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April 24, 2013

New Orleans Style Jazz Equals A Good Time Concert at Gardner-Webb

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The Gardner-Webb Jazz Band, a part of the School of Performing and Visual Arts, presents Music of the Early 1900's: Traditional New Orleans Jazz on Thursday, April 25 at 8 p.m. in the Kathleen Dover Theatre, located in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center. The concert is free and open to the community.

“The numbers in this show were designed specifically for this group,” said GWU Jazz Band Director Rich Willey. “We will world-premiere ten custom arrangements of great old New Orleans jazz standards that evening.” Willey handled arrangements on most of the songs, while students were responsible for two of them.

This year's GWU Jazz Band is made up of only six members and includes the talents of Willey himself.

“We may be a small group, but I think anyone who attends our concert will be dazzled by what we can do. For instance, our drummer Ricky Austin is outstanding and will be showcased in several numbers,” said Willey.

Willey has played with such groups in the past as Maynard Ferguson's Big Bop Nouveau and The Tommy Dorsey and Nelson Riddle Orchestra's. He also lends his time to music faculty at Clemson (S.C.) University, where he serves as a trumpet and music instructor.

More information about the School of Performing and Visual Arts – music division, including this event are available at 704-406-4448.

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).