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Ouachita to host annual A Festival of Christmas Dec. 2 and 3



By Erin Jackson November 23, 2016

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

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. — Ouachita Baptist University's School of Fine Arts will present A Festival of Christmas on Dec. 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. in Jones Performing Arts Center. The theme for the 25th annual musical production is "The Spirit of Christmas!"

Ouachita vocal ensembles Concert Choir, Ouachita Singers, Women's Chorus and Ouachita Sounds will all be featured in the performance. Assisting Ouachita's student performers will be local children in the Ouachita Honor Choir and Ouachita's Handbell Ringers. The pit band will feature students from Ouachita's instrumental program.

"Festival of Christmas is the School of Fine Arts' gift of Christmas to students, faculty, staff, patrons and friends of the Ouachita community," said Dr. Gary Gerber, dean of the School of Fine Arts. "We are excited each year to present this program, which for many begins their Christmas season."

The performance includes a variety of song selections from "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" to "Mary, Did You Know?" Arrangements from David Clydesdale include "Grown Up Christmas List," "The Christmas Waltz" and "Holly Jolly Christmas." Many other selections will be featured to help get the audience in the spirit of Christmas.

"A Festival of Christmas is exciting because it is a time for many alumni and donors to come and see current students perform Christmas music," said Abby Root, a senior speech/theatre and education double major from Arkadelphia, Ark. Root will perform as a member of Concert Choir and the Festival of Christmas Dancers. "I really like that we have secular and sacred songs. It's really upbeat and exciting while at the same time extremely reverent and worshipful.

"During the second half when we sing the sacred songs, I am always overwhelmed with gratitude for OBU, the choir, our director, the opportunity and that all this happens because our God decided to give us

His own Son," Root added. "That just leaves me in a place where all I can do is sing His praises."

Tickets are \$12 each and may be purchased online at www.obu.edu/boxoffice or at the Jones Performing Arts Center Box Office weekdays from 1-5 p.m. Group ticket pricing is available for groups of eight or more. Students with a valid OBU ID may receive one free ticket. For more information, call the box office at (870) 245-5555 during business hours.