Arts

FURMAN CONCERTS

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Furman University's Music by the Lake Summer Concert Series strives to please as many tastes as possible.

That's why you'll find in the admission-free series a mix of orchestral and choral favorites, as well as jazz, big band, international, contemporary, bluegrass and Broadway show tunes.

"We try to get some different kinds of musical offerings to whet everybody's appetite," says Leslie Hicken, director of the Lakeside Concert Band, which performs most of the concerts.

The series, which has taken place annually since 1968, gets under way this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. with a performance by the Lakeside Concert Band titled "The Magic of Andrew Lloyd Webber." Featured will be instrumental excerpts from the Broadway composer's "Sunset Boulevard" and "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Other Broadway favorites will be included from such shows as "Rent," "Les Miserables" and "Miss Saigon."

About 1,000 to 3,000 people attend each of the 11 Thursday concerts, with the late June-early July patriotic performance (this year falling on June 30) often bringing out as many as 10,000 people.

"We have a great sound system, so while some people sit in the amphitheater, others sit all around the lake," says Hicken. "It offers a lot of different ways of enjoying the music."



Music lovers are encouraged to bring blankets and picnics to enjoy concerts at Furman's Lakeside Amphitheatre. This year's series begins Thursday with "The Magic of Andrew Lloyd Webber."

As always, those attending are invited to bring picnic baskets, lawn chairs, beach towels and well-behaved, leashed animals. Alcoholic beverages, however, are not allowed.

The Lakeside Concert Band is an all-volunteer ensemble of 75 instrumentalists, including music teachers, students and others from all walks of life.

The Andy Carlson Band is returning to offer some tasty bluegrass on July 14. Opening for the band will be the South Carolina Suzuki Institute Fiddlers, young musicians attending a summer camp at Furman.

New to the series this year is "neif-norf percussion" on June 9, featuring percussion students from throughout the country who will be attending a 10-day conference at Furman organized by percussion professor Omar Carmenates.

"This is the first year we've hosted this," says Hicken, who has been associated with the Lakeside series since 1999. "We're very excited about it. They're going to be exploring some very contemporary music."

Also new to the series is the Greenville Textile Band on Aug. 4. Director Michael Moore has "recreated a textile mill band of 30 players with uniforms and the whole bit," says Hicken.

McAlister Auditorium is the rain site for the concerts beginning June 9.

Lakeside tradition returns for 43rd year

LAKESIDE CONCERTS

Following is a list of the free concerts. All begin at 7:30 p.m. (although the July 14 concert includes a 7 p.m. pre-show event) in the university's amphitheater:

- May 26: **"The Magic of Andrew Lloyd Webber,"** featuring the Lakeside Concert Band (Leslie W. Hicken, director).
- June 2: **"Cinemagic,"** with the Carolina Youth Symphony (Leslie Hicken, director).
- June 9: **"neif-norf" percussion ensemble,** directed by Omar Carmenates.
- June 16: **Swing Shift Combo** (John Hope, leader).
- June 23: **"Rhapsody in Blue"** at the McAlister Auditorium, with Derek Parsons (piano soloist) and the Lakeside Concert Band (Leslie Hicken, director).
- June 30: **"Sweet Land of Liberty" Patriotic Celebration,** featuring the Greenville Chorale (Hugh Ferguson Floyd, director) and the Lakeside Concert Band (Leslie Hicken, director).
- July 7: **Greenville Brass Quintet** (Joe Hughes, director).
- July 14: **Bluegrass Night: the Andy Carlson Band,** with the S.C. Suzuki Institute Fiddlers opening at 7 p.m. (Anna Joiner and Cortney Baker, directors).
- July 21: **St. Patrick's Day Concert,** featuring the Lakeside Concert Band (Leslie Hicken, director).
- July 28: **"The Wonderful World of Disney,"** with the Lakeside Concert Band (Leslie Hicken, director).
- Aug 4: **The Greenville Textile Band** (Michael Moore, director).

For more information, contact the Furman music office at 864-294-2086. For parking information, call 864-294-2111.