



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

PURSUING TRUTH · DEFENDING LIBERTY SINCE 1844

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 2, 2024

CONTACT:

Emily Stack Davis

517-803-3745

PR@hillsdale.edu

Hillsdale College Symphony Orchestra Performs Fall Concert

Hillsdale native and College alumnus Nicholas Nestorak performed with the orchestra following his Metropolitan Opera debut.

HILLSDALE, Mich. — The Hillsdale College Symphony Orchestra performed its second concert of the season in Christ Chapel on Saturday, Nov. 23. The concert featured Antonín Dvořák’s Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70 as well as an appearance by guest tenor soloist Nicholas Nestorak, a 2011 College alumnus and Hillsdale native who recently made his Metropolitan Opera debut.

“It was a joy to welcome Nick back to Hillsdale, and his performance with the orchestra was spectacular,” said James A Holleman, music director of choirs and orchestras. “The amount of pride I experienced during his performance must have been doubled by the community and tripled by his parents and family. It is such a joy to bring back a student we worked with for his formative undergraduate four years to experience the professional level he has achieved. His performance was an inspiration to our current students of what is possible.”

Nestorak joined the Metropolitan Opera roster in 2021, making his Met début last season as Pang in their lavish production of “Turandot.” Nestorak is a graduate of Hillsdale High School, Hillsdale College, and The University of Michigan. He was a member of the Hillsdale College Symphony Orchestra, College Choir, and Chamber Choir and participated in the Opera Workshop program. He is continuing his opera career and work with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

Nestorak joined the orchestra in selections from several operas: “Così fan tutte” by Mozart, “Rigoletto” by Giuseppe Verdi, and “La bohème” and “Turandot” by Giacomo Puccini.

The orchestra also performed “Two Portraits,” Op. 5, by Béla Bartók, featuring violin soloist junior Michael Berry. Berry performed on a Nicolo Amati violin. A gift from David and Bonnie Joy Hough in 2022, the Amati is part of the Hillsdale Hough Collection of Rare String Instruments.

For photos from previous performances in Christ Chapel, click [here](#).

For a high-resolution copy of the Hillsdale College clocktower logo, click [here](#).

About Hillsdale College

Hillsdale College is an independent, nonsectarian, Christian liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, *Imprimis*, with a circulation of more than 6.6 million. For more information, visit hillsdale.edu.

###