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Copy by: *Tatiana Owens*

## **El Camino College to Present Annual Fine Arts Division Open House**

For El Camino College Opera Theater Club President Jose Torres, music began as a good way to dodge physical education class his freshman year of high school. What started out as an excuse turned into a hobby, then a skill and is now a career path.

“I started playing the flute in marching band my freshman year in high school to get out of P.E., then as a sophomore I started playing in a band,” said Jose, who grew up in Palmdale. “The El Camino College Applied Music Program has helped me to become a well-rounded performer. Having exclusive instructor assistance helped me to sharpen my skills as a flutist. The program has helped me develop a better stage presence and overcome feelings of anxiety about performing onstage.”

Jose is one of many El Camino College students who will perform at the Fine Arts Division Open House, set for 5-8 p.m. April 24. The Fine Arts Division Open House gives current students a chance to showcase their talents and prospective students can see the various art opportunities at El Camino College.

The open house will include a student exhibition in the Art Gallery, a bronze pour in the sculpture foundry, a speakers forum and debate by communication studies faculty and staff, student films in ECC’s state-of-the-art editing lab, interactive/interdisciplinary dances with chamber groups, and jazz combos on the Library Lawn, as well as vocal and instrumental performances by music faculty and students in Haag Recital Hall.

Jose will perform “Cantabile et Presto” by Romania’s acclaimed composer George Enescu. He will be accompanied on the piano by Kenner Bailey. The music was written in 1904 as a “test” piece for students to demonstrate their newly honed skills, with *cantabile* meaning a “flowy, singing aspect” and *presto* referring to a show of technical skill.

Also included in the evening’s festivities will be a photography exhibit in Schauerman Library, titled “Art and Beauty,” with a dedication to the late music professor Chris Mello; a tour of the Campus Theatre and a pre-show talk with the cast of “Bye Bye Birdie;” an interdisciplinary performance in the Black Box Theatre; hands-on cinematography using high-tech cameras; and classroom displays and interactive activities. Refreshments and an opportunity drawing are also planned for the open house.

The Fine Arts Division Open House is free and open to the public. For more information call the Fine Arts Division Office at 310-660-3715.

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