

Taylor Parker

Cornerstone

Mrs. Gruenwald

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Campus Engagement: UNI School of Music, Amanda McCandless (Clarinet)

For the UNI School of Music campus engagement, I chose to go to the clarinet show on Tuesday, October 29 at 8:00pm. This show was very well done by one of the Assistant Professor's Amanda McCandless. Amanda has been the Assistant Professor at U.N.I. since 2008 and since that time has built one of the largest and most successful clarinet studios in the region. She has performed recitals throughout the U.S. and abroad for many years. She has one many awards for her clarinet abilities. She talked about all the places that she has been abroad and all the different places that she has traveled within the U.S. It was very interesting to hear her story about how she has influenced others through her clarinet abilities. The first part of the program she did a duet with Andre Messenger called *Solo de Concours*. They first talked about the background of the music and then proceeded with the piece. She went on with three more pieces after that piece was over called: *Chromatic Fantasy*, *Season*, *Fantasy on a Chinese Poem*, and *Glint*. After these three pieces concluded, they began intermission. After intermission was over, everyone headed back to their seats for the second half of the recital to begin. The last two pieces that she played were *Clarada* and *Penelope's Song*. All of the pieces that she performed were very well done and they also had a very meaningful message.

I thought that this campus engagement could be hard to relate back to what we have discussed throughout class. Then I realized that a connection can be made between the American Way of Eating book and Amanda McCandless. The connection that I thought was interesting is that Amanda traveled around the world and influenced many different cultures through her music and clarinet abilities. When relating that back to the American Way of Eating book, this book was written to influence people to develop good eating habits and be aware, smart consumers. I feel that these two subjects relate to each other because they are both being purposeful and influencing the audience to achieve what they want in life and work hard for what you are given. Amanda didn't come out of college being an Assistant Professor, she had to work up to that level. Just as she rebuilt the clarinet studios making them very successful in our region. Amanda reached her goals when she came out with her first solo CD, *Unaccompanied Clarinet Works* by Women Composer, which was released in 2012 on the Mark Record Labels. The American Way of Eating and Dr. Amanda McCandless have separate goals but both achieved them through hard work. I felt that the recital was a very inspirational and I would go to another one of her performances in a heart beat.