The Weather Vane

Up on the Hill

Live Music at the Discipleship Center Features Folk and International Beats

By Beth Klima
Style Co-editor

Music and stories from three continents drew listeners to the Discipleship Center last Friday. EMU’s own radio station, WEMC, hosted a live International music performance as part of their concert series last Friday night. Deviating from the usual selections of Virginia folk music, last week’s performance’s featured international music and storytelling.

The performances included an eclectic array of talent featuring Italian band Allodola, Mike Riddell an Australian story teller, Mwizenge Tembo with African storytelling, and Najat Abdoulallah on the Kurdish san-tur. Concert attendees were treated to Indian hors d’oeuvres from The Bombay Courtyard.

About 40 people attended the live broadcast, mostly local community members with a spattering of EMU students. For some in the audience, Friday night’s international performance was an appropriate warmup for the international Music Festival beginning the next day. “We really liked the international line up, and thought it was a good introduction to tomorrow’s international festival,” said Bill Painter, a Harrisonburg resident.

EMU students came for a variety of reasons. “It sounded interesting, it was really fun,” said senior Lindsey Williams.

Heather Menzies, a senior, was also present Friday night. “I liked the drums best,” said Menzies.

Friday evening’s musicians and storytellers also enjoyed themselves as they shared their talents and culture with the audience and hundreds of radio listeners. They saw the opportunity partly as a chance to bring back a few of their country’s lost arts. “We know that this was a tradition that was disappearing in Italy, and unknown in the U.S.... We wanted to revive it,” said Connie Muscenti, concertina for Allodola.

WEMC will host live performances every Friday night from 8-10 p.m. in the Discipleship Center. The general public pays $5.00 admission, and students $1.00. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Funding for WEMC is drawn from several sources. These include EMU’s general operating fund, listeners, and businesses. “Our budget is around $60,000 per year – the school’s share is around $35,000,” said Easley. Businesses provide another $10,000-15,000 and listeners contribute about $10,000.

Phil Easley, WEMC’s general manager, hopes that more EMU students will take advantage of the Friday night performances. He sees this as an opportunity for the local community and Eastern Mennonite students to meet and get to know one another. Easley also sees the event as a chance for out-of-state students to experience Virginian folk music. “Students can come to campus, stay in a dorm and don’t get a real take on Virginia culture,” he said.

Easley hopes the program will also serve as an avenue to relate to more of the student body. He said, “It is my hope that this can connect what we do at the radio station with students.”

EMU... WE WANT YOU!
And just to prove it, bring your EMU student ID to Seventh Heaven Café. After 7 PM...

Save $1.00 and get a Fruit Smoothie for only a buck! (a 50¢ value)
EMU Student ID = $1.00 Smoothie

Foot in Mouth

“The whore sometimes gives the savior enough–but we won’t talk about that here.”
Jerry Holsopple
Pop Culture and Communication

Open 7 days at 6 a.m.

Mr. J’s
Bagels & Deli

All breakfast sandwiches 50¢ off with this coupon.

Have a contribution? Send it to wvane@emu.edu along with the professor’s name and class.

Fourth Street

Sandra: 564-0416

Market Square East 564-0416
Rockingham Square 432-1386
Harmony Square 442-1997

The general public pays $5.00 admission, and students $1.00. Tickets can be purchased at the door.