

Alfred University cast joins pianist in performance of Enoch Arden

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Alfred University students and a faculty member will join pianist Richard Antemann in a performance of Richard Strauss's musical piece, Enoch Arden, at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 28, in Susan Howell Hall on the Alfred University campus. Strauss set this early tonal poem, written for the piano, around Alfred Lord Tennyson's epic poem of the same title. Antemann, who lives in Johnstown, PA, has juggled his career as a medical doctor with appearances as a much sought-after pianist and chamber musician. A soloist with the Johnstown Symphony, Antemann has also appeared in chamber music recitals with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra and has recorded live at Pittsburgh's public radio station, WQED. Last summer he performed Enoch Arden for the first time at the Opera House in Vergennes, VT. He will not only be performing Strauss's Enoch Arden but will also play short selections by Bach, Rachmaninoff, and Shostakovich. "Enoch Arden is a unique blend of music and theater," explains Dr. Thomas Peterson, a professor of religious studies at AU who performed in Enoch Arden with Antemann last summer in Vermont. "Tennyson's poetry, written for five parts, is integrated into Strauss's score so that there are times in the piece when the poem will be read alone, times when the piano music plays without words, and times when poetry and music are fully integrated. The music and poetry together intensify the romanticism of the late 19th century when self-sacrifice was not only a moral virtue, but the source of heightened spiritual experience itself." Five readers will join Antemann by taking the parts in Tennyson's poem. Emily Tucker (Annie Lee), originally from Lansing, NY, is a junior theater major at Alfred University. Tucker has been seen at Alfred as Bananas in The House of Blue Leaves, Mary Warren in The Crucible, and most recently as Smeraldina in The Servant of Two Masters. Tucker is also a member of the Chamber Singers and an accomplished pianist. A native of Alfred, Shaminda Amarakoon (Enoch Arden) recently returned from Chapel Hill, NC. Since returning, he has woven himself into the very fabric of performing arts at Alfred University by joining the Chamber Singers, performing in The Reduced Shakespeare Company and The Crucible, and keeping audiences rolling in the aisles as Truffaldino in The Servant of Two Masters. Chris Quinn (Phillip Ray) of Baltimore, MD is a sophomore theater major at Alfred University. Quinn is also a member of the Chamber Singers and has been seen in numerous productions, most notably as Artie in The House of Blue Leaves, Reverend Parris in The Crucible, and Florindo in The Servant of Two Masters. Chagmion Antoine (Miriam Lane) is a sophomore in the School of Art and Design at Alfred University. Her stage credits at Alfred University include multiple roles in John Brown's Body, Doctor Faustus, and the very funny startlet Corrinna Stroller in The House of Blue Leaves. Peterson (Narrator) appeared in several summer theater plays in his early days at Alfred, most notably the part of Meigs in Steve Metcalf's Strange Snow. The performance is open to the public free of charge.