February 2016

Sherman Symphony: 50 years of great performances

When Austin College music professor Cecil Isaac founded the Sherman Symphony in 1966, he raised the baton on what would become an enduring cultural treasure for the College and its neighboring communities. Fifty years later, the symphony has grown to include professional players and a full season of concerts. Daniel Dominick now serves as the Symphony's maestro, adding concerts including an annual children's educational concert for more than 1,000 area fifth graders, and increasing the orchestra's size to more than 70 musicians both student and professional. Dominick also has introduced opera into the SSO's repertoire with concert versions of great operas performed biennially.

For the past four years, the SSO has enjoyed regular broadcasts of performances on the local CBS affiliate, CBS-12 KXII. The SSO is the only symphony orchestra between the Dallas Metroplex and Tulsa.

"The SSO impacts the community in many ways, most easily seen in its commitment to education through the Children's Concerts and offering all regular concerts free to all ages of students. But we are also part of the great artistic culture of the area that attracts and retains new businesses and medical opportunities," says Dominick. "People want to know that our area supports a certain level of serious culture before making a decision to relocate. That we have a full symphony orchestra here says a lot about the people of Texoma."

And, it says much about Austin College's commitment to affirm the value and spirit of the arts at Austin College and for the North Texas region.

Two performances remain for this Golden Anniversary season: on February 27 at 7:30 p.m., the SSO presents Wm Grant Still's Symphony No. 1, "Afro-American," and on April 30 at 7:30 p.m., Holst's "The Planets." The April concert is the "official" symphony celebration with reception afterward. All performances are at Kidd Key Auditorium in the Sherman Municipal Building, and tickets can be purchased online or at the box office. Congratulations to our own Sherman Symphony Orchestra on 50 years of making great music!

GO! Forum tickets are on sale
Tickets are now on sale to the general public for the Austin College GO! Forum award presentation at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science on Tuesday, March 22, 2016. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn have been selected as co-recipients of the 2016 Austin College Posey Leadership Award in recognition of their global efforts to address issues including human trafficking, poverty, and gender-based violence. Their latest book, A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity, will be a focal point for their visit. The work of Kristof and WuDunn continues to empower women everywhere to overcome challenges and create lasting change.

To order your tickets, please visit the GO! Forum Registration Page. Tickets range from $50 to $150, with several free opportunities at the Austin College campus on Tuesday morning and at the Perot Museum in Dallas on Tuesday evening. The registration form provides a variety of options. Seating is limited, so we hope you will respond today!

**Postcards from the JanTerm photo gallery**

A number of photos have been posted for 2016’s travel and off-campus JanTerms. Visit our gallery webpage to see some of the fascinating places and subjects our students and faculty studied. After a very busy JanTerm, both on and off campus, students rolled right into the spring semester on February 1.

- The annual Allen-Head Lectures will take place February 16, 11:00 a.m., Hoxie-Thompson Auditorium in Sherman Hall, and 7 p.m., Mabee Hall in Wright Campus Center.
- February 18, the physics department is hosting a Star Party on the IDEA Center Roof, 7-9 p.m. Open to the public.
- The Kenneth Street Law Symposium is set for February 19. Online registration is open through February 15.
- Austin College Board of Trustees winter meeting will be held February 26-27.
- Follow the 'Roos. Tennis, softball, baseball and basketball are in action this month. Athletic team schedules are available on the official website of Austin College Athletics.

**For more information on news and events of Austin College, follow us on social media.**