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**Millikin vocal studio to present love-themed cabaret to**

**raise awareness and support for Dove, Inc.**



Photo: Dr. Justin John Moniz, *Coordinator of Vocal Studies*

Courtesy: Millikin University

For as long as he can remember, Dr. Justin John Moniz has been using music as a vehicle for conversation— an opportunity for social impact. In his second year as Millikin University’s Coordinator of Vocal Studies, Moniz is now challenging his students to do the same.

On Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 7:00pm and 9:30pm, the studio of Dr. Moniz – more commonly recognized on-campus as StudioJJM – will present an original cabaret entitled, *Can’t Help Falling in Love.* Held in Millikin University’s Kaeuper Hall, the program will feature twenty undergraduate music and theatre majors, sharing individual stories about the unique power and challenges of love. The cabaret was carefully programmed to include stories of love in *all* forms—pieces with the word ‘love’ in the title, and not just songs *about* love. The program includes solos, duets, and trios, from hit musicals including *The Color Purple, Side Show, Brigadoon, All Shook Up,* and *Purlie,* among many others.

“The studio has been rehearsing this program since August and we’re very eager to get it on its feet and share these powerful stories with our community,” said Moniz. “So often, love has such a positive connotation. Sadly, that’s not always the reality. There is good love, bad love, and, of course, the unhealthy kind of love. Through our programming, we have ventured to shed light on much of the good, but to also bring awareness to the type of love that results in more problematic situations—those of ongoing violence and domestic abuse.”

While admission to the February 3rd performance is free to the public, a $10.00 suggested donation will benefit Dove, Inc. The Decatur-based 501(c)(3) is a social service agency, serving people in Central Illinois. The organization is a coalition of religious organizations, volunteers, and advocates that seek to coordinate efforts to address unmet human needs and social injustices. Dove works for justice, equality, and understanding among all people.

“Dove’s Domestic Violence Program offers a number of services including use of a residential shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, aid for children, and a number of community education initiatives,” said Moniz. “We have chosen to use this musical event as a vehicle for conversation—to raise awareness and support for a local cause which we feel passionately about. I personally believe in empowering artists to use their voice to tell a story, inspire a cause, raise awareness, and make a difference. This is what it’s all about. It’s who we are. It’s Millikin. And it’s undeniably performance learning in its grandest form.”

Following the 7pm performance, select members of the studio and campus community will lead a talk back moderated by Dr. Moniz. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in important discussion surrounding the issue of domestic violence.

The company includes Cecilia Antonelle, Patricia Bales, Nicole Barth, Shelby Barros, Kiana Beverly, Paige Boomer, Jorie Clark, Piper Charlton, Kylie Deeds, Sami Dickerson, Maura Fawley, Rhealee Fernandez, Thomas Ferro, Aly Gabriel, Chloe Hayes, Will Koski, Dalton Krum, Nate Lee, Sarah Obert, and Cydney Washington. The performance will be led from the piano by Dr. Justin John Moniz, and accompanied by a small rhythm section comprised of Millikin University School of Music faculty.

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*Additional photos, media, and artist information are available upon request.*