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February 14, 2013

International Composer and Performer Presents Concert at Gardner-Webb University

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. –The Gardner-Webb University School of Performing Arts will present a unique concert next week featuring world-famous percussionist Tom Sharpe. The event is planned Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. in Blanton Auditorium, located in Hamrick Hall on GWU's main campus.

Sharpe is an internationally recognized, award-winning composer, performer, and recording artist and serves as the drummer for the Grammy-winning group Mannheim Steamroller. He is also active as percussionist for Dennis DeYoung, a legendary singer, songwriter, and pianist who was a member of the 1980s rock band, Styx. In addition to performing as a solo artist, Sharpe also serves as director of the Tom Sharpe Ensemble.

An alumnus of the Interlochen Arts Academy, Sharpe holds the Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from DePaul University in Chicago. He has spent years developing his unique style of visually stimulating performance and lyrical composition. A classically trained musician, he blends his orchestral background with world music instrumentation and cinematic imagery to create an experience that invites the listener into the heart of the musical moment: a wildly emotional and technically precise journey, with a gutsy edge of percussive frenzy and tribal ritual.

The concert is open to the public. While free for students, general admission tickets are \$5 each. For additional information, call 704-406-4453. For more on Tom Sharpe, visit tomsharpe.com.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University was founded in 1905. Gardner-Webb seeks a higher ground in higher education – one that embraces faith and intellectual freedom, balances conviction and compassion, and inspires in students a love of learning, service, and leadership.