

End of term concerts commencing



Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Members of the Chamber Choir take time away from their rehearsals for the upcoming holiday choir concerts set for Dec. 3rd and 5th

Becky Wiley The Clackamas Print

The holiday season is just around the corner, and preparations for the upcoming band and choir concerts have been completed with the help of instructors Dave Mills and Lonnie Cline.

All throughout the new music building sounds of glorious voices and instruments can be heard practicing for the three biggest nights of this time. This end of the term special allows students to celebrate by going out with a bang.

The dates are approaching fast, and it's time to spread the word of the wonderful talents of the music department of Clackamas. Come enjoy yourself at the band and choir concerts near the end of this term.

The band concert will be performed on Nov. 24. According to the band students, the concert should last about 45 minutes, and snacks and refreshments will be available after the concert.

"I hope the faculty and students come

and hear the band," encouraged Director Dave Mills. "It's the Thanksgiving and a chance to really great music."

Five pieces have been featured on this event, and featured musician Phillip Sparke, Gustav Mahler are planned to be performed.

As for the choir concert, A. Vivaldi will be performed at Mary's Cathedral in Portland. Clackamas Choir, Choral Concertante Orchestra, and perform on Dec. 3. The show promptly at 7:30 p.m. The ticket price is \$10, adults \$22, and \$16.

Christmas by Candlelight choir concert, is Dec. 5. Admission is free for this show. John the Apostle Church, under the direction of Lonnie Clackamas Chamber Choir will carry out beloved holiday songs.

You wouldn't want to miss three shows, so come have a good time as you check them out.

Final CD concludes Smith's epic career

Ben Margis The Clackamas Print

One year after he tragically ended his own life in a Los Angeles apartment, friends and family of indie-rock martyr and Portland native Elliott Smith have given fans one last thing to remember him by: the release of his final album, the unfinished "From a Basement on the Hill."

The LP, almost complete upon the time of Elliott's death, is a collaborative effort by ex-band members and loved ones, compiling and putting the finishing touches on songs "how Elliott would have wanted it," using his cryptic memoirs as guides.

The album opens with the track "Coast to Coast," a swirling mesh of epic guitars and drums, cut by Elliott's signature soft tenor voice.

Changing gears completely, the next song, "Let's Get Lost,"

shines as an example of what Elliott was best at: simple guitar/vocal based biographical hymns of confession. The song would not have sounded at all out of place on his first, self-titled release, setting fans at ease that this would not be an overproduced letdown.

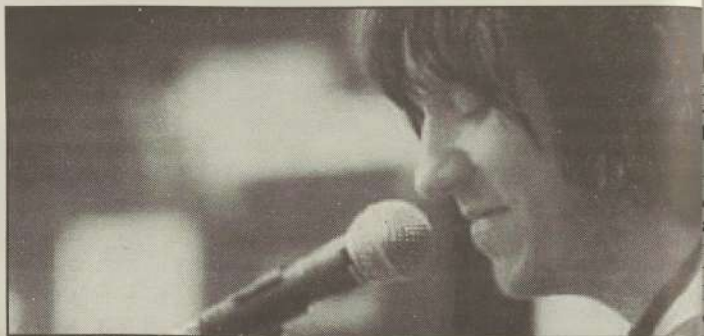
In his typical style, the most remarkable thing is the amount

of wit put into the lyrics. The track "Pretty (Ugly Before)" would be a typical love song if it didn't seem to be a perfect mockery of one, with its saccharine sweet lyrics of love, offset with a nihilistic minor-key edge which leaves the listener unsure of how to feel about the song, besides in awe of the intense emotion and musicality.

Possibly the album's best track would be the heart-wrenching "Twilight," in which, backed by a chorus of strings, chirping crickets and croaking frogs, Elliott laments, "You don't deserve to be lonely, but those drugs you got won't make

"You don't deserve to be lonely, but those drugs you got won't make you feel better."

Elliott Smith
Musician
1969-2003



ELLIOTT SMITH

you feel better. Pretty soon you'll find it's the only little part of your life you're keeping together." Throughout the song, the listener can't help but wonder if this is a final peek into his head, and is a more autobiographical than extroverted tale.

One would expect an album like "From a Basement on the Hill" to close with a mournful ballad, but instead it closes with the upbeat and almost defiant "A Distorted View is Now a

Necessity to be Free," which says it all.

In the end, the disappointing about "From a Basement on the Hill" is his last. Although the work by any means has been done a million times, it would have made a great adventure in a production. But most of all, it is a tribute and a reminder of how much he will be missed.

'Mr. Norrell'; lengthy book that's worth every page of reading

Katie Wilson The Clackamas Print

Once upon a time there was a man in England called the Raven King and he was the greatest magician of all. But this was many centuries ago and magic has long since vanished from England.

It is now the beginning of the nineteenth century. The Raven King has been reduced to the position of resident obscure poetical device. The King of England is mad as a bat and nobody believes in practical magic anymore.

Enter Mr. Norrell, reclusive, fussy and a practical magician. When he causes the statues in

York Cathedral to move and speak, the news begins to spread that magic is coming back to England. Mr. Norrell settles in London and decides it is his calling to use magic to aid England in the war against Napoleon.

Next enter Jonathan Strange, the brilliant, charming, and rich young cad that becomes Norrell's pupil and who quickly begins to surpass his tutor. Together Norrell and Strange astonish England—and most of the populated world—with their accomplishments.

But as Strange's skills increase so does his fascination with the wilder, "Raven King"-side of practical magic. The partnership between the two magicians of

England quickly turns into a rivalry as the secretive Norrell hordes books of magic and tries to keep his pupil back while Strange breaks away to develop his own dangerous powers. However his heedless pursuit threatens not just his partnership with Norrell, but the fate of England as well.

The novel "Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell" by Susanna Clarke took



her over 10 years to write and research. The result is a book that reaches 782 pages long, and is one of the best books I've had the time to finish in a while. It would probably be termed a fantasy, but it is quite unlike "fantasy" as most people know. It reads more like historical fiction.

In this book there are no purple explosions and leather-bound wench- es. There are Lord Wellington, resurrection of the dead, eternal night, a

prophecy, not a few women, and a lot of footnotes relating to magic in England. It is Clarke's work, and it is hard to believe such English magic did not exist.

Some readers find Clarke's writing tedious. The book is slightly modern in voice after all. All can sometimes slip into text. The sheer length is another issue for people. It is a big book. I found that once you begin to wish it longer—even that it end. So I suggest you book drag you in.

We want your worst holiday story

We are looking for a reader who has the worst of all worst Holiday stories. There are three rules: First each story must be kept under 200 words. Second, email stories to A&Eed@clackamas.edu by Friday November 26 at 1 p.m., finally we need your name and contact information. If we print your story you win a great prize.

