1-31-2012

Concert: Concert in Memory of Gregory Mantone

Ithaca College Symphonic Band

Ithaca College Chorus

Euphonium Choir

Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble

Grace Stockdale

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Concert in Memory of Gregory Mantone

Euphonium Choir
Symphonic Band
Tuba / Euphonium Ensemble
Grace Stockdale
Hannah Dubner
Chorus
Jim Papoulis

Ford Hall
Tuesday, January 31, 2012
8:15 p.m.
Euphonium Choir

Aubade
Phillip Sparke
arr. Pat Stuckemeyer

Moondance
Van Morrison
arr. Drew Bonner

Symphonic Band

Selections from *Wicked*
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
arr. Jay Bocook

Tuba / Euphonium Ensemble

Sure on This Shining Night
Morton Lauridsen
arr. Sam Thurston

Losing My Mind
from *Follies*
Stephen Sondheim
arr. Joe Caldarise

Broadway Baby
from *Follies*
Stephen Sondheim
arr. Joe Caldarise

Send in the Clowns
from *A Little Night Music*
Stephen Sondheim
arr. Joe Caldarise
O Magnum Mysterium
Morton Lauridsen
arr. Brian Lewis

Musical Theatre

Miller's Son
from A Little Night Music
Grace Stockdale, soloist

Don't Rain on My Parade
Hannah Dubner, soloist

Remarks
by Dean Gregory Woodward

Chorus

Sunday
from Sunday in the Park with George

Sililiza
Jim Papoulis
Gregory J. Mantone  

Gregory J. Mantone was the oldest child of Stephen and Linda Mantone, and the older brother of Emily Mantone. Greg was raised in Mount Sinai, New York, a small town in Suffolk County, Long Island. Greg was a 2009 graduate of Mount Sinai High School. At the time of his death, Greg was in his third year as a music education major at Ithaca College.

Greg demonstrated a love and aptitude for music from very early childhood. He always loved to sing, whether alone or in a group, and participated in chorus from elementary school through college. He began to study the euphonium at the age of nine, and progressed rapidly on his instrument. He was a student of Donald Sherman, a Long Island music educator, an accomplished euphonium player, a founding member of the Long Island Tuba Quartet, and a graduate of Ithaca College. Greg was a member of his school band from elementary school through high school. He also was a member of his school jazz band and symphony orchestra, playing the trombone in each of these ensembles, and also belonged to the high school jazz choir. From the age of ten through his high school graduation, Greg was a participant in the annual Suffolk County Music Educators Association Howard Hovey Tuba Day, and was a member of the county’s All-Star Tuba Ensemble from seventh through twelfth grades.

Greg was a member of the Suffolk County All-County Band at every level, commencing when he was ten years old and continuing through his graduation from high school. In his senior year of high school, Greg was a member of the NYSSMA All-State Symphonic Band and the NAfME (formerly MENC) All-Eastern Symphonic Band. From his freshman year in high school through graduation, Greg was the principal euphonium player in the Nassau-Suffolk Wind Symphony, a wind ensemble comprised of select NYSSMA Level VI students from over fifty Long Island school districts.

In 2008, at age seventeen, Greg was selected as a semifinalist in the International Tuba Euphonium Association Solo Euphonium Young Artist Division Competition. While attending the 2008 International Tuba Euphonium Association Conference, Greg participated in the High School All-Star Tuba Ensemble. Greg had the opportunity at this conference to meet, play for and learn from important tuba and euphonium players from around the country and around the world.
Always an honor student, Greg was a member of the National Honor Society and was an officer in his high school’s chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Upon his graduation from high school, Greg received numerous academic and musical awards, including the Arion Award for outstanding achievement by high school musicians and scholarship awards from the Suffolk County Music Educators Association and the Suffolk chapter of the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education.

Greg had many diverse interests. He loved literature, history and art as well as music and drama. He had almost as many books about art history as he had about music. He was a talented writer with a great interest in creative writing, and from an early age maintained notebooks full of stories and ideas for future projects.

One of Greg’s true passions was the theater. He saw his first Broadway musical, *Once Upon a Mattress*, at the age of five, and was immediately captivated. Over the years, he saw many, many dramas and musicals, from classics by such greats as Rodgers and Hammerstein and Cole Porter to new musicals by contemporary theater composers. At younger ages, he attended shows with his family. As he grew older, he “converted” a group of his high school friends into theater fans, and whenever Greg was home in the summer or on school breaks, he and his friends would student rush Broadway shows to see as many shows as possible on their college student budgets. Greg was more than a fan of theater; he was also a student of theater. When Greg was interested in something, he had an insatiable need to learn about that subject. He read every possible book that he could find about the theater, from actual libretti to history books to biographies of composers and lyricists to critical analyses. Greg’s knowledge of the history of the musical theater was encyclopedic. One could ask him a question about any show, any composer, or any period of time in American theater, and he would know the answer. He owned a huge collection of original cast recordings, from the well-known (*South Pacific* by Rodgers and Hammerstein) to the truly obscure (*Whoop Up*, a 1958 flop by Charlap and Gimbel).

Although Greg knew and loved thousands of songs and many shows, his favorite shows and songs were those written by Stephen Sondheim. He had the greatest admiration and respect for Mr. Sondheim’s abilities both as a lyricist and a composer. He owned the vocal scores to most, if not all, Sondheim musicals, and he analyzed them diligently from a musician’s point of view to determine what it was that made them great. Greg often commented that he was fortunate to live in a sort of “golden age” of Sondheim revivals. In the last few years, he was able to see
revivals of some of Sondheim’s greatest works, including *Company*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *A Little Night Music*, and Greg’s favorite show of all time, *Follies*. He attended all of these shows multiple times, as well as several staged concert performances of Sondheim works. Greg was a true student of Sondheim. It was Greg’s dream to someday compose for the theater, his favorite medium, and he kept legal pads full of sketches for songs and lyrics. In Greg’s opinion, he could have no greater role model than Stephen Sondheim. In Greg’s high school yearbook, the quote that he chose for himself (and which truly represented the way he lived) was from one of his favorite Sondheim songs, “The Miller’s Son” from *A Little Night Music*:

“There's a lot I'll have missed
But I'll not have been dead
When I die!
And a person should celebrate everything
Passing by.”

There are so many ways to describe Greg. In addition to being an excellent student and musician, he was a creative thinker and a responsible and hard working young man. Greg was a person who always enjoyed his life to the fullest. He lived up to all of his responsibilities, and still found the time to pursue his other interests and do the things he loved to do. He loved his home, his family, his friends, his music. He was a devoted son, a loving older brother, an excellent role model for his sister, his younger cousins and for the students he was learning to teach. He savored every moment of every day. Yet none of this describes all of who he truly was – a kind, sweet, loving and generous person. Greg always looked for – and found – the goodness in people. Over and over again, the comment made by people who knew and loved Greg has been, “He was the kindest person I have ever met.”

It is difficult to summarize a person’s life in a brief biography. The most important thing that we can say about Greg is not a list of his accomplishments, although he did accomplish much in just twenty years. The most important thing is that we knew and loved such a wonderful person. We were blessed to be Greg’s family. We are grateful for the closeness we shared with him, and we are thankful that he shared his funny, creative, entertaining, sometimes bizarre and always intelligent thoughts with us. We had twenty wonderful years of life with him, as did his extended family and the many, many friends who loved him as well. In a life that was all too short, Greg touched many people’s hearts.
Thank you from the Mantone Family

A few years ago, when Gregory’s search for a college began in earnest, Ithaca College was high on the list of schools to be considered because of its reputation for academic and musical excellence. Gregory visited several campuses and took lessons with the euphonium professors at the schools he was considering, to determine which combination of school and teacher would be a good fit for him.

After visiting Ithaca College, Greg was impressed with the program. He also liked the fact that the School of Music is relatively small. After growing up in a small town where he knew everyone, Greg did not feel that he would be comfortable at a very large school where he might get lost in the crowd. Greg decided that Ithaca College was his first choice and was very happy when he was accepted there.

Once Greg started college, he was very proud to be a part of the School of Music. He worked very hard to make a valuable contribution to whichever ensemble he was currently performing in. As his parents, we were very impressed with the excellence demonstrated by every performing ensemble we heard at the College, as well as the outstanding quality of the academic portion of the music program and the teacher education program. Greg was happy at Ithaca, and we felt that he had made the right choice for his college career.

Since Greg’s passing, we have been even more convinced that Ithaca College was the right place for Greg. Our family has been overwhelmed by the kindness and support that have been shown to us by everyone at the College. Many of Greg’s fellow students wrote to us to express their condolences and to share their memories of Greg with us. We have also had such kind messages of support from faculty members and administrators at the School of Music and the College. It means so much to us to know that Greg was loved by his college family too. All of this has shown us that Ithaca College is a special place where the faculty cares about the students, and the students care about one another.

We deeply appreciate the efforts of everyone involved in the preparation for and performance of this concert. Nothing made Greg happier than sharing the music that he loved with people he cared about. We know that this evening would have made him tremendously proud and happy.

With our sincerest gratitude,

Steve, Linda and Emily Mantone