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Spring 4-12-2016

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Recommended Citation

Barker, Caitlyn and Ouachita News Bureau, "Ouachita Concert Choir to perform Hayes' Requiem and Te Deum April 28" (2016). *Press Releases*. 253.

https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/press_releases/253

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NEWS

For immediate release

Ouachita Concert Choir to perform Hayes' *Requiem* and *Te Deum* April 28

By Caitlyn Barker

April 12, 2016

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

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Ouachita Baptist University's Concert Choir will perform Mark Hayes' *Requiem* and *Te Deum* on Thursday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m. in McBeth Recital Hall. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at www.obu.edu/boxoffice.

The performance will be “an uplifting, exhilarating and worshipful musical experience,” said Dr. Jon Secret, chair of Ouachita's Department of Applied Music and director of the choir. “The music of Mark Hayes has immediate appeal for the tastes of our student musicians and audience members alike.”

Secret chose the pieces by Mark Hayes as the choir's annual choral masterwork performance. The choir will be accompanied by organist Dr. Adam Haas, OBU visiting assistant professor of music, and Ouachita's chamber orchestra. In addition to the more than 50 students in Concert Choir, the performance will feature soloists Seth Russell, a senior vocal performance major from Crossett, Ark.; Esther Atkinson, a junior musical theatre major from Rogers, Ark.; and Jake Briggs, a senior music major from Alexander, Ark.

Both *Requiem* and *Te Deum* have spiritual themes. However, the choir has found a difference in the deeper meaning of both pieces.

“We are dedicating our performance of the *Requiem* to those who have lost their lives in the war on terror, innocent victims and warriors who have fought the good fight,” Secret said. “*Te Deum*, on the other hand, is an extended anthem praising and celebrating the glories of God, the Father everlasting.”

It takes hours of practice and preparation to perform a work of this difficulty, and the process is made more challenging with limited time for rehearsal. Altogether, Secret said that the experience will help the students become better performers.

“It is extremely gratifying to see the hours of cumulative work come to fruition in the live performance,” he noted. “I selected this music with the intention of challenging members of Concert Choir, knowing full well they would embrace that challenge.” Secret added that a performance of this type of work “grows them musically and spiritually.”

The performance also will provide an opportunity for enrichment for audiences.

“The Ouachita and Arkadelphia communities need to experience live performances of this kind,” Secret said. “This music will move them from a state of mundane, hum-drum existence, to that of enlightenment.”

Members of the chamber orchestra include: Glenda Aldridge, OBU staff accompanist, on piano and harp; Becky Bloodworth, a junior instrumental music education major from Dallas, Texas, on clarinet; Shannon Clardy, adjunct professor of oboe and associate professor of physics at Henderson State University, on oboe; Seth Daniell, a sophomore music composition major from Arkadelphia, Ark., on horn two; Kristin

Grant, assistant professor of music, on flute; Chris Hogan, a December 2015 graduate, on percussion; Jason Potts, a junior instrumental music performance major from Springdale, Ark., on trombone; and Dr. Heather Thayer, assistant professor of music, on horn one.

For more information, contact Dr. Jon Secrest at secretj@obu.edu or (870) 245-5134. To purchase tickets, call the OBU Box Office on weekdays from 1 to 5 p.m. at (870) 245-5555 or visit www.obu.edu/boxoffice.