

Choral Union Spring 2024

Chorus

Out of all the concerts, I connected with the music at this one the most because it taught me the fulfilling lesson that being an active listener leads to limitless curiosity and opportunity to become familiar with the unknown.

I know these students are my age and can make their voices sound like wow.

Orchestra

My favorite of the night however was the Chamber Orchestra Strings and Phil Tyler's performance of The Lark Ascending by R.Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) from the Romantic Period. This is the second time I've heard this piece and I have never been so moved by music from an orchestral genre before. It is program music, a piece inspired by a poem about a lark rising. Tyler's sheer skill on the violin was captivating as well, this time I appreciated even more when the whole orchestra dropped out and we all held our breaths to hear him play. I wrote in my notes that it was the kind of extraordinary beauty that makes you want to cry.

From a vet:

It would be a crime not to mention Dr. Phillip Tyler's Violin solo in The Lark Ascending. To call the solo beautiful would be understating it. His ability to harmonize with the rest of the orchestra in such a beautiful and relaxing manner really made me feel like I was on vacation in a way that allowed me to relax in a way I have not felt for years. This piece reminded me of the aftermath of a vicious battle where when the dust settles you find your friend still alive. Overall I went into the concert because it was assigned but left with a positive experience I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

My absolute favorite part was the second piece, The Lark Ascending, which was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams in the modern period of music. I am always impressed by the high chords Dr. Philip Tyler is able to hit on the violin, and how much emotion it inspires. The violin has such a distinct and beautiful timbre in this piece.

I didn't expect to be emotionally engaged in the piece until Dr. Tyler started playing the violin, which sounded stunning.

while this piece was being played I didn't think about anything other than the music being played and when it was over I felt an overwhelming feeling of pure enjoyment. I know that this feeling was not just felt by me, I was sitting next to my friend, Jack Cole, and we both have little experience with this kind of music and we looked at each other and agreed that the performance was spectacular, and we have been talking about it ever since the performance ended.

One of the aspects of the performance that I really enjoyed was the ending parts of all the pieces. I remember at the start of the year one of the assigned videos we had to watch talked about how some pieces would delay the ending of a piece and the tonic note. I noticed this in all of the pieces at the performance and it was awesome. Waiting for the inevitable ending of the piece and just when I thought that it was over they kept delaying the last note. Constantly

Philip Tyler. He had an incredible performance along with the rest of the orchestra, but his violin playing was so magical and ethereal. The song felt right out of a glorious mountain scene, while the sun rose and lit up the sky.