

Corona Christmas Concert

BY DAVINA BELLINGER

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT HAS turned their traditional annual Christmas concert into a virtual concert due to the coronavirus this year. On December 4th, CSP's official YouTube will begin their concert at 7:30pm. The video will remain posted on Youtube from December 4th to January 15th. The concert will last approximately seventy minutes long. Throughout the concert there will be a virtual art gallery, and both the art and music departments will collaborate on this. Professor Shari Speer will put these different clips of each performance that the choir and other performing arts assembled from this semester.

Cate Vermeland will feature artworks displayed in the interludes after a couple of the performances. The music groups that will be performing are Christus Chorus, Chamber Strings, Jubilate, Vox 9, Vocal Jazz, and Handbells. There will also be a variety of different performance arts that will be included in the YouTube video. A couple of faculty staff members such as Nathan Kennedy will perform on piano. Grace Keck, a CSP senior, will also perform a special dance during the concert as well.

The concert's layout for the program will be divided into sections. The concert is told in order of the Bible. The program is titled *Go Tell the Mountain*, because it tells the story of the Gospel. The first section is called "On the Mountain," which relates to the story of Isaiah, "Tell It," which is the story of Jesus, and "Go," which applies to Christians' faith today.

The 29:11 African Gospel group from South Africa will be another featured group that will perform all the way from Africa. Originally, in the spring of 2020, the study abroad travel seminar for the music department was supposed to go on a trip to South Africa. It was unfortunately canceled due to the pandemic. Dr. David Mennicke arranged a traditional South African piece called "Kwabona Kala," which means "Be Like Him." The "Ode to Joy" from Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 is also included. The mash-up of disparate music was inspired by 29:11's performance of the Ninth Symphony with the Minnesota Orchestra/Minnesota Chorale in the summer of 2018.

Another song that will be sung for the concert is "Away in a Manger" by past chapel choir/Christus Chorus conductor Robert Leininger, who passed away October 9. He wrote this arrangement for the 1974 Christmas Vespers service. They will perform this song to honor and celebrate his legacy to the CSP choral tradition.

Movie Review: *Rebecca*

BY KALYNA XIONG

REBECA IS FILLED WITH secrets to things that go behind doors as it tells the story of a young girl, played by Lily James, who marries a wealthy man and is haunted by the remnants of his previous wife in their home as she struggles to get the approval of those in it. The movie originally comes from the novel written by Daphne du Maurier. Although there is a 1940 version of the novel directed by Alfred Hitchcock, director Ben Wheatley attempted his own rendition. I have not seen Hitchcock's rendition of the film, but I have read the novel and thoroughly enjoyed it. When I heard about the film being released this year, I was ecstatic.

There have been a lot of mixed reviews of this film. There were people who thought it was well done, and there were people who thought Hitchcock's was better. As someone who has not seen the 1940 version of the movie, I cannot make much of a comparison. In relation to the novel, I would say the main plot points were hit. There were scenes I recognized and lines I remembered reading; that was very fulfilling to see.

Despite the film hitting the main points of the novel, there were some scenes and details added in that did not entirely make sense or had no real significance to the plot of the film. It almost seemed as if the film was divided into three parts: romance, thriller, and mystery. It made sense to create the movie in that way as the novel did seem to be like that; however, it

would have been better if it was more intertwined to balance it all out.

Most of the characters were portrayed well, but there were also some I wished were done better. Lily James played the role of female lead Mrs. de Winter. She did a good job as viewers are able to see her character growth. The liveliness and innocence in her eyes become more mature as the film reaches the end indicating how the experience Mrs. de Winter had changed her. Kristin Scott Thomas played Mrs. Danvers, the housekeeper who couldn't accept the marriage between the couple. She did great, but at the same time, something was missing from her character; it felt like she needed to be more sinister or cruel.

Throughout the film, it is evident to see how communication and honesty between a couple is important. When there wasn't any, characters were angry and upset, but when misunderstandings got resolved, there's a sense of peace.

The movie can be found on Netflix and runs about two hours. There's a lot to unpack within that time, but the pace isn't too rushed. The story is able to flow and play out all of the important scenes. There may be some questions that come to mind when watching, but everything makes sense in the end.

Book Review: *Children of Blood and Bone*

BY HAMZA ISMAIL

WHEN I FIRST READ *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi, I was surprised by how raw the book was. The book does not hold punches as it immerses the audience in the life of Zeile, a young diviner who's family is struggling to make ends meet. Due to her heritage as a diviner, a minority class in the kingdom of Orisha that can perform magic, Zeile hides her bright white hair and lives far from the capital. However, calamity strikes home and forces her and her brother Tzain, a kosidan, travel to the capitol. At the capitol, they save an unlikely ally from city guards; Princess Amari, daughter of the ruthless King Saran. King Saran, fearful of the diviners, started the Raid: a brutal event where he and his guards wiped out the mage clans and shut off their magic, effectively crippling them. Princess Amari stole a scroll from her father that gives Zeile hope for the future of magic, and off they go on an adventure to save their kingdom.

The worldbuilding is quite unique as it focuses on West African mythology, which is a breath of fresh air compared to the typical wizard or vampire creatures in young adult fiction. The world is set in the kingdom of Odisha with two distinct classes: the majority kosidan and the few diviners who hold the potential to wield magic. The creatures and magic system stem from West Africa as each mage clan, ten in total, wield unique powers given to them by their patron god. Water, fire, life and death are all used here but toned

down to help give the world a realistic view.

The biggest appeal is the themes of class and power that *Children of Blood and Bone* deliver so well. I was so invested in the unique world that I didn't even register the examples of police brutality and colorism in the book. The dominant group, the kosidan, are of lighter complexion and have strict rules against the mages. There is one scene where the king's armies confront a group of mages and violence erupts, eerily similar to protests against police injustice. The mages are hated and called maggots, a derogatory name that dehumanizes them, another allusion to America and its racial problems. Classism does exist, and it causes members of both sides, from the royal kosidans to the low classed magis, to rethink or enforce their beliefs. The book does have strong imagery of violence which does not turn the reader away but rather paints the brutal portrait of life magis. Magis do have a complicated past with their non magical brethren, which is explained later in the book.

One complaint I have is about the rushed ending which I believe could have helped set up the next two books in the trilogy. Overall, the book is fast paced with high stakes, all while exploring concepts such as class divide and racism in their book. It's no Harry Potter, and I say that as a good thing. The book does have funny and romantic moments, but it's not a childish book. *Children of Blood and Bone* is a unique book with great themes and a new world to dive into. Peace.