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OU student's romantic artwork featured on CD cover

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

When Abbey Moler sat down to create an illustration for a project in her high school French class, she had no idea her pencil sketch would gain any notoriety. Today, the illustration, titled "Français, la langue d'amour," graces the cover of the compact disc "Romance Language," a collection of French romance songs performed by singer **Claudia Hommel**.

The illustration, which was completed as part of National French Week activities, depicts a couple embracing near the base of the Eiffel Tower. The drawing received no awards from Moler's class at Sterling Heights Stevenson, but it caught the eye of Hommel, a cabaret-style French language chanteuse who performed at the school.

"Many students in schools across the country participate in National French Week by creating posters," said Hommel from her home in Chicago. "My attention was totally caught by Abbey's drawing because of the way she framed the Eiffel Tower and the embrace. It's a non-traditional view of the tower because it only shows its base. It's a view that's iconic, yet unordinary.

"Abbey gave me the drawing after I praised it, and I've had it framed on my office wall since then. Later on, when I was working on ideas for CD art, I was at a loss as far as what to place on the back cover. Then I thought of Abbey's drawing, and thought, 'Of course! Abbey's illustration is perfect.'"

Moler, a junior French major in Oakland University's secondary education program, had never before been approached to make an artistic contribution toward such a project.

"When Claudia asked to use my art for the CD I was flattered," Moler said. "I love to draw and dabble in art and design, but that's mainly something I do in my free time. I especially like to play with colors, there's something relaxing in mixing various tones and hues to complement the mood I'm in."

Moler plans to graduate in 2005 and become a French teacher. Though she will stress the evolution and importance of art and art history in her classes, she has no thoughts of becoming a professional artist.

"This past summer I studied abroad in Tours, France, with three other college friends," Moler said. "I had a wonderful time visiting the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay. I love artwork, especially of the French impressionists like Seurat, Van Gogh and Monet. This summer I got to see some of the most fabulous works up close in Paris.

"Even though I love art, I did the illustration just for fun. I really didn't expect to get any credit or attention for it."

"Romance Language" was released in 2002 on Valentine's Day on the Maison Clobert label. The CD can be purchased for \$18 on the **Claudia Hommel** Web site.

SUMMARY

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