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Rising Stars concert to feature local grad

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When Chris Cresswell graduated in 2006, he didn't know his academic career would include a stop back home in Cazenovia.

But now, Cresswell is back as part of the Cazenovia Counterpoint "Rising Star" concert series, this time as a composer.

A new, three-part work for piano and voice by Cresswell will premier at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday July 14 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 11 Mill St.

Cresswell became involved with the Society for New Music, which is organizing the Cazenovia Counterpoint festival, after founding Cantus Novus, the only student-run new music organization at Syracuse University. Cantus Novus allows student composers to have their works performed in a concert setting. The group hosts about five performances a year at S.U.

Cresswell went to SUNY Fredonia in 2006, but soon returned to Central New York, transferring to S.U. his sophomore year. He finally settled on a composition major, and will be graduating at the end of spring 2011.

The concert will feature Cresswell as well as composers Alex Graham of Syracuse, and Diego Davidenko of Jamesville. Performing Cresswell's piece will be Katie Weber, a vocalist from Syracuse. Also performing will be Joann Wu on flute and Gina Fortunato playing the piano.

Another "Rising Stars" performance will be held at the same time and place Wednesday July 21.

Upcoming Cazenovia Counterpoint events

July 14

12:30 p.m.: Rising Stars Concert, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Cazenovia, free. Katie Weber, voice, Joanna Wu, flute, and Gina Fortunato, piano, will perform the classics alongside new works created for them by young composers Chris Cresswell, Alex Graham and Diego Davidenko, accompanied by Sar Shalom Strong.

July 15

6 p.m.: J.T. Hall Jazz Consort, Lakeland Park Pavilion, Cazenovia, free. Part of the Cazenovia Chamber

of Commerce Concerts in the Park series. Followed by Tom Bronzetti Trio. Bronzetti is a 24-year-old guitarist who recently earned a music degree from Ithaca College. Bronzetti, guitar; Joseph Arcuri, double bass; Rick Montalbano, drums.

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