

Students Showcase Vocal Versatility

Classical opera, religious and folk songs performed in spring recital

By Reginald D. White
A&E Editor

On April 7, 11 vocal music majors hosted their annual spring recital as part of their underclassman curriculum. For an hour Tuesday afternoon, Dr. Jeffrey Sykes, vocal coach and lecturer, accompanied the students as they sang classical pieces ranging from 16th Italian opera to Southern American folk songs, by composers such as Robert Schumann, Mozart, and Beethoven.

Since the Vocal Music Department at Cal State East Bay focuses on classical performance and technique, the singers chose songs that showcased the depth and breadth of their curriculum over the past two quarters.

The recital began with sophomore Dina Marawala performing a piece from a Robert Schumann 19th century opera. Marawala, one of the featured singers from CSUEB's recent jazz musical "Sophisticated Ladies," surprised some of the audience members with her range and versatility.

"I didn't know she could sing like that too," said Senior Grace Khasar, a theatre arts major. "She was great in 'Sophisticated Ladies'; I didn't know she could do classical just as well. That was impressive."

The recital flowed nicely and featured a nice mix of both male and female voices, from Sabrina Serna-Vasquez's haunting rendition of



All That Jazz...And Then Some: Sophomore Dina Marawala enchants the audience with her stirring rendition of a classic German opera.

Photo/Reginald D. White

"O Lord Have Mercy," to Jae Kim's soothing "Exultate Deo."

Senior music student Tristram Duncan, enjoyed the variety in the song selection and the quality of the performances.

"I thought they did a nice job picking a wide variety of music," Duncan

said. "You could tell that they all worked really hard on these pieces, and it showed."

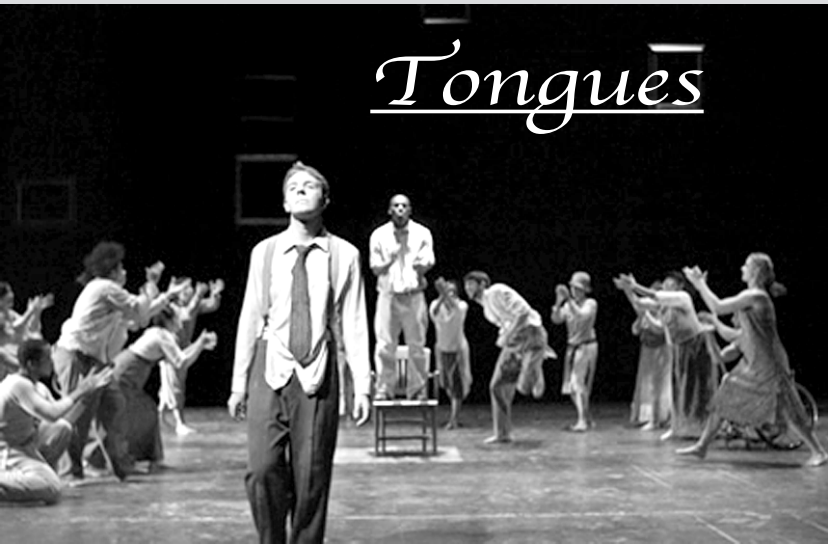
The music department holds several recitals each quarter and features instrumental recitals as well as vocal. Check music.csueastbay.edu for dates and details.

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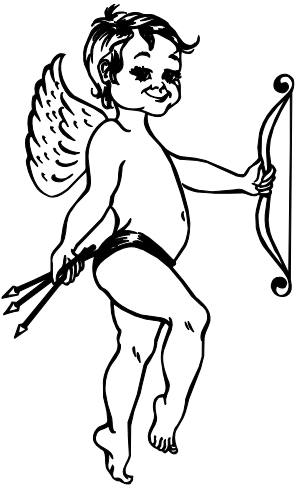
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