

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

UW-Superior Hosts Superior String Day

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For the fourteenth year running, UW-Superior and the UWS Orchestra welcomed visiting musicians from both Superior High School and Superior Middle School for its annual “Superior String Day”.

Alongside her colleagues and friends Jenna Mattson (Director of SMS Orchestra) and Amy Eichers (Director of SHS Orchestra), UWS Orchestra director and professor of viola and viola Dr. Erin Aldridge once again helmed the event, with the trio understanding the importance of the three schools partnership, though even they sometimes get surprised.

“One of the (middle school) students went up to Jenna (Mattson) after the concert and said ‘I was gonna do choir, but can I change my mind?’” said Aldridge, who spoke about how, through the longev-



Orchestra members wait at the ready under Dr. Erin Aldridge's direction during rehearsal
Photo by Sky Abdullayeva | The Promethean

getting quite a few of those people both as majors, minors, and non-majors.”

For UWS students taking part in Superior String Day, the concert brings back memories of why these types of events are so impactful for younger musicians.

“I played bass throughout middle school and high school, and stuff like this is why I’m still doing it and going to school for it now,” said

ers to middle schoolers who play a lot to nothing, and it’s really cool that they can all come together and play together, ‘cause it shows that even a beginner can play with advanced people and make cool music,” said Music Education major and orchestra member Hendrick Hicks. “It’s also cool as a future educator to see these little kids so excited to play music”

In the end though, the day is simply about camaraderie between orchestra musicians of all ages and, occasionally, offering some appreciated mentorship and guidance for those just beginning their musical journey.

“Helping out the basses when they’re doing something that they haven’t encountered before or that they’re not quite used to and showing them how that works, and seeing how it just clicks for them a lot of the time, that’s really cool too, seeing all those connections that they make,” said Juusola.

The yearly event, which was held on Feb. 4, hosted more than 70 musicians from the three schools, and was once again free to all those attending.



UW-Superior Orchestra Director Dr. Erin Aldridge conducts students during rehearsal for Superior String Day
Photo by Sky Abdullayeva | The Promethean

ity of the event, she is even seeing some of those first middle schoolers all those years ago in university orchestras. “Students in the middle school are staying (in orchestra) now, and then they go to Superior High School and those numbers are continuing, and I’m

Music Performance major and member of the UWS Orchestra, Marcus Juusola.

For the future music educators among the UWS Orchestra, Superior String Days offers even more to be excited about.

“I like the fact that we have a range of high school-



Superior High School Orchestra Director Amy Eichers smiles towards the audience during rehearsal for Superior String Day
Photo by Sky Abdullayeva | The Promethean



UW-Superior Orchestra Director Dr. Erin Aldridge conducts students for Superior String Day
Photo by Sky Abdullayeva | The Promethean

UW-Superior Spring Exhibitions

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Preparing for a season full of color and change, the University of Wisconsin-Superior Kruk and Experimental Galleries are announcing and hosting their spring 2025 art exhibits. The exhibits

to March 6.

The Experimental Gallery will feature “Seasons of Change: Selections from Art 342,” which showcases the UW-Superior students in the Spring 2025 Gallery Practice course who have partnered with the student in the Fall 2024 Photography 2 class to explore transience and flux to create a colorful exhibition.

The exhibition will feature a variety of colorful prints of digital work that reflect the cycles of growth, decay, and renewal that defines experiences on earth.

The exhibition “Seasons of Change” will be on display February 10 to



Photo of the Kruk Gallery
Photo by Maddie Schaffer | The Promethean

are free and open to the public.

The Kruk Gallery will feature the artwork of Susan Maquire, professor in the visual arts department at UW-Superior, with an exhibit titled “Illusion of Certainty.” The exhibit will display her dedication to experimenting with ideas over the past decade with a focus on a unique form of glass, as well as work specifically designed for the Kruk Gallery.

Maquire works across mediums of photography, sculpture, projection, and painting. Maguire enjoys questioning the potential of different mediums as well as questioning what other individuals see.

The Kruk Gallery will feature the works of art she has dedicated to designing for the gallery, as well as ideas that Maguire has been developing over the past decade. The exhibition will be on display from February 6



Photo of artwork by students in the Experimental Gallery in Holden Fine Arts
Photo by Maddie Schaffer | The Promethean

March 17.

The Kruk Gallery and Experimental Galleries are in the Holden Fine and Applied Arts building and are open to the public from 2 to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information visit the UW-Superior website under News and Events.



Artwork from the Photography 2 class in the Experimental Gallery
Photo by Maddie Schaffer | The Promethean



More artwork featured in the Experimental Gallery
Photo by Maddie Schaffer | The Promethean