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Music Concert Review #3

On May 27, 2017, I attended a senior recital performed by bassoon player, Emelia Banninger. This concert was mandatory for those trying to earn the Bachelor in Arts in Music. The only performers were Ms. Banninger, the bassoon player, and an accompanist, Susan Azaret Davies. Taking place in the Davidson Music Center, the concert consisted of five separate pieces, featuring music composed long time ago.

The first piece was *Bassoon Concerto in E minor* by Antonio Vivaldi. It featured three separate movements: Allegro poco, Andante, and Allegro. The Allegro poco movement had a bright start with a piano solo that then shifted to a bassoon and piano duet. It had two main elements: a ritornello theme that offered a feeling of an orchestra and the solo episode that mainly focused on Ms. Banninger. The second movement, Andante, contains a softer and quieter tone. It had similar rhythms alongside the first movement. The final movement, Allegro, as the name suggested, was a fast-paced piece. Throughout this piece, the speed of the music increased and it ended with immediate silence.

The next piece was *Rhapsody for Bassoon* by Wilson Osborne. The atmosphere of the concert changed as it turned into a bassoon solo throughout the duration of this piece. Ms. Banninger switched her instrument’s bocal. The piece had a slow and steady pace, giving a feeling of mystery. Afterwards, the accompanist played with Ms. Banninger for the remainder of the concert.

The third piece, *Six Studies in English Folk Song,* featured two separate studies. The first one was *Lovely on the Water* that had a calm, yet depressing mood. It portrays the story of a sailor who must leave his wife to fight for a war; a truly fitting theme. The next part was *the Lady and the Dragoon*. It had an elegant theme and a very peaceful tone, and tells a depressing love story similar to *Lovely on the Water.*

The fourth piece was *Bassoon Concerto in B-flat Major* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Once again, it featured three movements similar to the first piece. The first movement, Allegro, was fast-paced and light. The second movement, Andante ma adagio, featured a smooth melody that created an elegant atmosphere. The third movement was my favorite because of how cheerful it was. It is called “rondo” and sounds like the perfect dance music.

The fifth and final piece was a huge finale. It started with a bang with heavy notes played from both bassoon and piano players. It started with a rapid pace and switched to a softer mood. This piece displayed tons of musicality and emotion. It is obvious that Ms. Banninger practiced so much to prepare for this performance. I would like to congratulate her on a successful senior recital.