Paul Foundation Scholarship recipient Daniel Durrell will perform during the Dec. 15 concert at the Methodist Church.

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