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NEWS

For immediate release

Metropolitan Opera singer Arnold Rawls to perform at Ouachita Nov. 10

By Sarah Davis

October 14, 2016

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Ouachita Baptist University will host Arnold Rawls, a Metropolitan Opera tenor, in concert Thursday, Nov. 10, at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be held in Jones Performing Arts Center in conjunction with the Southern Region National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) conference. Tickets for guests not attending the conference are \$12 each.

Rawls is an internationally known singer with a reputation of entertaining audiences through his mix of vocal and dramatic skills. His Metropolitan Opera debut as Radamès in *Aida* captivated the audience in 2011.

“He’s a world-class performer,” said Dr. Jon Secrest, OBU’s Addie Mae Maddox Professor of Music. “A singer doesn’t go under contract with the Metropolitan Opera unless he is one of the elite performers in the world. We’ve had some really fine guest recitalists come in over the years. I believe he may be among the very best we have ever had.”

Rawls has performed across the U.S. and in other countries including Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany and Switzerland. Recent performances include Hagenbach in *La Wally* and Calaf in *Turnandot*. He has a large repertoire of songs from opera arias to art songs.

“This is an amazing opportunity I hope everyone takes advantage of,” Secrest said. “I think our audience will love this recital.”

Rawls’ program will feature art songs including “Adelaïde” by Beethoven; “Wohin?,” “Halt!” and “Ständchen” by Franz Schubert; “Tre sonetti di Petrarca” by Franz Liszt; three spiritual songs arranged by Michael T. Smith including “Love Lifted Me,” “Jesus Loves Me” and “Ride the Morning Wind”; and the opera standards “Recondita armonia” from *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini, “Vesti la giubba” from *Pagliacci* by Ruggiero Leoncavallo and “Ah, si ben mio” and “Di quella pira” from *Il Trovatore* by Giuseppe Verdi.

The recital is the featured guest artist event of the 41st annual Southern Region National Association of Teachers of Singing Conference and Auditions that will be held on Ouachita’s campus Thursday, Nov. 10, through Saturday, Nov. 12. NATS is a non-profit association that promotes the highest standards in the teaching of singing. This conference will feature several recital performances, a three-tiered round of student competitions and two master classes. One of these master classes, to be given by Rawls, will occur at 3:15 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11, in Jones Performing Arts Center. The public is invited to attend free of charge.

“Having NATS at Ouachita is tons of fun because we get to show off our facility and be gracious hosts,” said Secrest, who serves as the current Southern Region governor for NATS. “We should have somewhere between 300 to 500 students and 100 vocal teachers who will be traveling to Arkadelphia.”

Rawls recently was named as a recipient of a grant from the Oglala Forrie Foundation and has joined the foundation as an artistic advisor. His upcoming performances include the production of *Don Jose* by

Bregenz Festival in the summers of 2017 and 2018. He also will be in the Metropolitan Opera production of *Turnadot* in 2017.

Tickets may be purchased at the OBU Box Office in JPAC on weekdays from 1-5 p.m. or online at www.obu.edu/boxoffice. For more information, call the box office during business hours at (870) 245-5555 or email boxoffice@obu.edu.

For more information about the Arnold Rawls recital, contact Jon Secrest at secrestj@obu.edu or (870) 245-5134. For more about NATS Southern Region, visit www.natssouthern.com.

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