

January 3, 2019

Showcase Bands Concert a sensation for the senses

Edmonton – The Showcase Bands are among MacEwan University's high-profile musical ensembles. The Showcase Bands draw their repertoire from a variety of eras, genres and styles, including classic and new rock, metal, pop, Motown, soul and neo-soul, hip-hop, funk and fusion.

The Showcase Bands are directed by Dr. William (Bill) Richards, associate professor and chair, Department of Music, and Chandelle Rimmer, assistant professor and head of Voice. "Each year in early September, all Bachelor of Music students audition for placement in these and other ensembles, and the competition among students is particularly high for Showcase Bands," says Richards.

"The repertoire is determined by the band members and the director," adds Richards. "They all share in creating and shaping the arrangements, write scores and charts and fully participate in the production process that leads to the main-stage performance. This approach fosters leadership among the musicians, with several of them acting in the roles as assistant directors and section leaders."

Fourth-year student, Emilie Dufour, one of the lead vocalists in Richards' Showcase Band, says rehearsals have been going great. "We've been focusing on psychedelic music this term which is a big change for the Showcase Bands. It's exciting because it gives us a chance to dive into a new genre. I was excited to get to work with musicians that I've never worked with before. My favorite part about the rehearsals is learning from my talented bandmates."

Even though Dufour is an experienced and dynamic lead vocalist getting up on stage was never easy. "I'm a very shy and anxious person and I've never been good in social situations. Music gave me my voice and a way to express my thoughts and feelings. It gave me confidence and helped me grow as a person."

When: January 12

Where: Triffo Theatre, Allard Hall (11110-104 Avenue)

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: boxoffice@macewan.ca

Adult: \$15, Senior (60+): \$10, Student: \$5

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

For more information, please contact:

David Beharry, Media Relations Advisor

780-497-5586

Cell: 780- 231-5954

Email: beharryd@macewan.ca

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