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September 20, 2013

Distinguished Artist Performance Sept. 24 Includes Group from Bob Jones University

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University's School of Performing and Visual Arts presents their first Distinguished Artist Concert of the semester headlined by The Musical Mission Team, an ensemble of 24 students from Bob Jones University on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 8 p.m., in Blanton Auditorium, located in Hamrick Hall. The concert is free and open to the community, however a good-will offering is being accepted to benefit missions.

The Musical Mission Team consists of a choir and instrumental ensemble under the direction of Professor William McCauley. Over the summer, the ensemble completed its 23rd summer tour of Europe, where it has presented over 1,600 concerts over the years in more than 20 countries and republics. Since their beginning, the team has appeared in such cities as Moscow, Paris, and Berlin. They also perform in churches, schools, hospitals, concert halls, and universities.

"The choir specializes in sacred music," said Dr. Patricia Sparti, GWU chair of the Music Dept. and professor of music. "Their programs feature selections of hymns, Gospel songs and early American church music. Each of those programs includes several selections in the language of the host country."

In addition to music majors, members of the ten-week 2013 touring team include majors in education, medicine, church missions, Bible, mathematics, computer science, English, and history. Members of the group are from all across the United States, including a couple from Canada and even one from Switzerland.

The concert also features Gardner-Webb's Kristin Figard, faculty member in viola and violin, who will accompany the choir on the piano in addition to performing as solo instrumentalist in two of the choral arrangements. Figard served as principal accompanist on the Musical Mission Team's 2013 tour.

Bob Jones University is located in Greenville, S.C.

More information about the School of Performing and Visual Arts – music division, including this event are available at 704-406-4448 or by emailing Dr. Patricia Sparti, music director, at psparti@gardner-webb.edu.

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).