

Arts & Letters

The Center for Arts & Letters
at Rockhurst University

March/April 2011

Mozart's *Requiem* Caps Musica Sacra's 20th Concert Season

Rebecca Lloyd, Un-Chong Christopher, Jacob Sentgeorge and Chad Flynn, four of Kansas City's finest professional vocalists, will join Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra Saturday, April 16, to crown the ensemble's 20th-Anniversary Season with a performance of Mozart's glorious *Requiem in D Minor*, KV 626.

Soprano Rebecca Lloyd is well-known in the region for her performances with the Kansas City Symphony, Kansas City Chamber Orchestra and the Bach Aria Soloists. Mezzo-soprano Un-Chong Christopher has graced the opera and oratorio stage and is Lloyd's colleague in the Bach Aria Soloists. Tenor Jacob Sentgeorge and baritone Chad Flynn have been active in operatic and concert performances in the United States and abroad.

The *Requiem* remains one of the most popular and profound works for chorus, vocal soloists and orchestra. Even the orchestration adds to the unique flavor of the music. Rather than scoring the winds with the traditional flutes and oboes, Mozart

chose basset horns (the closely related clarinets are usually used today), which adds a darker and more somber color to the music. The *Requiem* is among the most sublime music ever composed.

In addition, the soloists and ensemble will perform Mozart's *Missa Brevis in F Major*, KV 192. Known as the *Kleine Credo* ("Little Credo Mass") for the repetition of the words "Credo, Credo" in the longest movement, the work was composed for Salzburg Cathedral in 1774.

Join some of Kansas City's best vocal and instrumental talent as they conclude their 20th-Anniversary Season. The concert will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 16, at St. Francis Xavier Church, 52nd and Troost. Director Timothy L. McDonald will present "Live Program Notes" at 6:15 p.m.

For Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra tickets, call the Central Ticket Office at (816) 235-6222, order online at www.rockhurst.edu/mstickets or purchase at the concert.

Return to the Classics to Discuss Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

Return to the Classics, a book discussion group, will analyze Ovid's *Metamorphoses* at 7 p.m. Monday, March 28, in Massman Hall, Room 241.

Born Publius Ovidius Naso in 43 B.C., one year after the death of Julius Caesar, Ovid was considered one of Rome's greatest poets. His influence on Western art and literature cannot be overstated. Writers including Dante, Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton drew their inspiration from *Metamorphoses* as well as artists who have depicted scenes from Ovid's work in their paintings.

The *Metamorphoses*, a single poem of 15 books completed around A.D. 8, is written in dactylic hexameter, the meter of epic. *Metamorphoses'* roughly 250 stories are loosely arranged in chronological order from the creation of the universe to the Augustan Rome of his own time.

To reserve a space in the book discussion led by Tom Ventresca, '70, contact The Center for Arts and Letters at (816) 501-4607. The cost, \$25 per person, includes the discussion, a copy of the book and refreshments.

Plays-in-Progress Workshop April 20

Rockhurst's Plays-in-Progress Workshop will present a reading of the spring 2011 playwriting contest winner at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, in Sedgwick Hall, Room 115.

Student actors will read the work. After the reading, audience members will discuss the play with the playwright, actors and director. A reception follows the reading.

Donations will be accepted at the door. For more information, contact the Plays-in-Progress Program Director Charles Kovich, Ph.D., at (816) 501-4034.

Events Calendar

Unless otherwise indicated,
all events listed below are free of charge.

March 16, 23, 30
Film Series
March 16 – *The Lion in Winter*
March 23 – *Scaramouche*
March 30 – *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
Mabee Theater
\$3 each film, \$7 for the series

March 21
Visiting Scholar
Lecture Series
Brenda Cardenas, M.F.A.
"New Directions in Contemporary Latinola Poetry"
Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall
Register attendance:
(816) 501-4828

March 24
Midwest Poets Lecture Series
David Clewell
Thursday, 7 p.m.
Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall
Admission: \$3

March 27
Rockhurst Chorus, Chamber Singers & Women's Chorale
Spring Concert
Sunday, 2 p.m.
Mabee Chapel, Massman Hall
Free

March 28
Return to the Classics
Metamorphosis by Ovid
Monday, 7 p.m.
Massman Hall, Room 241
Cost: \$25 (includes book, reception)

April 16
Musica Sacra Chorus & Orchestra
Mozart's *Requiem*
Saturday, 7 p.m.;
Live Program Notes 6:15 p.m.
St. Francis Xavier Church
52nd and Troost Avenue
Tickets: \$18 adults, \$12 students & Senior Citizens
Central Ticket Office
(816) 235-6222
or purchase at the door or at
www.rockhurst.edu/mstickets

April 18-19
Rockhurst Theatre
theatreworks
Monday & Tuesday, 8 p.m.
Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall
Donations accepted at the door

April 20
Plays-in-Progress Workshop
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Sedgwick Hall, Room 115
Donations accepted at the door
Reception follows

April 29 – May 13
Greenlease Gallery
Exchange
Curated by Luke Pretz
Opening Reception
Friday, April 29
Gallery Talk: 6:30 p.m.
Reception: 7-9 p.m.

Greenlease Gallery's Exhibition Season Closes with Focus on Art, Economy

Rockhurst University senior Luke Pretz makes his curatorial debut in the Greenlease Gallery with an invitational group exhibition titled *Exchange*, which opens on Friday, April 29.

Pretz, who is an economics, philosophy and math major, will explore the conceptual and practical views of economics through art. Artists' multiple medium works will explore the current economy's impact on human lives.

Pretz says that "as a student, I have always been interested in expanding my academic fields of study and applying an interdisciplinary approach toward the ideas and methodologies to the questions I have sought to answer. *Exchange* seeks to expand the study of economics by introducing art as a new and effective means of investigation that sheds light on how we should understand economics."

Pretz received a dean's fellowship for his senior project, which culminates with the *Exchange* exhibition. Pretz has worked in the Greenlease Gallery as a curatorial assistant since his freshman year at the University.

Exchange opens with a 6:30 p.m. curatorial talk by Pretz followed by a 7-9 p.m. reception Friday, April 29, in the Greenlease Gallery. *Exchange* will run through May 13. For information, call Anne Pearce at (816) 501-4407 or e-mail anne.pearce@rockhurst.edu.

Film Series Offers Glimpses Into Some of History's Most Colorful Periods

The Rockhurst Film Series and the University's history department present three films that represent different historical periods and cinematic approaches as they make their subjects come to life. Rockhurst faculty will introduce the films and conduct a post-screening discussion. The films will be shown in Mabee Theater; admission is \$3 or \$7 for the series.

March 16 *The Lion in Winter* (1968) This film tells the bitter, funny, heartbreaking struggle between King Henry II, his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine and their sons as they battle for control of a kingdom in 12th century England. With Peter O'Toole and Katherine Hepburn; directed by Anthony Harvey (135 min.)

March 23 *Scaramouche* (1924) Based on Rafael Sabatini's novel about a rogue who becomes a famous actor and then a hero during the French Revolution, this film is a perfect example of silent film storytelling with a sumptuous production and rousing action. With Ramon Novarro; directed by Rex Ingram (124 min.)

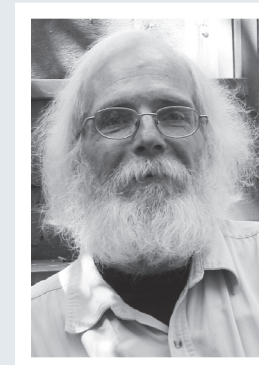
March 30 *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* (1965) A dose of reality during the super spy craze in the '60s, this adaptation of John Le Carre's novel offers a sobering look at Cold War espionage, which wasn't particularly heroic or romantic, merely a dirty job that someone had to do. With Richard Burton and Claire Bloom; directed by Martin Ritt (112 min.)



Waiting for Mom, Steven Rubin, 2000, 15" x 23"

Missouri's Poet Laureate to Illuminate Mabee Theater March 24

David Clewell, Missouri Poet Laureate and author of eight books of poems, will make his first visit to Kansas City in 12 years to appear as the final event in the 28th season of the Midwest Poets Series. The Thursday, March 24, reading begins at 7 p.m. in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall. A reception and book signing will follow the reading.



Clewell's latest book, *Taken Somehow by Surprise*, won the Four Lakes Poetry Prize. It is scheduled for release in early 2011 (U. of Wisconsin Press). Other books include *The Low End of Higher Things* (Wisconsin, 2003) and two book-length poems, *The Conspiracy Quartet* and *Jack Ruby's America*.

Clewell's honors include the Felix Pollak Poetry Prize for *Now We're Getting Somewhere* (Wisconsin, 1994) and a National Poetry Series selection for *Blessings in Disguise* (Penguin, 1991). His poems often appear in *Poetry*, *The Georgia Review*, *Harper's* and *New Letters*. Clewell directs the English department's creative writing program at Webster University.

A literary critic once wrote of Clewell, "No poet on Earth explores, reveals and revels in the big and small wonders of being human quite so compellingly as David Clewell. Not only is he a master poet, he is a profoundly humane human being, a man not afraid to feel deeply, to fall head-over-heels in love with real life in all its pop-cultural, kitschy glory, and to publicly share that love in language so infectious, personal and just plain F-U-N that your heart has little choice but to dance exuberantly along."

Clewell's reading promises to be boisterous, fun, powerful and unforgettable. Admission is \$3 at the door. No one will be denied admission for lack of funds. For more information, call The Center for Arts and Letters at (816) 501-4607.

Writer Brenda Cárdenas Details Elements of Contemporary Latino/a Poetry

Brenda Cárdenas, assistant professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, will deliver the Alpha Sigma Nu lecture for the Visiting Scholar Lecture Series titled, "New Directions in Contemporary Latino/a Poetry." In her March 21 talk, Cárdenas will explore various aspects of Latino/a poetry and attempt to make the field accessible to the non-specialist. The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall.

A native of Milwaukee, Wis., Cárdenas is the author of two poetry collections, *From the Tongues of Brick and Stone* (Momotombo Press) and *Boomerang* (Bilingual Review Press), and the co-editor of *Between the Heart and the Land / Entre el corazon y la tierra: Latina Poets in the Midwest*.

Cárdenas writes in a blend of English, Spanish and the indigenous languages of Nahuatl and Quechua, which she says reflects her interest in "the interconnectedness and juxtapositions of difference and similarity between seemingly disparate peoples, events, places and experiences." Cárdenas further explains, "I am experimenting with the harmonies, dissonances and rhythmical nuances that emerge via the patois [and reflect] the larger notion of cultural transformation via syncretism and polyphony."

While she often writes in free verse, Cárdenas also experiments with a variety of forms. As the poet Craig Santos Perez notes, her "syncretic formal impulse reflects the polyphonic texture of Cárdenas's language-scape."

Her poetry has appeared in a number of anthologies and journals, including *The City Visible: Chicago Poetry for the New Century* (2007), *The Wind Shifts: New Latino Poetry* (2007), *Poetic Voices Without Borders* (2005) and *Bum Rush the Page: A Def Poetry Jam* (2001).

Born into a working-class family, the granddaughter of "mom-and-pop" shopkeepers, Cárdenas received her B.A. in English from The University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, in 1987 before earning her M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Her creative experiences as a talented poet coupled with her years as an outstanding teacher enable Cárdenas to extend an inviting hand to us as she brings Latino/a poetry to life for her audience. Rockhurst University and Alpha Sigma Nu are grateful for the opportunity to host this fresh voice on the poetry scene as part of the Visiting Scholar Lecture Series.

To register your attendance to this free lecture, call (816) 501-4828.





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Rockhurst's Student Choruses Perform American Standards

The Rockhurst University Chorus, under the direction of Timothy L. McDonald, Ph.D., and the Chamber Singers and Women's Chorale, under the direction of Kristana Weiler, DMA, have selected music from The Great American Songbook for students to perform in their spring concert Sunday, March 27. The concert will begin at 2 p.m. in Massman Hall.

The Great American Songbook, a term and classification used to describe "the best" 20th-century songs from the 1920s to the 1960s from Broadway, Hollywood, New Orleans and Tin Pan Alley, represents music from the golden period of

George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern and others.

The program will include music associated with artists and writers such as Duke Ellington ("Don't Get Around Much Anymore"), Ella Fitzgerald ("A Tisket-a-Tasket"), Johnny Mercer ("Skylark"), Jerome Kern ("The Way You Look Tonight") and Billie Holiday ("God Bless the Child").

The concert is free; no tickets are required. For more information, contact Prof. Weiler at (816) 501-4741.

Rockhurst Theatre's Student Group Presents Two Evenings of One-Act Plays

Rockhurst University Players, a student organization, will present two nights of one-act plays in its annual presentation of *theatreworks*. Performances begin at 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, April 18 and 19, in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall.

Theatreworks' one-act format gives student playwrights an opportunity to see their works performed. Transforming

playwrights' works from paper to stage helps writers learn and grow. Students who sit in the director's chair and students who perform on stage also learn from this process.

Tickets are not required for these free performances. For more information, call Rockhurst Theatre Director Susan Proctor at (816) 501-4040 or e-mail susan.proctor@rockhurst.edu.