Student Choruses Perform Concert Tradition Dec. 3

Ceremony of Lessons and Carols, an enduring and endearing Rockhurst University tradition, will be performed by more than 30 student voices at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, in St. Francis Xavier Church, 52nd and Troost Avenue.

Pianist Jiyun Chung, along with an instrumental ensemble of string quartet, oboe and flute, will accompany the Rockhurst University Chorus, Chamber Singers and Women’s Chorale.

Thousands of audience members have experienced the joy of this holiday event during the past 21 years. Beloved traditions punctuate the concert—traditional and nontraditional seasonal music; scriptural readings representing the Christmas story; carols sung by the choruses and audience, which includes the popular rendition of “Silent Night”; and the program’s signature finale—the hauntingly beautiful “O Holy Night.”

Musica Sacra Celebrates Christmas in Baroque Tradition

Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra celebrates the joys of the season Friday, Dec. 2, at St. Francis Xavier Church.

The concert features the Magnificat, RV 611, by Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741). The Magnificat—a setting of Mary’s canticle of praise from the Gospel of Luke—survives in two versions. Musica Sacra will perform the original setting, most likely composed around 1717. The work was originally intended for performance by young girls from the Venetian orphanage where Vivaldi served as teacher and composer.

Musica Sacra also will feature the music of Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707), one of the primary influences on the sacred music of J. S. Bach. Buxtehude’s Advent cantata Kommst du, Licht der Heiden (Come, You Light of the Gentiles) is composed for chorus and strings. It sets the popular Lutheran chorale in five strophes or verses.

Additionally, Musica Sacra will perform Henry Purcell’s rarely heard Behold, I Bring You Glad Tidings, originally composed for England’s Chapel Royal for Christmas 1687.

Keeping with tradition, Musica Sacra will conclude the concert with Christmas carols, an audience favorite.

The concert will take place at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, at St. Francis Xavier Church, 52nd and Troost Avenue. Live Program Notes begins at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are available by calling the Central Ticket Office at (816) 235-6222, www.rockhurst.edu/mstickets or at the performance.

Submissions Requested for Fine Arts Journal

Rockhurst Review is accepting original, unpublished poems, essays, short fiction, drama and artwork for its 2012 journal until Jan. 13.

Requirements include: fiction and essays not to exceed 2,500 words; dramas not to exceed 10 pages; poems not to exceed 10 pages with a five-poem maximum; and art not to exceed five photographs and photographs of one’s own artwork.

Include a brief biography, address, phone number, e-mail address and cover letter. Send electronic submissions to rockhurstreview@hawks.rockhurst.edu. In the subject line, include your name and “submission.” Mail entries to Rockhurst Review, Patricia Cleary Miller, Dept. of English, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Manuscripts will not be returned.
Michelle Boisseau's books of poems include *A Sunday in God-Years* (University of Arkansas Press, 2009), nominated for the Pulitzer Prize; *Trembling Air* (Arkansas, 2003), finalist for the PEN USA award; *Understory* (Northeastern University Press, 1996), winner of the Morse Prize; and *No Private Life* (Vanderbilt, 1990).

Boisseau has become a well-known, forceful presence in the poetry and intellectual scene—in this region and in the nation. Her co-authored book, *Writing Poems*, is the most widely used poetry writing text in the country. Fans of her writing include such poets as Eleanor Wilner and Mark Jarman. One of the nation's top literary critics, Donna Seaman, has singled her out as "a go-to poet for readers leery of poetry. Not that her work isn't avidly admired by poetry-lovers,” Seaman adds, but “incomprehensibility, pretension and narcissism—are wholly absent in her welcoming, lucid and provocative lyrics." One finds, instead, lyrics, images, sound patterns and content, a concern for humanity, rare among other poets writing today. "If you step back, way back in time and look down on earth from a god's-eye view," Michelle Boisseau has said concerning her latest book, *A Sunday in God-Years*, "all human history, really every event on earth, might look like it happened on a Sunday afternoon when God was taking a nap. Strange as it might sound, I find comfort in taking a long view."

Few greater poems have been written in modern times than “Done,” a tribute to a World War II vet in which the poem starts at the end of his life: "And then the white gloves fold the flag." This poem from *Trembling Air* and her newest book, *God-Years*, take us into meditations on human accomplishments and follies, asking us to think harder and deeper about the world we have created. In one passage, recalling the Civil War, she writes, "and it is time / for my Confederate great-grandfather / to get gut shot." All the while, Boisseau does not release her long view, full of promise. At the end of "Night Valley," she can’t resist a signature moment, “We are born for longing.”

BestNewPoemsOnline.com has written that Michelle Boisseau’s poems exhibit “a mature spirituality and a sensitivity toward people of other beliefs that we find encouraging.”


Boisseau is a professor in the Masters of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing and Media Arts in the English department at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she is also an editor of BkMk Press.

Join the celebration at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall. Admission is $3 at the door. No one will be denied admittance for lack of funds. A reception and book signing follow the reading. For more information, call (816) 501-4607.
Greenlease Gallery Exhibit Focuses on Mystical Agents

Guest curator Elisabeth J. Kirsch has gathered some of the nation’s most talented artists to mount an exhibition titled “Celestial Terrestrials: Between Heaven and Earth” in the Greenlease Gallery. Paintings, works on paper, sculpture, and videos reflect the complex subject of supernatural intermediaries. Artists from Kansas City and around the country include Marcus Cain, Tanya Hartman, Jessica Kincaid, Christopher Leitch, Linda Lighton, Kim Lindaberry, Richard Montoya, Dylan Mortimer, Nora Othic, John Sandbach, Scribe, Ron Slowinski, Sun Smith-Foret, Renee Stout, Vivian Torrence, Richard Welnowski, and Dan Younger.

From prehistoric cave paintings to guardian figures on African reliquaries to countless statues of saints and angels—humans have always sought help from spirit guides. People have prayed, danced, and sung in order to entreat invisible entities and energies to intercede with the creator or universal life force on their behalf.

Graphic novels and blockbuster movies featuring Spiderman, Superman, X-Men and countless others striving to save humankind have never been more popular. Obsession with aliens, the undead, and super-galactic creatures also has seeped into both low- and high-brow culture.

Kirsch has worked as a contemporary art curator, administrator, historian and critic in New York City and Kansas City since 1976. She has curated more than 100 exhibitions and has written numerous art catalogs and more than 600 articles for regional and national publications.

The exhibit, which opened Oct. 21, will be on display until Dec. 3. For information, contact Gallery Director Anne Pearce, (816) 501-4077 or anne.pearce@rockhurst.edu.

Center for Arts and Letters Selects Switzerland, Italy for Its 2012 Trip

Switzerland and Italy, the Center for Arts and Letters’ April 25-May 4 destinations, offer travelers some of the most breathtaking and picturesque sights in Europe: magical mountains, crystal-clear lakes, fascinating cities, quaint villages and medieval towns, intriguing islands and, yes, palm trees. Overnight stays include Lucerne and Montreux, Switzerland, and Stresa, Italy.

After our overnight flight, we arrive in Zurich, where we tour the city’s Old Town — with its narrow and winding streets, full of shops and cafes. We then head to Lucerne — our home for two nights.

Lucerne’s charm emanates from its fabulous covered bridges, historic monuments and well-preserved churches. Our tour takes us to the famed Chapel Bridge, a 13th-century covered bridge decorated with medieval paintings; the Lion Monument that honors the Swiss Guard; and the 1660 Jesuit Church, considered to be the most beautiful baroque church in Switzerland.

We will take a cogwheel train to the summit of Mt. Rigi, known as the queen of the mountains, where “you can see forever.” We return to Lucerne by train and boat across Lake Lucerne.

We will visit the Castle of Chillon, an architectural jewel located in the most beautiful setting imaginable—between the shores of Lake Geneva and the Alps. With more than 1,000 years of history, the castle has always inspired artists and writers, including Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Victor Hugo and Lord Byron.

Day trips from Montreux—our home for the next two nights, include a drive along the lake to Geneva for an optional Sunday mass, a guided tour of the city’s sights, and a cogwheel railway ride to Zermatt for a trip to the Gornergrat (weather permitting) to see the spectacular Matterhorn.

Next, we travel to Stresa, Italy, where we will stay for four nights, situated on spectacular Lake Maggiore. This area is known for its Mediterranean-like climate, where tropical and sub-tropical plants can grow year-round. A day trip includes a boat tour of the Borromean Islands. We visit Isola Bella, where the royal Borromeos built their summer palace and gardens; Isola Madre, which is also known for its gardens; and Isola dei Pescatori, which is noted for its quaint fishing village. We take a day trip to Lugano, the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland, which lies on Lake Lugano and is surrounded by mountains. Home to the Belvedere Gardens, Lugano is noted for its spectacular beauty and temperate weather. We will drive to Milan to visit the Duomo and see the city from the top of its spires, to shop in the Galleria Emmanuelle and to see da Vinci’s “Last Supper.”

For a complete itinerary and brochure, call The Center for Arts and Letters at (816) 501-4607 or e-mail cynthia.cartwright@rockhurst.edu.
Gone Missing at the Mabee Theater Nov. 17-20

This is not your typical musical. Gone Missing, a 2003 documentary musical created by The Civilians, was inspired by interviews of people who have lost someone or something dear to them. But, this play is less about the lost person or object and more about the nostalgia created by the loss.

Don’t expect this play to be a downer. It is full of catchy and clever songs that include “Etch a Sketch,” “Lost Horizon” and, of course, “Gone Missing,” which will leave you with a renewed respect for the maxim, “I didn’t know what I had until it was gone!”

Gone Missing will be performed in Mabee Theater (Sedgwick Hall) November 17-20. Performances begin at 8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. General admission is $10.

Susan Proctor directs the play with musical direction by Tom Kodera and choreography by Christopher Barksdale.

For more information, call Rockhurst Theatre Director Susan Proctor at (816) 501-4040.

The Brothers Karamazov Subject of Return to the Classics Discussion

The Brothers Karamazov, generally considered Fyodor Dostoevsky’s greatest novel, will be the topic of conversation at the Nov. 7 Return to the Classics. The great books discussion group, led by Tom Ventresca, ’70, will take place at 7 p.m. in Massman Hall, room 241.

The Brothers Karamazov, published in 1880, tells the story of the Karamazov family—Fyodor, the cynical and depraved father, and his grown sons Dimitri, a sensualist like his father; Ivan, a rationalist and intellectual; and Alyosha, the youngest son, open and pure. The plot consists of love triangles, a murder mystery and a courtroom drama. It is also a philosophical novel that explores the ethical debate of God, free will and morality.

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

Return to the Classics will discuss John Milton’s Paradise Lost at its next meeting on Monday, March 26. Books may be ordered by calling The Center for Arts and Letters.