

# Mock Wedding inspired by 'Phantom of the Opera'

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By John Miller

"If I am the phantom, it is because man's hatred has made me so. If I am to be saved, it is because your love redeems me." – *Phantom of the Opera*

SUNY Broome hospitality students organized a *Phantom of the Opera*-themed mock wedding to showcase their skill set.

The "wedding" was held April 30, in the parish center of Saint Cyril and Methodius Church of Binghamton. The "ceremony" was conducted by Reverend James Hundley. Music was preformed by the Susquehanna Valley High School Select Choir, by opera singer Katie Glasgow and pianist Emily Mazzaresse. Throughout the evening, Tioga Central student actors performed select scenes from the *Phantom of the Opera*, including the marriage scene.

The event was fully staffed by the students of Wedding Planning, Coordination and Consultation, Fundamentals of Event Management, Professional Cooking, Hospitality Catering and Community Service, and Bartending and Beverage Management.

Paul VanSavage, secretary of Southern Tier Independent Restaurants, said the mock wedding was both "fantastic" and "impressive." He continued the high praises, calling the timing and the food "great."

Professor Rey Wojdat, chairman of the Hospitality Programs Department, and adjunct instructor Maria Montemagno taught their students well; the wedding ran smoothly and some called it "perfect."

Professor Wojdat explained that the hospitality program prepares students in many different ways, teaching them both business and people skills.

The program gives students "just so many opportunities," he said. He added that, based on what he's overheard, his students love putting together the wedding.

At the end of the evening, Maria Montemagno said a great time was had by all. The wedding was the "best learning experience [students] will ever have," she noted.

*Writer John Miller is a SUNY Broome student.*



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