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World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra Headlines an Exciting GWU Fall 2011 Performing Arts Schedule

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Office of University Communications

August 30, 2011

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The world famous Glenn Miller Orchestra will bring the big-band pizzazz of the 1940s to Gardner-Webb University on Sept. 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Paul Porter Arena, inside the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center. The event is a fundraiser for the Music Department of Gardner-Webb's new School of Performing and Visual Arts.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra is the most popular and sought after big band in the world today for both concert and swing dance engagements. As one reviewer wrote, "In an era of blaring brass, rinky-dink pianos, and throbbing drums, a young orchestra leader named Glenn Miller...found sound and salvation by muting the brass, featuring the mellow sound of the trombone, and turning the lead over to the reeds. By creating the unmistakable 'Glenn Miller' sound, he lifted himself and his orchestra to an exalted position among the finest groups of the Big Band Era."

Tickets are now on sale for the Sept. 26 concert. The cost is \$10 for general admission and faculty, and \$5 for students. For tickets, call (704) 406-4448, or email Dr. Patricia Sparti at psparti@gardner-webb.edu.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra is one of a host of exciting concerts sponsored by the Gardner-Webb Department of Music this fall. Unless otherwise noted, the following events are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, September 13 – Distinguished Artist Concert Blanton Auditorium, 8pm

A program of virtuosic pieces for violin and piano, featuring Calin Lupanu, Violin and Concertmaster; Monica Boboc, Violin; the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra; GWU violin faculty; and Philip Bush, Piano.

Tuesday, September 20 – Distinguished Artist Concert Blanton Auditorium, 8pm

A program featuring Tanja Bechtler, Cello; Queens University's Paul Nitsch, piano; and GWU faculty.

Thursday, September 22 – Distinguished Artist Masterclass Blanton Auditorium, 8pm

A program featuring trumpeter Charlie Schlueter, the former Principal Trumpet of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

October 4-8 – Is He Dead?

Dover Theatre, 7:30 pm

Guest Professor William Martin directs Mark Twain's farcical comedy *Is He Dead?*, which recently enjoyed a successful run on Broadway. A starving artist who cannot sell a painting to save his life fakes his own death to increase his work's value. When he's forced to dress as his imaginary twin sister to cover his lie, hilarity ensues. *The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and senior adults. Admission is free for Gardner-Webb students, faculty and staff.*

Tuesday, October 11 – GWU Concert Choir, Chorale, and Handbells

Dover Theatre, 8pm

Gardner-Webb's Dr. Paul J. Etter conducts the GWU Concert Choir, Chorale, and Handbells ensemble.

Wed.-Sat., November 9-12 – Hansel and Gretel

Dover Theatre, 7:30pm

GWU's Dr. Susan Ali directs E. Humperdinck's classic opera, which tells the famous story of Hansel and Gretel, siblings who narrowly escape the clutches of a wicked, child-eating witch. The cast will feature both Gardner-Webb students and music department faculty. *The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and senior adults. Admission is free for Gardner-Webb students, faculty and staff.*

Thursday, November 17 – GWU Jazz Band

Dover Theatre, 8pm

Gardner-Webb's Dr. Jeff Richmond directs the GWU Jazz Band.

Tuesday, November 29 – GWU Symphonic Band

Dover Theatre, 8pm

Gardner-Webb's Dr. Matt Whitfield conducts the GWU Symphonic Band.

Nov. 29-Dec. 3 – My Sweet Charlie

Dover Theatre, 7:30 pm

Set during the tumultuous Civil Rights movement, *My Sweet Charlie* is the story of Charlie Roberts, a black New York attorney who is forced to flee when he's falsely accused of murder. He finds refuge, and an unlikely friendship, with Marlene Chambers, a white southern

teenager on the run for a “crime” of her own. Directed by Professor Jim Thomas. *The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and senior adults. Admission is free for Gardner-Webb students, faculty and staff.*

***Thursday, December 1 – Festival of Lights
Dover Theatre, 7pm***

Gardner-Webb’s Dr. Paul J. Etter leads the Gardner-Webb community in the annual musical Christmas Celebration.

***Monday, December 5 – GWU/Cleveland County Orchestra
Dover Theatre, 8pm***

Gardner-Webb’s Dr. Patricia Sparti, chair of the department of music, conducts this performance of the GWU and Cleveland County Orchestra.