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Music of the People

Milledgeville, Ga. – Six student conductors will be featured directing the three GC traditional choral ensembles: University Chorus, Women’s Ensemble, Max Noah Singers. These include senior music education majors Meagan Johnson, Mitchell Moore, Brianna Riley, Bradley Sowell and Caroline Thomas. All five of the undergraduate assistant directors started together in fall 2011 and will be directing a piece each with one of the choral ensembles. All except Johnson will be student teaching in middle Georgia next semester and graduating in May 2015.

Bradley Sowell began as a student conductor in spring 2014 by conducting a piece with Max Noah Singers. Sowell said, “Being able to choose, prepare, and perform a piece with Max Noah Singers has provided me with much needed experience. It has helped me grow not only as a musician but as a leader as well. It is not enough to just hear the musical aspects of the piece, but you have to lead the group in the emotional direction of it as well. I am grateful and fortunate to have been given this experience.” Sowell has been applying for graduate schools in voice performance and plans to be a college music professor in the future.

Stephen Hutchings, graduate assistant in music education, has prepared and will conduct a piece with the men of University Chorus. Hutchings is a graduate of the University of Georgia and Washington County High School; he was also the director of UGA’s men’s a cappella ensemble, *The Accidentals* est. 1974, for two years. Under his direction, the group placed 3rd in the finals of the 2010 International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella. Hutchings has also prepared The Cat’s Meow for their performance of his arrangement of John Lennon’s “Imagine.” Jennifer Flory, director of choral activities, asked Hutchings to arrange a piece of popular music that would fit the theme of the concert. Hutchings said, “I tried to find something that was recognizable to multiple generations by the first few notes alone.” For this, “Imagine” rings true.

The Georgia College Choral Ensembles, including the University Chorus, Women’s Ensemble, Max Noah Singers and The Cat’s Meow, will perform *Music of the People* on Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Milledgeville. All of the pieces to be performed are songs written

from the perspective of a group of people united by circumstance. Featured are arrangements of protest songs, African-American spirituals and folk songs, among others. The emphasis is on choral music outside the classical realm that reflects unique traits of certain cultures yet celebrates the oneness of the human experience.

Georgia College Choral Ensembles consist of University Chorus, Women's Ensemble, and the auditioned Max Noah Singers. Dr. Jennifer Morgan Flory has been director of choral activities since August 2005. The Choral Ensembles and Flory strive to commission and premiere new works by composers such as Emma Lou Diemer and David Hamilton. The Max Noah Singers embark on an annual performance and recruiting tour. Please contact Flory if you are interested in hosting the singers. For more information contact Flory at jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu or 478-445-4839.

Georgia College, the state's designated Public Liberal Arts University, combines the educational experience expected at esteemed private liberal arts colleges with the affordability of public higher education. Its four colleges – arts and sciences, business, education and health sciences – provide 6,700 undergraduate and graduate students with an exceptional learning environment that extends beyond the classroom, engaging students with hands-on involvement with faculty research, community service, residential learning communities, study abroad, myriad internships and leadership opportunities.

Founded in 1889, Georgia College boasts one of the most beautiful campuses in the nation with Corinthian columns fronting red brick buildings and wide-open green spaces. Georgia College also offers graduate education at the historic Thomas Jefferson Building in downtown Macon, at Robins Air Force Base and online.

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