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### Gardner-Webb to Host Jazz Orchestra, Swing Dance

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# Gardner-Webb to Host Jazz Orchestra, Swing Dance

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Office of University  
Communications

October 30, 2015

## *School of Performing and Visual Arts to Present Free Event Nov. 6*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Some of North Carolina’s best jazz musicians and educators will perform on the campus of Gardner-Webb University on Nov. 6. The concert in Stewart Hall of the Tucker Student Center will be followed by a swing dance. Both are free and open to the public.

The Piedmont Triad Jazz Orchestra’s concert is set to begin at 7:30 p.m. Based in Greensboro, N.C., the orchestra is composed of professional musicians who promote both the tradition of big band music, composers and arrangers, as well as new compositions by ensemble members. The group’s musicians have performed with bands accompanying artists such as Wynton Marsalis and Harry Connick Jr.

“This is probably the best big band in the state because of the pedigree of the members,” shared Wally West, adjunct instructor of music at Gardner-Webb and co-founder and co-leader of the Piedmont Triad Jazz Orchestra. “For the first half of the concert, you will hear original songs, and original arrangements of classics, written by members of the band. We have strong musicians and strong arrangers, so everything we play is not a stock arrangement you’ve always heard before. That sets us apart from other bands.”

Following the concert, a swing dance is scheduled to begin at approximately 8:15 p.m. “In the second half after intermission, you’ll hear danceable swing music, including some things you probably wouldn’t normally hear for swing dancing,” said West, who plays tenor saxophone in the ensemble. “But the tempo for dancing will be there, and the songs are classics by masters of big band music. Our group offers a cross-reference of some of the best jazz musicians in the state.”

The event is part of the GWU School of Performing and Visual Arts’ 2015-16 Distinguished Artists Series. For more information about the show, contact the GWU Music Department at 704-406-4448.

***Auxiliary aids will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request 48 hours prior to the event. Please call 704-406-4253 or email [servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu) with your request.***

*Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).*