

## Music Senior Spotlight: Isaiah Hollman

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

ONE OF MARTIN LUTHER'S praises of music says: "I truly desire that all Christians would love and regard as worthy the lovely gift of music, which is a precious, worthy, and costly treasure given mankind by God." This love, respect, and passion is part of what led senior Isaiah Hollman to dedicating his life to God and music as a church music major in the Director of Parish Music program.

Isaiah comes from the city of Wausau, in our neighboring state of Wisconsin. It was during his early years in school there that he realized he wanted to pursue an artistic career. He also entertained the idea of going into pastoral ministry, for which he felt a strong calling. But he did not want to follow exactly in his brother's footsteps, who is a pastor in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in Texas. However, his brother previously preaching in Minnesota did influence the choice to attend Concordia University, St. Paul. Isaiah also recognized he would receive the best of both worlds, musically and theologically, at this institution.

Throughout his time at Concordia, Isaiah has had the chance to engage in several musical opportunities which would help him become more experienced in his studies as a church musician. He has been involved in several ensembles, including the Christus Chorus, concert band, handbells ensemble, and piano/organ lessons. He also previously took part in the Blue Rondo jazz band. Isaiah explains that the people he has gotten to know through these experiences inside and outside of Concordia are what influence and inspire his musical passions, rather than which composers and artists he enjoys listening to.

In particular, his relationships with his choir teachers were most influential. His high school choir teacher taught him that all people are capable of music, and he worked to get people outside of the music program,

including athletes, students of different ethnicities and religions, and students with disabilities interested in making music in some way or another. Dr. David Mennicke, head of the CSP choir program and conductor of the Christus Chorus, inspires many of his students studying to be music teachers the difference between a director and a conductor: "A director governs and gives demands; a conductor (as in science) allows energy to flow from one person to the other." This attitude towards treating music making as a community helps to drive Isaiah's love for helping people appreciate music.

With all things in life come challenges, and being a musician is never short of those. Being a musician can often seem competitive, and some of the feelings Isaiah says he struggles with relate to feelings of needing to be adequate and competent. "Because of my desire to prove myself, I find myself agreeing to do things that are just too much for me to handle. Whether it be extra ensembles, classes, tasks, jobs, whatever. I am learning this semester how to say "no" when I know that I simply cannot handle things." Another struggle that comes along with being a Christian in a musical career is the urge to compose, perform, or conduct for the purpose of self-glorification. "I dislike that because I know that everything that I do is for God's glory and my gifts are from him alone, not of my own doing. I don't like the fact that I want and need that affirmation that I am doing a good job." While these struggles may tarnish the joy of artistic creativity, it is important to focus on what makes the art enjoyable to make.

I've had the pleasure of knowing Isaiah through Christus Chorus and concert band, and his leadership as choir chaplain has helped many in Christus, including myself, to get through these difficult times. And I know that so many others will be blessed to know his genuine kindness and love for all children of God.

## Tortilla Wrap Trend Review

BY AALIYAH RATLIFF

DO YOU EVER SEE those cool cooking hacks and wonder if the ending result will actually be something delicious? I do too. One of the biggest cooking trends right now is the "tortilla wrap challenge" all over the social media platform tik tok. After watching all the breakfast tortilla hacks on TikTok I knew I had to try it! For the four fillings I chose shredded cheddar cheese, cheesy eggs, crispy beef bacon, and a sliced roma tomato. For an extra touch of flavor I added mayo to my tortilla wrap. After cooking and chopping the fillings, I folded the tortilla wrap and cooked each side to a golden brown. All of the flavors of each filling complimented each other amazingly well.

I really enjoyed making this dish. It was relatively easy and didn't take too long to make. I also really love the fact that almost anything can be used to fill your tortilla wrap. I have seen others on tik tok fill their tortillas with vegan options and even fruit.

The biggest downside of the tortilla wrap challenge is that it's more time consuming to make than tik tok leads people to believe. This is not the best recipe to make when you need a quick breakfast before classes. I'd recommend making this recipe when you have more time on your hands. Overall, the tortilla wrap recipe hack all over tik tok is worth the time and completely scrumptious! I will definitely be making this recipe again.

## The Ghost Sonata: A Ghostly Play Review

BY ERIKA SOUKUP

ASEEMINGLY BEAUTIFUL HOUSE. A secretive and terrifying family. Death and decay residing in every corner of every room. A strange and silent Ghost Supper. This is the next play chosen to be performed by the Theatre Department in Spring 2021. The Ghost Sonata was written by August Strindberg in 1907 with Strindberg being known for his expressionistic drama that ushered in a new age of theatre created a truly dynamic background for audiences and the department to work with.

While talking to Mark Rosenwinkel, the Artistic Director of the Theatre Department and director of The Ghost Sonata, he said about the story, "Written in 1907, right on the verge of film as a popular medium, it's really a precursor to the early expressionist cinema and ultimately the modern horror movie."

The entire story is focused on an upper class household that we learn contains many dark family secrets, revealed at the hands of a conniving, old man bent on revenge. The play is punctuated by "unreal" characters—ghosts, a mummy, a vampire—and the attempt is not to tell a realistic story but to reveal the nightmares that lie beneath it.

When asked why he chose this play in particular, Rosenwinkel responded, "I chose this play because it is considered a classic of modern drama by August Strindberg, one of the great dramatists of the late 19th and early 20th century. It's a play that's often read in classes, but not done that often, mostly because of its weirdness. Although I picked it before Covid, it turns out to be an excellent piece for live streaming because of all the unreal effects. The play demands vivid imagination to put forth; sets, costumes, sound/music, acting have to be exaggerated in some way, and it's been very fun to work with everyone in that process. I don't think I've ever done a show quite like this before."

But why is Ghost Sonata a play audience should be interested in seeing? "Strindberg was really imagining a cinematic experience, before anyone had any idea what that meant. It's unsettling, funny, dramatic, artistic, all at once. Audiences will likely have very different reactions to parts of it. It's a tremendous work of imagination, kind of like a Tim Burton movie. He perhaps comes closest to the style than any other modern film director. Playful, but unsettling at times. Social commentary, but devilish. As the title implies, it's more like a piece of music than simple story telling, and I'm really interested in what people think about it," Rosenwinkel says.

The play will be performed on February 19th and 20th at 7pm and the 21st at 2pm on a live stream. This play shows the shadows of an exaggerated world where every person, event, and situation is taken to an unprecedented level. Maybe we'll see you at the Ghost Supper?