

Hagerstown, Md. **MONDAY** November 13, 2000

From L.A. to HCC 'Back home,' Crowl wows 'em



By Ric Dugan/Staff Photographer

Composer/musician Christy Crowl performs some of her original songs during a concert Sunday at Hagerstown Community College. The former Washington County resident is now based in Los Angeles.

Crowl-pleaser

County native performs at college

By **KIMBERLY YAKOWSKI**
 Staff Writer

Sunday was a homecoming for Washington County native Christy Crowl, who performed a concert of classical and contemporary music at Hagerstown Community College.

Crowl came on stage dressed in a floor-length, silky, black dress with an ecru-colored bodice and bolero jacket after an introduction by her father, HCC professor Vaughn Crowl of Rohrer'sville.

Seated at a grand piano, Crowl started the concert at HCC's Kepler Theater, with "Etude Op. 25 No. in C Minor" followed by "Nocturne Op. 32 No. 1 in B Major," both works of Frederic Chopin.

"It's wonderful to have an opportunity to be at the college and be back home," said Crowl, 28, who is now based in Los Angeles.

"Her playing is wonderful," said concert-goer Judith Kerns.

Kerns said she and her husband, James, were pleased with their choice to sit near the front of the theater.

"I like to see her hand movements" when she plays piano, said Kerns.

Crowl was later joined in the concert by her husband, Scott Dicken, a baritone. A crowd of 300 listened as Dicken sang Claude Debussy's "Beau Soir" in French.

The couple then performed selections from "Five Mystical Songs," by Ralph Williams, reprising the performance of classical works they presented in August for the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

There, Crowl performed before several thousand people at the Fete d' Excellence, or Festival of Excellence, and participated in a forum discussing how artists can promote and instill values in children.

Music is an "important part of education," Crowl told the local crowd.

After a brief intermission, Crowl changed the tone of the concert by coming out dressed in tight, purplish-embossed pants, a long black coat with a feather boa-type trim on the collar, purple halter and funky platform shoes.

She was joined by her husband, who sang and played piano, harmonica and guitar.

Her band included other backup singers and musicians on an electric guitar, cello, keyboards, bass and drums.

The second half of the show featured the following songs she composed with Dicken for her self-titled compact disc, "Open it Up" — "Beautiful," "Soon," "I See Light," "Mary Go Round," "Pardon Me," "Don't Wanna Go," and "No Better Day."

Crowl and her band got the crowd clapping and tapping their toes during the high-energy song "Open it Up."

She later slowed things down again with a soulful performance of her ballad, "Beautiful."

While growing up in Washington County, Crowl performed with Friends 'n Spirit, a show troupe based in Hagerstown that performed at the Maryland Theatre at Christmastime and summertime. The group also performed at conventions in Ocean City, Md.

Two years ago, Crowl started teaching and working with "Bugs Bunny on Broadway." She is the principal pianist and slide guitarist for the show.