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New Facility 'Is Awesome'; Ice Auditorium Debuts This Fall

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New facility 'is awesome'

Chris Engbretson '07 doesn't want to waste a moment of the time he has left in the Vivian A. Bull Music Center.

Like many Linfield College music students, Engbretson is reveling in the opportunity — and responsibility — presented by the state-of-the-art center. And, as a senior, his time is limited.

"I want to get everything out of the facility that I can," said Engbretson, a piano performance major from Kenmore, Wash. "It makes me want to work harder and practice more. This is the culmination of so many people doing so many things for Linfield music students. The spirit of generosity is inspiring."

His favorite area is Delkin Recital Hall, and he was honored to be part of the choir that sang the first notes in the new space. With 24-hour access, he sometimes slips in late at night to practice undistracted.

"There's a warmth to this place that is unlike any other," said Engbretson, who will pursue graduate studies in choral conducting and piano. "Somehow I feel like I'm accomplishing more."

For some students it's the small details — the air conditioned practice rooms, the personal music lockers, the comfortable chairs that do not squeak. Others appreciate the vast instrument storage and spacious rehearsal areas.

Whatever their preference, music students have a renewed sense of purpose and space to call their own.

"It's a privilege," said Engbretson. "Something was made just for us. It's so awesome."

— Laura Davis



Richard Ice '52 stands in the newly renovated Richard and Lucille Ice Auditorium in Melrose Hall. Formerly known as Melrose Auditorium, Ice funded the renovation because of his own interest in music and as a tribute to his late wife, Lucille, who was a professional organist and life-long patron of the arts.

Ice Auditorium debuts this fall

Music sounds sweeter to performer and audience alike with the debut of the new Richard and Lucille Ice Auditorium in Melrose Hall.

Gone are the clanking radiators, noisy doors and hard wooden seats in the balcony of what has been known as Melrose Auditorium for over 70 years. The auditorium serves as the location of choice for major lectures, concerts, campus awards ceremonies, community events and other functions.

Funded with a gift from Richard Ice '52, chair emeritus of the Board of Trustees, the auditorium memorializes his late wife, Lucille, who was a professional organist and a member of the American Guild of Organists.

The dedication of the new Ice Auditorium will be held Friday, Nov. 3, at 8 p.m. in conjunction with the Linfield Chamber Orchestra's first concert of the season.

The auditorium has excellent acoustics, but was outdated in many other respects, said President Thomas L. Hellie.

"We are grateful to Dr. Ice for his generosity in funding this renovation which was done with respect for the original space," Hellie said. "The auditorium has become an attractive and enjoyable venue and reflects the quality of the college as a whole as well as the quality of the activities taking place in it."

A new sound-isolated heating and air conditioning system has been installed along with insulated windows, upgraded lighting, and new balcony theatre seats and refurbished orchestra seats. The pipe organ was cleaned and four new sets of sound-lock entrance doors will help isolate light and sound.

Although the Music Department anticipates using their new facility for many events, Ice Auditorium will still be the venue for large concerts.

Ron Mills, professor of art, has been commissioned to produce two paintings that will be displayed outside the auditorium's entrance.

— Mardi Mileham



Linfield seniors Ethan Barske of Anchorage, Alaska, left, and Chris Engbretson of Kenmore, Wash., presented "Music for Two Pianos," the inaugural event at the newly renovated Richard and Lucille Ice Auditorium.