

Greatest Hits

Viking Days 2011 included a concert featuring the Augustana Orchestra with rock legends KANSAS at the Washington Pavilion.





When you're a member of a college orchestra, playing with a veteran rock band before an audience of nearly two thousand isn't necessarily on your radar.

Unless you're a member of the Augustana Orchestra.

On Friday, Oct. 14, Augustana's 80-member student Orchestra accompanied 70's rockers, Kansas, on mega-hits such as "Dust in the Wind," "Carry On Wayward Son," "Point of Know Return" and others in a vocal-meets-orchestral-meets-rock extravaganza in the Great Hall of the Washington Pavilion.

The concert was part of the band's "Kansas Collegiate Symphony Tour," an initiative designed to raise awareness and money for collegiate music programs nationwide. The event raised more than \$10,000 in cash and instrument upgrades for the Augustana Music Department.

"This was an excellent opportunity for our student musicians to perform before a live audience, in a beautiful facility, alongside a world-famous band, in a concert that raised money for Augustana's music programs," said Dr. Christopher Stanichar, director of the Augustana Orchestra and associate professor of music. "We're thankful to Kansas for inviting us to participate in this great program. Our students were simply thrilled to be a part of it."

Following the concert, KANSAS members said they enjoyed the experience.

"We all had a great time ... [Augustana has] a very fine orchestra that I know worked very hard and practiced a great deal. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to help make the show a wonderful success. Please accept and convey [our] thanks and utmost appreciation to you and the students in your orchestra. I hope our paths cross again in the future."