



Included below is a press release regarding two Big Rapids vocal and instrumental groups will bring the fourth annual Festival of the Arts to a harmonious close with a free concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday in the Big Rapids High School Auditorium. A good crowd is expected for this performance that features local talent. This is the finale for the Festival of the Arts. Any questions about Hill's appearance can be directed to Sandy Gholston, interim assistant director of News Services.

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Festival of the Arts Finale Features Free Concert, Sculpture Dedication

BIG RAPIDS -- Two Big Rapids vocal and instrumental groups will bring the fourth annual Festival of the Arts to a harmonious close with a free concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday in the Big Rapids High School Auditorium.

Voca Lyrica, a women's choral group with members of varying ages, from high school students to grandmothers, will team up for an engaging performance with the Con Brio Voce Brass Ensemble, directed by Kent Boulton.

Founded in 2001 by Artistic Director Virginia Kerwin, Voca Lyrica not only has a strong local following but is recognized nationally and internationally, having performed at Carnegie Hall, in New Zealand and at the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

Following the concert, attendees are invited to stay for a closing reception in the high school lobby where the winning selection from the Festival of the Arts Civic Sculpture Competition will be unveiled.

Kendall College of Art and Design student Tristan Sisbach of Epworth, Iowa, will be recognized for her winning submission, which relates to her love of the Great Lakes.

"Coming from Iowa, I fell in love with the Great Lakes. When I first moved to Michigan, I would take my sketch book and camera to the beach and admire the movement and color," said Sisbach, a senior in Kendall's Sculpture and Functional Art program.

Sisbach said she was inspired by the colors, textures and movement of Lake Michigan. She also drew motivation from the sunsets, clouds, sand dunes, waves, drift wood, beach glass and dune grass she experienced during her visits to the beach.

“I want people to be inspired by the elements and movement of the sculpture. It’s about the idea of motion and color. I wanted to showcase how beautiful Michigan and the Great Lakes are,” said Sisbach.

Her sculpture will be installed in Big Rapids’ Swede Hill Park, off of Baldwin Street.

Bruce Dilg, chairman of the Festival of the Arts, said, “In our fourth iteration of the Festival of the Arts, we decided to build on the wonderful civic sculpture work that Ferris Professor of Creative Arts Robert Barnum started for us. We also decided to build on the relationship that was started when Kendall College of Art and Design President Oliver Evans was our keynote speaker for the 2010 Festival of the Arts. To these ends, Mark Gifford of the City of Big Rapids, a member of the Festival board, suggested that we open the 2011 sculpture to a competition to include Kendall students and graduates within the past three years. A \$4,000 prize was established, and we are thrilled that Tristan was able to create the piece she has. It will serve as a permanent bridge or ‘link’ between Ferris and the Big Rapids community.”

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