ABAC Presents Evening of Jazz November 20

TIFTON - The Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Choir at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will present an evening of jazz music on Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium on the campus of ABAC. Sponsored by the ABAC Music Program in the School of Liberal Arts, this concert is open to the public at no charge.

This concert marks the first time that Dr. Thomas Heflin, Assistant Professor of Jazz, will take on the task of directing the ABAC Jazz Ensemble. Heflin, who joined the ABAC music faculty this semester, received his doctorate in Music Performance (Jazz Emphasis) from the University of Texas.

With degree in hand, Heflin moved to New York City, where he served as Program Manager and a jazz faculty member at the Manhattan School of Music Precollege Division for five years. Heflin, who is also a recording artist for Atlanta-based Blue Canoe Records, will pick up his trumpet to join the ensemble for selected numbers during the evening.

Heflin said the concert will feature standards from the entire 100-year history of jazz. Styles of jazz will include New Orleans music, swing music, Jazz/Funk fusion, Latin/Afro-Cuban jazz music and modern jazz.
The ABAC Jazz Choir under the direction of Dr. Susan Roe will perform three selections during the concert. They will sing “All the Cats Join In” by Benny Goodman and two Cole Porter jazz standards, “Begin the Beguine” and “Night and Day.”

The Jazz Ensemble’s performance will feature “Take the A Train,” arranged for the Duke Ellington Orchestra; “Manteca,” one of the first Afro-Cuban songs, composed by Dizzy Gillespie; “A Child Is Born,” a jazz ballad arranged by Thad Jones; Herbie Hancock’s “Chameleon,” a jazz fusion tune; and “Second Line,” a standard played by New Orleans second line brass bands.

In honor of Cordele native Joe Williams, who sang with the famous Count Basie Orchestra, the selection “Every Day I Have The Blues” will be performed by soloist Terrence Gibson, a sophomore music vocal major from Baxley. Gibson will take on Williams’ role in this composition.

For more information on this concert, interested persons can contact Heflin at (229) 391-5253.

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