



Photo provided

Lyric soprano Sara L. Emerson of Kalamazoo will be the guest vocalist when the St. Joseph Municipal Band performs at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the John E.N. Howard Band Shell in downtown St. Joseph.

Vocalist to perform with municipal band

By HP STAFF

ST. JOSEPH — Guest vocalist Sara L. Emerson and alto saxophonist Christopher Keech will be featured during the St. Joseph Municipal Band concerts at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the John E.N. Howard Band Shell in downtown St. Joseph.

Emerson, a lyric soprano who lives in Kalamazoo, will sing “Selections of Cole Porter Songs,” arranged by Russel Bennett; “I Dreamed a Dream” from “Les Misérables”; and “I Got Plenty o’ Nuttin’” from “Porgy and Bess” by George Gershwin.

Emerson recently made her Carnegie Hall debut, performing “Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 Aria” by Heitor Villa-Lobos. She also was the mother in Menotti’s “Amahl and the Night Visitors” with the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra. Emerson is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy and received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in vocal performance from the University of Michigan and Bowling Green State University.

Keech, the band’s saxophone section leader, will be the featured soloist during “Persuasion” by Sammy

Nestico. A native of Hartford who now lives in St. Joseph, Keech is a graduate of Lake Michigan College and Western Michigan University. He works in the instrumental music department at Coloma Community Schools, is also a saxophone instructor at Southwestern Michigan College, Andrews University and Lake Michigan College, where he is also the director of the LMC Jazz Band. He is in his 26th year with the municipal band, and still regularly performs with Lake Effect Jazz Big Band, and with various local and regional jazz artists.

Sunday’s band program also includes “The Rifle Regiment March” by John Philip Sousa; “Encanto” by Robert W. Smith; “American Originals” by Sammy Nestico; “Ave Verum Corpus” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and arranged for band by Barbara Buehlman; “The Entertainer,” a Scott Joplin composition arranged for band by Alfred Reed; and “The Caravan Club March” by Karl King.

The hourlong concerts continue through Sunday, Sept. 1, with concluding concerts on Labor Day. The band is under the direction of Donald Moely.