

Gardner-Webb's Annual Festival Of Lights Ushers In Celebration Of Christmas

Gardner-Webb University - Asst. Director of Communications

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—The Gardner-Webb University Department of Music hosts the 2024 celebration of Festival of Lights on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Dover Theatre. Featuring performances by GWU music groups, the program includes carol singing and the reading of the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke.

Admission for the event is $10—$5 of which will be used in western North Carolina to support those impacted by Hurricane Helene and $5 will go directly to support the Department of Music. General admission tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door.*

Purchase tickets at https://ie1.glitnirticketing.com/ieticket/web/seatcartgrp.php?section_id=15&refresh=1730901241

Dr. Joshua Cheney, assistant professor of music and coordinator of choral activities, described the repertoire chosen for the program. He noted, "We are excited to share selections of Christmas classics arranged by contemporary composers Dan Forrest, Matt Riley, Shawn Kirchner, and Elaine Hagenberg, alongside original compositions by Benjamin Britten, Tom Shelton, and Ivo Antognini."

President Dr. William Downs will give the welcome and opening prayer. Vice President and University Chaplain for Christian Life and Service Dr. Josh Parrot will present the scripture readings and offer the closing prayer.

Performances will be given by the Concert Choir, Orchestra, Webb Chorale, and Gardner Singers. The audience will join in singing, "The First Nowell," and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Other traditional selections include "Angels We Have Heard on High," "Silent Night," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."