

Media

Students take on the ogres of Spiderwick

By C.S. Morrissey

Special to The B.C. Catholic
The B.C. Catholic sent Sinora Barboza and Anthony de Guzman out on a "movie night" and they saw the movie *The Spiderwick Chronicles* on opening weekend. Sinora and Anthony are both students at Redeemer Pacific College learning about their Catholic faith.



Anthony de Guzman

Anthony: This is a must-see movie for viewers who love endless action. Its action really was endless.

Sinora: It's about the adventures of a young family after they move onto the abandoned Spiderwick estate.

Anthony: It's like the *Chronicles of Narnia* coming out of the closet into an average American town.

Sinora: It's a mixture of fantasy, adventure, and the challenges of family relationships.

Anthony: The moral of the movie was that sometimes you can be caught up with something you discover, only to realize that

what you have discovered can be dangerous and affect the people whom you love.

Sinora: The children teach important lessons of trust, collaboration, persistence amidst despair, belief in oneself, and love. We watch them learn that they must rely on each other if they are to save themselves and the secret world they have discovered from destruction.

Anthony: What about the flow of the movie? If the Grace children were able to enter and escape the dimension that Spiderwick was caught in through his fantasy pet Griffith, why did Spiderwick never try to escape?



Sinora Barboza

Sinora: It is an interesting and unique movie that lets your imagination run wild.

Anthony: The acting was well done. There were even well known actors who took on small roles, such as Martin Short and Joan Plowright, and I didn't realize that Freddie Highmore was playing both brother parts until the end of the movie.



Paramount Pictures

Sinora: The only negative aspect I found to this movie was that there were a few places where characters take the Lord's name in vain, or curse. Overall, however, it is a nice film to watch as a family, and I recommend it especially for young kids with wild imaginations.

Anthony: I recommend it to viewers over the age of 12, since the violence may scare young children.

In his message for the January 1 World Day of Peace, Pope Benedict XVI noted:

"The natural family, as an

intimate communion of life and love based on marriage between a man and a woman, constitutes the primary place of humanization for the person and society, and a cradle of life and love. The family is therefore rightly defined as the first natural society, a divine institution that stands at the foundation of life of the human person as the prototype of every social order."

"Indeed, in a healthy family life we experience some of the fundamental elements of peace: justice and love between brothers and sisters, the role of authority ex-

pressed by parents, loving concern for the members who are weaker because of youth, sickness, or old age, mutual help in the necessities of life, and readiness to accept others and, if necessary, to forgive them. For this reason, the family is the first and indispensable teacher of peace."

Sinora and Anthony both agree that the best family movies are built on these truths about the family, society, and peace.

Chris Morrissey is an Assistant Professor of Medieval Latin Philosophy at Redeemer Pacific College. □

Musical Lenten meditation to be on Christ's passion

The Amabilis Singers will perform at Holy Rosary Cathedral during the regular 5 p.m. Mass Saturday, March 8. The choir will be conducted by Ramona Luengen, with organist Roy Campbell providing the accompaniment.

The program will include works by Mozart and Josef Rheinberger, the 19th-century German composer best known for his Brahms-inspired organ sonatas.

The highlight of the liturgy will be the *Messe No. 1* by the Austrian composer Karl Pembaur, who spent most of his musical life in Dresden and died there in 1939. Pembaur, a lifelong devout Catholic, was especially influenced by the religious music of his countryman Anton Bruckner.

This will be the first time that Pembaur's music has been sung at Holy Rosary. Singing will begin at 4:50 p.m.



Music Notes
Patrick Raynard

Ramona Luengen, well known as the director of the Phoenix Chamber Choir, has conducted the Amabilis Singers for the last two years. The 60-voice mixed chorus was founded in 1981 as the Douglas College Community Choir under the baton of Diane Loomer. Eight years later the ensemble became an independent choir, and it is now made up of singers from all over the Lower Mainland.

The Jubilee Concert Choir of south Surrey will host its annual One-Hour Choral Meditation on the Passion of Christ at Good Shepherd Church on Sunday, March 9, at 3 p.m. Director Trudi

Stammer will lead her singers in a moving service that will include Scripture readings and music sung in English, Latin, and French.

Julie VanSpall, spokeswoman for the choir, told me last week that this year's musical selections will include the Kyrie and Agnus Dei from Haydn's *Missa Brevis St. Joannis de Deo*, the *Lacrimosa* from Mozart's *Requiem*, and Faure's *Cantique de Jean Racine*.

Mozart wrote his momentous *Requiem Mass* while on his deathbed in Vienna in 1791. "Amadeus," the 1984 film which won eight Oscars and six Golden Globes, popularized the notion that Mozart's contemporary, Antonio Salieri, tricked the dying composer into writing the *Requiem* so that the mediocre Salieri later could pass it off as his own.

However Salieri had nothing to do with the piece; he simply was a minor Viennese composer who was

jealous of Mozart's towering talent.

The truth is that Mozart's grasping wife, Constanza, hired a music student named Franz Xaver Süssmayr to take notes from her bedridden husband and then pull these sketches together into a coherent whole. The ever-shrewd Connie planned to sell the *Requiem* to publishers so that she could pay off her enormous debts.

Gustave Faure's *Cantique de Jean Racine* had a far less dramatic beginning, but the piece is just as rich and moving. Faure, a French composer of the Romantic era, wrote the *Cantique* when he was only 19 years old because he wanted to make a statement to the musical world. Instead of making his fortune with the large-scale crowd-pleasers that were so common in his time, he wanted to build his reputation with subtle miniatures rooted in his quiet Catholic faith.

Faure's much later *Requiem*, for which he is best known, has an intimate and ethereal quality that has made it a favourite of the Catholic repertoire for 120 years.

Faure took his *Cantique* from a powerful three-verse prayer by Jean Racine, the 17th-century French dramatist and poet. Racine's last verse translates as follows:

"O Christ, show favour to Your faithful people who have come together to worship You; receive the praises that they offer up to Your immortal glory, and may they return bearing the gift of Your grace."

The One-Hour Choral Meditation will include contemporary pieces such as *Come to the Cross*, *Father Forgive Them*, *Lamb of God*, and *Where Are the Shepherds Now?*

VanSpall added that the choir (which sang recently at Holy Rosary Cathedral) has always donated its concert proceeds to charities. Admission to the March 9 concert will be by donation; a portion of the proceeds will be given to the two children the choir is fostering through Chalice, previously Christian Child Care International. □



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