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Performing Arts

'Splendid evening' planned for Darte Center's 30th birthday

Three decades of music, theater and dance at Wilkes University's Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts will be celebrated during a gala affair Saturday, October 14, beginning at 8 p.m.

Wilkes is hosting the event in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Darte Center, which has been the university's and the Wyoming Valley's hub for the performing arts since the building opened in 1965.

The event, which is being chaired jointly by James Ruck '78 and Al Groh '41, will feature music, theater and dance acts excerpted from performances presented in the facility. Additionally, the theater is being dedicated in memory of Edward Darling Jr., grandson of Dorothy Dickson Darte, who provided the naming gift for the center. In 1977, at the age of 25, Darling died in a car accident.

"The Darte Center was a gift to Wilkes, but the performances it houses are gifts to the community," said Groh. "Alumni and friends of the arts will fondly remember the productions. It will be a splendid evening."

Rhea Politis Simms '78, Kingston, and Wilkes-Barre native, Joel Fischman '73, will host the evening's celebration. Simms is president of Lewith and Freeman Realtors and Fischman is vice president for entertainment at Bally's in Las Vegas.

"The Darte Center has been a hallmark in the community and is a wonderful theater in which to perform," said Simms.

The Wilkes University Chorus will begin the program with *Alleluia* by Randall Thompson, which was performed at the dedication of the center in 1965.

Professional opera soprano Christine Donahue '74 will sing *Dich, teure Halle* ("I Greet the Hallowed Hall") from Wagner's *Tannhauser*. She also will perform *Far From the Home I Love*, a reenactment of her 1974 performance in "Fiddler on the Roof."

A selection from the 1970 production of "Guys and Dolls," directed by Groh, will feature Rita Singer Boller '71. Boller, who played the original Miss Adelaide, will be joined on stage by Michael Gallagher '72.

Next, music faculty member and pianist Thomas Hrynkiw '63 will perform with the DaPonte String Quartet. Professional dancer Adrienne Tinney '94, will delight the audience with classical dance selections in Russian divertissement from Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" and a modern-dance selection to music from George Winston.

Several theater excerpts will follow, including "The Audition" scene from Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor," directed by Michael O'Neill and featuring

Rebecca Schmitt '84; a reprise of the 1983 Wilkes' production of Eugene Ionesco's "Rhinoceros," directed by Professor Emeritus Joseph Salsburg '35 and starring Victoria Moss Gallagher '77, recreating her original performance as Daisy, and Larry Vojtko '79 as Berenger. Also included is the musical selection *Everybody Ought to Have a Maid* from "A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum," featuring Brian Dorsey '88, Gene Wachowski '85, John Domzalski

'89 and Michael Williams '84.

Dr. Elizabeth Slaughter '68, will recreate her original 1966 role in Giraudoux's *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, which was directed by Groh. Slaughter will be joined on stage by Debbie Dunleavy '74 and Agnes Cummings '75.

Clarinetist Robert Olivia '86 will perform Leonard Bernstein's *Riffs* with pianist Marc Peloquin and Brian Dorsey '88. Christine Brunnock '91 will be featured in the "Wooing Scene" from "The Taming of the Shrew," as performed in

Michael O'Neill's 1985 Shakespeare revue, "What You Will."

Vocalist Christopher Moses, a sophomore at Trinity College in Connecticut, and flutist Angela Sperazza, a eighth-grade student at Wyoming Seminary, will perform as representatives of the Encore Music Camp, a summer music and arts camp that trains young artists, that has been at Wilkes University for 11 years.

The evening will conclude with Edward Madden's "Touchstones," narrated by Professor Emeritus

Richard Chapline. It will be performed by a combined student and alumni wind ensemble, directed by Professor Jerome Campbell.

"The celebration will offer performances for everyone, from Shakespeare to 'Swan Lake,'" Ruck stated.

Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling the Wilkes University Development Office at 1-800-WILKES-U, ext. 4300, or 831-4300. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door the night of the performance.