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Big Jazz Band Spring Ball to be held at Central Square in Glenwood

Summary:

(March 16, 2004)-Do you remember dancing to Glen Miller, Count Basie and Duke Ellington? Did you meet your best friend under a sparkling silver ball that glistened on the dance floor below? Or do you just love the Big Band jazz sound or a swingin' good time out with friends?

If you answered a resounding "YES!" to any or all of the above, you won't want to miss this year's Spring Ball on Friday, April 16, at Central Square in Glenwood (formerly held at the Lakeside Ballroom). The public is invited to get in the swing and join in the fun.

The University of Minnesota, Morris Big Jazz Band with director, James "Doc" Carlson will provide the beat. This fifth annual fundraiser, hosted by Jim Gremmels, Glenwood, UMM professor emeritus of English, and Jack Imholte, former UMM chancellor and professor emeritus of history, is set for 8-11:30 p.m. Arrive early at 7:15 p.m. and enjoy free dance lessons given by instructors from the UMM Swing Dance Club. Tickets are \$10 adults \$5 students.

Proceeds will go equally toward the UMM Humanities Phase III project, the John Q. Imholte Scholarship at UMM and the Lakeside Ballroom Fund. Prizes will be awarded for the best-dressed couple and the best dancing couple.

Launched on the occasion of his retirement as chancellor of UMM, the John Q. Imholte Endowed Scholarship is awarded to upper division students who have completed 90 credits of coursework and demonstrated outstanding academic ability. The Humanities Phase III Performing Arts Center Project targets plans for a performance space in Humanities Fine Arts at UMM.

The historic Lakeside Ballroom, once located on the shores of Lake Minnewaska, had attracted many big bands including the likes of Glen Miller, Louis Armstrong, and Lawrence Welk. The building was destroyed by fire on June 7, 2003.

"The Ballroom was historically monumental for this area," said Dr. James Carlson, director of the UMM Jazz Ensembles.

Lakeside Ballroom Fundraising Committee will provide beverages. Restaurants that will provide food for the event are Café Bella, Minnewaska House, Pizza Ranch, The Hatchery of Lowry, Torgy's on the Lake, and Bistro to Go. Central Square is located at 105 – 2nd Ave N.E. in Glenwood.

UMM jazz musicians have performed for a variety of music conventions, including the MMEA (Minnesota Music Educators Association) convention in Minneapolis and the NCMENC (North Central Music Educators National Conference) in Chicago. In 1991, the UMM Jazz Ensemble was one of the 25 big bands from around the world to perform at the 25th annual Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switz., as well as in 1994 at The North Sea Jazz

Festival at The Hague, Netherlands, with return appearances to both Festivals in 1997. They have also performed at Carnegie Hall with The Count Basie Orchestra, and at both the Montreux and Vienne, France Jazz Festivals in 2000. In addition, UMM jazz musicians perform each year with renowned jazz artists during UMM's own Jazz Fest. This year's 26th Annual Jazz Fest, which will be held April 1-3, will welcome jazz guest artists Wayne Bergeron on trumpet, and Kim Park on saxophone, flute and piano.

Visit the Lakeside Ballroom web site at www.lakesideballroom.org.

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