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Student a capella group puts

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on holiday performance

By Glen Tadych
Trends Reporter

Students can kick off the holiday season Saturday with a musical celebration presented by the VocaLibre a capella group.

VocaLibre's end of the year concert, "Dance with Me," will be the group's first holiday-themed show of its kind. This year, the show will blend multiple musical styles, lighting sequences and setups to reflect the mood of featured music and connect with the audience.

"This concert will offer a true holiday spirit," said VocaLibre director Craig Aamot. "We're trying to break down the separation between the performers and the audience."

Rather than singing only standard holiday tunes, VocaLibre will perform pieces featuring styles such as a Gregorian chant, as well as contemporary rock and pop tunes. The group will perform the pieces in a manner that blends the songs together instead of a mere list of tunes.

"(Aamot) presents a montage of styles with this concert," said Thomas Miller, VocaLibre member and musical theatre freshman. "You see how the songs connect and present the same message."

In addition to the woven sounds of "Dance with Me," the concert will also feature a portion of dancing. The show will feature dancers from dance troupes Harambee and Texas State's Merge Dance Company, as well as VocaLibre members.

Kirstin Sims, music studies sophomore, expressed how the choreographed sections are a new activity for the ensemble to participate in, and moreover how they will enhance the concert experience.

"There's going to be a lot of movement in this performance," Sims said. "We've really been getting into it at rehearsals and it's going to be a fun concert."

The most important of the concert's attributes, however, will not be what the audience takes in with their eyes, but with their souls, said Kailyn O'Donnell, musical theatre freshman.

"'Dance with Me,' represents the human desire to live free, and to the fullest, while connecting with those around us," O'Donnell said.

The concert will provide those in attendance the motivation to join in life's dance and push to make them whole as a person, she said.

"It's going to reach out to everybody," O'Donnell said. "It's very inspirational and really well put together and thought through."

Despite the timing of the holiday season and atmosphere presented by "Dance with Me," the performance and VocaLibre intend to touch anyone and everyone.

"Yes, we're focusing on Christmas, but there's so much more to it than that," said Sims. "You don't have to celebrate Christmas to enjoy this show."

The curtain will go up on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Evans Liberal Arts auditorium.