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Sunday, Nov. 02, 2014 Wednesday, Dec. 04, 2013

Clarinet trio fills Snow with sweet music

Jeanette Anderton

March 16, 2011

The Ironwood Trio delighted students with their music and knowledge Sunday night. The trio consists of Eb and Bb clarinetist Jana Starling, Br clarinetist Leslie Moreau and bass clarinetist Anne Watson. Starling said the three met at Arizona State in 2003 when they were all teachers' assistants. They wanted the name of their trio to reflect something significant about the area where they began playing together. "The ironwood is a tree found only in the Sonoran Desert," Starling said. She said the trio currently lives in three separate states, she in Arizona, Moreau in Idaho and Watson in Oklahoma. Starling said, in preparing for a concert, they each learn their own parts separately and only get a day or two of practicing together before a performance. "We have to put in some long hours practicing together before a concert, and it only works because we each know our individual parts really well before we get together," she said. Starling introduced the concert's first piece, Alfred Prinz's "Trio." She said the third movement in the piece has a "musical quote" and challenged the students to name it. Starling said she wanted to make certain she played that part flawlessly so that students could recognize it. Apparently, she did. Carol Sikes, UCA graduate student majoring in clarinet performance, correctly identified the quote as Valero's. Watson introduced the trio's second piece, Habanera from Paquito D'Rivera's "Aires Tropicales." She said she saw D'Rivera perform at a clarinet festival at Oklahoma University wearing a zoot suit and using the longest peg piece she had ever seen. "It's really fun to play his music," Watson said. Moreau said Michael Kibbe's "Ebony Suite," which the trio performed next, was more cerebral and a little more serious than some of his other works. "His fun ethnic style still comes through," she said. For their fourth piece, the trio performed David Snow's "Hasana Tanz." Starling said the middle section of the piece features the bass, with the outer sections featuring the Eb and Bb clarinet. For the finale, the trio chose Peter Schickele's "Dances for Three." Watson said the piece was written for two clarinets and a bassoon. "It's fun for me," she said. "I get to play a lot of really low notes. I really enjoy a dark, rich sound." Starling said the piece takes some unexpected turns. After the show, the performers stayed to answer questions from the audience. They gave students tips on everything from circular breathing to reliable equipment that is affordable. "They were so down to earth," Sikes said. "The information after the show was practical and applicable."

—Saved under **Campus Life**

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