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OUACHITA
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NEWS

For immediate release

Ouachita Singers to release new CD titled “City Called Heaven”

By Haley Martin

September 30, 2016

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

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Two Ouachita Baptist University choral groups, Ouachita Singers and Women's Chorus, will release a CD on the evening of their Oct. 18 concert. The CD will cost \$15, and all proceeds of this year's CD will go toward the Ouachita Singers' choir tour of Italy over spring break.

“This year, because Singers is going to Italy over spring break, we are going to have a fundraising project with our CDs and sell them to help the students raise money for going on the trip,” said Dr. Gary Gerber, director of the Ouachita Singers and dean of the OBU School of Fine Arts.

The CD's title track, “City Called Heaven,” was arranged by Josephine Poelinitz and features soloist Kayla Walker, a senior musical theatre major from North Little Rock, Ark. Other songs on the CD performed by the Ouachita Singers include “O Clap Your Hands” by John Rutter, “Ave Maria” by Javier Busto, “Song of Exaltation” by John Ness Beck, “Adoramus te, Christe” by Eric Barnum, “God of the Deep” by Dan Forrest, “Lullaby” by Daniel Elder and “Dwijavanthi” arranged by Ethan Sperry.

Women's Chorus, conducted by Dr. Becky Morrison, performs three songs, “In the Sweet By and By” arranged by Daniel J. Hall, “Your Masterpiece” by Philip Thompson and Zenzo Matoga and “Bring Me Little Water, Silvy” by Huddie Ledbetter. Featured soloists include Bethany Gere, a 2016 musical theatre and communication sciences and disorders graduate from White Hall, Ark.; Sarah Sandy, a junior psychology major from El Dorado, Ark.; and Hailey Weiner, a 2016 musical theatre graduate from Maumelle, Ark.

Though the CD primarily features the 2015-2016 choirs, it also includes recordings of the 2014 Ouachita Singers in concert at the Southwestern Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association. They perform “Exsultate Justi” by Thomas Juneau, “I Will Lift Mine Eyes” by Jake Runestad, “There Will Come Soft Rains” by Ivo Antognini, “Vi Adoro” by Manolo Da Rold, “Fair Ines” by Eric Barnum and “Let There Be Light” by Craig Courtney.

“The main thing is trying to capture, in time, that moment where those students were in Singers,” Gerber noted. “You want them to have some kind of substantial recording of what they've done.”

“I have been in Singers for four years now, and it feels amazing to have been able to contribute to this CD,” said Alexis Morgan, a senior music education major from Frisco, Texas. “Music moves the soul, and now I will always have a piece of my experience with me wherever I go.”

The CD is available for purchase in the OBU Bookstore in Evans Student Center, in the School of Fine Arts dean's suite in Mabee Fine Arts room 107 or through current choir members. The Oct. 18 concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Mabee Fine Arts Center's McBeth Recital Hall and is free and open to the public.

For more information about the CD or Ouachita's School of Fine Arts, contact Dr. Gary Gerber at gerberg@obu.edu or (870) 245-5128.

PHOTO OF CD COVER AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

AT <https://www.obu.edu/news/2016/09/30/ouachita-singers-release-new-cd-titled-city-called-heaven/>.