

Department of Music Golden Jubilee Dinner
Thursday, September 29, 6:30 p.m.
Student Services Building, Room 112

This evening we celebrate an important milestone in the history of the university. It was a half century ago that UAH's Department of Music was established – a department focused on academic and performance excellence. Music is a perfect fit for UAH, with its relationship to mathematics. It was the Greek mathematician and philosopher Pythagoras who said "There is geometry in the humming of the strings, there is music in the spacing of the spheres."

Music touches all, including the great American philosopher and member of baseball's hall of fame Yogi Berra, master of the malapropism. When asked by an interviewer "Can you explain jazz?" Yogi responded:

"I can't, but I will. 90% of all jazz is half improvisation. The other half is the part people play while others are playing something they never played with anyone who played that part. So if you play the wrong part, it's right. If you play the right part, it might be right if you play it wrong enough. But if you play it too right, it's wrong."

UAH's Department of Music prepares graduates for careers as performers, educators, composers, church musicians, and music industry professionals. We enable all students,

regardless of major, to pursue the art and beauty of music while honing the interpersonal and communication skills vital to every career.

Tonight's event kicks off the Golden Jubilee Weekend and it is the start of a year-long schedule of events, including the hugely popular Constellation series, a sequence of seven concerts planned throughout the academic year. Attendees will be treated to a diverse collection of musical styles from renowned vocalists and instrumentalists. As for the rest of the year, the Music Department's calendar is packed with more than 50 other performances by UAH's wind, choral, jazz, and chamber ensembles and master classes.

Music has been part of UAH and Huntsville since the earliest days of this institution, and the activities by the Department of Music have been an important part of advancing the outstanding lifestyle and culture that we enjoy in the greater Huntsville area. For 50 years musical talent has graced our campus and enriched the community, and we look forward to even more during the next half century.

Now it's my honor to introduce a couple of students who will perform for you tonight: Soprano - Angelica Reedy and pianist - Hanna Johnson.

Thank you. I hope you enjoy the rest of your evening.