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Katy Firmin
Ouachita Baptist University

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NEWS

For immediate release

Ouachita Wind Ensemble to present spring concert on March 12

By Katy Firmin

March 4, 2015

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

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—The Ouachita Baptist University's Wind Ensemble will present its spring concert on Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. in Jones Performing Arts Center. The performance is free and open to the public.

"I'm excited for this concert because there is such a wide variety of music choices," said ensemble member Elizabeth Lawson, a senior music education major from Texarkana, Texas. "There are traditional and modern pieces, and it's been a lot of fun learning and preparing."

The ensemble includes 52 students who auditioned in January and is directed by Dr. Craig Hamilton, OBU's Lena Goodwin Trimble Professor of Music and director of bands. The concert also will feature solos from the co-winners of the 2014 W. Francis and Mary McBeth Concerto Competition, December 2014 Christian studies graduate Sara Walker on clarinet and Brent Nessler on saxophone. Nessler is a senior instrumental music performance major from Rowlett, Texas.

The program begins with "Irish Suite" by Leroy Anderson and is a collection of six movements drawn from familiar Irish folk tunes. The second selection on the program will be the fourth movement of "Brooklyn Bridge" by Michael Daugherty, "North," featuring Walker on clarinet. Dougherty said about the piece, "I imagine Artie Shaw, the great jazz swing clarinetist of the 1940s, performing with his orchestra in the once-glorious Rainbow Room on the 65th floor of the Rockefeller Center." "Be Thou My Vision" by David R. Gillingham will be the third selection. "Tosca Fantasy" will showcase Nessler on saxophone. It features an arrangement of themes from Giacomo Puccini's opera *Tosca*. The concert will close with "Pandemonium" by Roger Cichy, an exciting piece intended to evoke several meanings of the term.

The ensemble has been rehearsing four hours a week since January on the music. "It is a lot of work," said Emily Tual, junior dietetics and nutrition major from Plano, Texas, "but I think we are ready. I think the audience will really enjoy the diversity of the music."

The concert also will be streamed live at www.obu.edu/band. For more information, contact Dr. Craig Hamilton at hamiltonc@obu.edu or (870) 245-5137.

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