ABAC Performing Arts Series Kicks Off Fourth Season September 27

TIFTON—Opera, jazz, and dramatic performances based on works from Shakespeare and Mozart are all included in this year’s “ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series” at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.
ABAC Arts Connection Director Wayne Jones said the 2015-16 series kicks off with the Albany Symphony Orchestra on Sept. 27 at 3 p.m. at the Tift County High School (TCHS) Performing Arts Center. The symphony will feature conductor Claire Fox Hillard and violinist Tom Fain. The performance will showcase John Corigliano’s “Red Violin” suite and Edward Elgar’s “Enigma” variations.

The Olney Theatre Center’s National Players will stage William Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar” as part of the company’s 67th national tour at 7 p.m. on Oct. 15 in Howard Auditorium at ABAC. The Olney Theatre Center, located in Montgomery County, Md., offers a diverse array of year-round professional productions that enrich, nurture and challenge a broad range of artists, audiences and students.

The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers’ Chorus will perform a free concert on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. in the TCHS Performing Arts Center. Although the concert is free, a ticket is required to attend the performance. From Boston to Baghdad, The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers’ Chorus has been thrilling audiences for more than 60 years. As the premier touring musical representative for the United States Army, the internationally-acclaimed organization travels thousands of miles each year presenting a variety of music to eager audiences throughout the nation and abroad.

“Don Giovanni,” an operatic masterpiece by world renowned composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, will be staged by the Peach State Opera Company on Feb. 11, 2016 in Howard Auditorium. One of the greatest comic operas of all time, the opera's comedic element is driven by Giovanni's dastardly plots and hijinks. But both Lorenzo da Ponte's libretto and Mozart's matchless music ensure that the grim costs of those schemes are as obvious as their humor.
The Dallas Brass will perform at the TCHS Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. on March 8, 2016. Since its founding in 1983 by Michael Levine, the group has become one of America’s foremost musical ensembles. With a unique blend of traditional brass instruments and a full complement of drums and percussion, Dallas Brass creates a performing entity of extraordinary range and musical challenges.

The program for the evening is a musical travelogue through American history from the time of George Washington to the present day. The performance will feature not only the Dallas Brass, but also the ABAC Concert Band and the Tift County High School Band in a thrilling finale to a spectacular evening.

Saxophonist Greg Tardy will be the guest performer for the annual ABAC Jazz Festival at Howard Auditorium at 7 p.m. on April 21, 2016. Tardy discovered jazz during his college years and, he has recorded 12 CDs since 1992. Tardy has played with jazz greats including Wynton and Ellis Marsalis. He most recently has brought his clarinet out of retirement to play on recordings by Tom Harrell, Chris Potter, Andrew Hill and others.

Backed by ABAC’s Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Thomas Heflin, Tardy’s performance is sure to be a sell-out. The ABAC Jazz Ensemble’s award-winning performances have taken the group to some of the world’s greatest stages, including the Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and the North Sea Jazz Festival in Amsterdam.

While available tickets will be sold at the door for each show, Jones encourages advance purchase of tickets to ensure seating for patrons. Tickets for the entire series are $50 for adults and $20 for students under 18 years of age. Tickets can be purchased online at www.purplepass.com/abac or by phone at (229) 391-4895. Individual tickets for each event are
$15 each for adults and $10 each for students under 18 years of age. A ticket is still required for
the free performance of The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers’ Chorus.

The “ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series” is supported in part by the Georgia
Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Georgia
Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency - the National Endowment for
the Arts.

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