

The Medical Arts 16-17: Medical Arts Program Artists' Guild (MAPAG) Spring Showcase Participant Reflection - Carol Noronha, M1

On May 10, 2017, the MAPAG had its first-ever spring showcase, held at the Kerrytown Concert House. Aside from the 22 medical students that performed that evening, the showcase drew in an audience of about 70 people. Carol Noronha, M1, describes her MAPAG showcase experience below:

“Our goals are quite simple – to foster a community in which medical students are encouraged to share their unique talents. Many Michigan medical students come in with diverse interests, but their hobbies often take a backseat to the academic rigors



and clinical duties so omnipresent during medical school. Through this program, artists have been able to showcase their diverse talents – ranging from opera performance to poetry composition to playing music using a brain-computer interface. For many students, this is an opportunity to dust off an old guitar, violin, or trumpet, and begin to play again. Artists of various abilities have performed at our two showcases so far, and have been able to speak to the value of art in their lives and careers. At large institutions like Michigan, the hospitals run like well-oiled machines – taking in sick patients and discharging health patients. Too often, we forget the humanistic parts of medicine. In creating a

community around the arts, we are taking a step to remember that physicians are merely humans treating other humans.

This Wednesday, May 10th, the Medical Arts Program Artists' Guild sponsored our second showcase to a full house! At our spring showcase, held at the Kerrytown Concert House, performers included members of each class of medical students, as well as MSTP students. Repeat performers – like the QT's, a rock band – continued to astound the audience with the dexterity with which each member switches between guitar, violin, vocals, and drums. New performers – like the debut of a band of first-year students playing





Jack Johnson and other mellow love tunes – stole the hearts of the audience. One fourth-year medical student softly strummed guitar and ukulele to Spanish and English songs to many a tearful eye in the audience. A trio of a trumpet, violin, and piano playing Ewazen’s masterpiece, was a good contrast to a pop music trio playing Vanessa Carlton. A husband and wife duo brought a sweet spiritual tune to our ears, and another duo adapted Delibes’ famous “Flower Duet” for flute and voice. One sultry singer brought Adele and Etta James to life with a string quartet accompaniment. The audience – friends, classmates, and teachers of

the performers – was captivated by each performer in turn for a concert that truly felt like it took place in one of our living rooms.”

The Medical Arts Program is an initiative of Michigan Medicine at the University of Michigan.

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