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For immediate release

Ouachita to host Percussion Ensemble in concert April 10

By Haley Wilkerson

March 27, 2017

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

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—Ouachita Baptist University will host the OBU Percussion Ensemble in concert on Monday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. The concert, which is free and open to the public, will be held in McBeth Recital Hall in Mabee Fine Arts Center on Ouachita's campus.

The OBU Percussion Ensemble will perform four pieces, each adapted to highlight Ouachita's percussion students and alternating between drum-based pieces and keyboard-based pieces. The ensemble is directed by Dr. Ryan Lewis, associate professor of percussion.

The concert will begin with "Trio per Uno" by Nebosia Zivkovic. For this three-movement work, different trios will perform each section to allow more student musicians the opportunity to participate.

The concert will continue with student musicians accompanying the silent film "The Balloonatic" by director Buster Keaton. This piece will consist of nine students playing in a ragtime band while five students will perform live sound effects, just like Foley artists in Hollywood. Lewis anticipates that audiences will find this approach "unique and interesting ... especially considering today's technologically advanced movies."

The next piece on the program is "Strange Loops" by Patrick Long and will be conducted by Van O'Rorke, a senior instrumental music education major from Hot Springs, Ark. This piece for percussion quartet, each with two drums and a cymbal, "includes the unusual feature of having the conductor play a woodblock throughout (who is also responsible for a surprise at the very end)," Lewis noted.

The concert will conclude with David Mancini's "Suite for Solo Drum Set and Percussion Ensemble." This piece typically features a single solo drum set player, but "we have three seniors, each with terrific drum set skills, so we will feature all three of them at the same time on the piece," Lewis said. He added that this selection promises to be "a terrific way to end the concert."

For more information on the percussion ensemble, visit www.obu.edu/percussion or contact Dr. Ryan Lewis at lewisr@obu.edu or (870) 245-5421.