Chowan University President, Dr. Chris White, has released his first instrumental CD. This release comes on the heels of great excitement at Chowan. The institution of higher learning has reached numerous milestones since the inauguration of Dr. White in 2004. In this short period, the school has continuously broken Fall enrollment records as a four-year institution as well as recently exceeding a $21 million endowment fund mark. During the previous academic year (2006-07), the school transitioned from college to university status and its mascot from Braves to Hawks. A school that was once seen as declining has shocked everyone and is now soars the mountain of success.

Dr. White was trained in classical piano in his youth. While his career as a minister and educator has been blessed with two highly successful presidencies at leading Baptist institutions, he has used his unique piano gifts of improvisation in many religious and secular settings. “The piano is the only instrument that can provide the power and finesse, and the balance and the voicing of a full orchestra. No other instrument has reached into people’s lives in as many ways as the piano,” stated Dr. White.

Growing up, Dr. White’s grandfather, Leonard Powell, who was musically inclined first inspired him to learn the piano. His parents, Martin and Christine White, continuously encouraged Dr. White as he grew to enjoy playing the piano and entertaining friends and family. His beloved wife, Linda Fleming White, has also played a special part as his partner in life.

The musical talent that Dr. White possesses has caused many people to question why he had not produced a CD. They enjoy listening to Dr. White play improvisations of their favorite hymns and would like to experience these same feelings of nostalgia in their workplace, at home, and while the car. “People have been asking me for years to produce a CD and I have finally done just that. I have come to the realization that someday I may not be able to play the piano. I would like for my grandchildren to be musically inclined and I hope this will be an inspiration to them as my grandfather was to me,” stated Dr. White.

The twenty-five track CD includes many songs that people grew up listening to and singing in church. Such songs on “The Spirit Soars” CD include:

  “The Old Rugged Cross”
  “Because He Lives”
  “Just a Closer Walk With Thee”
  “What a Friend We Have In Jesus”
  “Just As I Am”
  “Amazing Grace”

The entire CD was produced on the Chowan University campus. Dr. White played the songs for the CD in Turner Auditorium of the historic McDowell Columns Building on the Chowan University campus. Chowan Music Professor, Dr. James Guthrie, assisted with recording and editing, and Jennifer Groves of the Chowan Graphic Communication Department designed the cover.

All proceeds from “The Spirit Soars” will be placed in an endowment fund of the Chowan University Christian Service Association to provide scholarship assistance for ministerial students.
Dr. White’s CD title, “The Spirit Soars,” tells the story of Chowan University. Under his leadership, the University has begun to soar much like his music with significant growth in quality, enrollment, spirituality and recognition.

For more information on “The Spirit Soars” CD by Chowan University President, Dr. Chris White, contact Portia Davis, Administrative Assistant to the President at (252) 398-6221 or davispa@chowan.edu. The price including postage and handling is $12.00.
Chowan University President, Dr. Chris White, has officially released his second instrumental CD entitled "A Chowan Christmas." The instrumental CD presents a piano program of traditional Christmas carols and hymns.

His collection of twenty-four songs on "A Chowan Christmas" include many Christmas favorites such as: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, Silent Night, Away in a Manager, What Child Is This, and Go Tell It On The Mountain.

Dr. White’s interpretations combine classical training with a distinctive improvisational style based on a lifetime of southern church music. Recorded in Turner Auditorium of the historic McDowell Columns Building on the Chowan University campus, the music pays respect to over 150 years of performances while reaching out to today’s audiences. The entire CD was recorded, duplicated, designed, and packaged on the Chowan campus.

The piano is one of the most expressive of instruments. At the hands of an accomplished pianist, it can alternately dance and laugh or cry and mourn. Dr. White’s piano style is characterized by passion, aggressiveness and creativity. The listener will become entranced as familiar Christmas melodies speak with new nuances of meaning.

Dr. White was trained in classical piano in his youth. While his career as a minister and educator has been blessed with two highly successful presidencies at leading Baptist institutions, he has used his unique piano gifts of improvisation in many religious and secular settings. In 1997, he was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Music Arts by the prestigious Moscow Conservatory of Music for his contributions to music education. He was the first American to receive this honor.

"A Chowan Christmas" is Dr. White’s second CD. His first CD, “The Spirit Soars,” was released in Fall of 2006. A collection of well-known traditional church hymns, it was well received and widely distributed.

All proceeds from Dr. White’s CDs are placed in an endowment fund of the Chowan University Christian Service Association to provide scholarship assistance for ministerial students.

For more information on "A Chowan Christmas" by Chowan University President Dr. Chris White, contact Portia Davis, Administrative Assistant to the President at (252) 398-6221 or davisportia@chowan.edu.
Chowan University President, Dr. M. Christopher White, will release his third instrumental CD on March 6, 2008. “In the Garden” is intended to capture the mood of being in a garden filled with God’s creation of flowers, shrubs, grass and trees. Opening and closing with different versions of hymn favorite “In the Garden,” the CD includes songs especially chosen to awaken the soul to the glory of God as seen in his creation.

Dr. White’s rendition of familiar hymns, combining stately refrains with southern gospel improvisation, recreates his childhood experience of church music. Listening to these melodies of the past does encourage nostalgia, does bring a sense of comfort and peace in disturbing times. Someone has described Dr. White’s music as “food for the soul.”

All three of Dr. White’s CD’s have been produced entirely on the Chowan University campus. The CD was recorded in Turner Auditorium of the historic McDowell Columns and pays respect to 160 years of performances while reaching out to today’s audiences.

Dr. White was trained in classical piano in his youth. While his career as a minister and educator has been blessed with two highly successful presidencies at leading Baptist institutions, he has used his unique piano gifts of improvisation in many religious and secular settings.

“In the Garden” is Dr. White’s third CD. The first, “The Spirit Soars,” is a collection of hymns; and the second, “A Chowan Christmas,” contains Christmas carols and hymns. Both have been widely distributed and well received.

All proceeds from Dr. White’s instrumental CD’s will be placed in an endowment fund of the Chowan University Christian Service Association to provide scholarship assistance for ministerial students.

For more information on “In the Garden” by Chowan University President Dr. M. Christopher White, contact Portia Davis, Administrative Assistant to the President at (252) 398-6221 or davisp@chowan.edu
Celebrate

Chowan University’s President, Dr. M. Christopher White, has officially released his fourth CD entitled Celebrate as part of CU’s 160th Anniversary Celebration.

With twenty-two instrumental songs, Celebrate is a program of traditional Christian hymns and gospel favorites, full of familiar refrains and comforting melodies. Celebrate includes songs you will know by heart such as “I Love to Tell the Story”, “There Is Power in the Blood”, and “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”.

"These songs tend to evoke a simpler time in the past," says Dr. White, talking about the comforting effect of his easy-listening music, "When most church songs were done on the piano."

The intent of the music is to provide the listener with relaxation from the stress of daily life, with encouragement to face the future, and with a sense of thanksgiving for the blessings of life.

The entire CD was produced on the Chowan University campus, and all proceeds will be placed in an endowment fund of the Chowan University Christian Service Association to provide scholarship assistance for ministerial students.

Dr. White’s previous CDs, The Spirit Soars and In the Garden, are also calming collections of hymns, and A Chowan Christmas contains Christmas carols and hymns in the spirit of the season.

For more information about Celebrate or Dr. White’s other CDs, contact Administrative Assistant to the President Portia Davis at (252) 398-6221 or davisp@chowan.edu.
Chowan University President Dr. Chris White has released his latest album of piano hits, entitled "Because of You: Love Songs of the Forties", with the proceeds from the sale of the CD going to Teacher Education scholarships.

His 6th CD production varies greatly from the others in his solo piano series, with a new focus on popular music from the 1940's marking the rebirth of Chowan after World War II. This collection of love songs comes out just in time for Valentine's Day!

"Most people think all I play is the sacred hymns," explained Dr. White, "But this CD is all secular music, originally copyrighted in the 40's."

Many of the songs on this new CD have proven to be hits several times over through many different decades.

"Many generations have enjoyed these popular songs," Dr. White said. "Blueberry Hill was originally done by Gene Autry, the Singing Cowboy, but later Louis Armstrong and then again, most know the version sung by Fats Domino."

At Last was originally written in 1941, but made famous in 1961 by Etta James. Nat King Cole’s 1946 version of (I Love You) For Sentimental Reasons was a Billboard Best Seller, and was redone by several artists through the years like Ella Fitzgerald, Dean Martin, James Brown, and even Rod Stewart in 2004.

Other songs on the new CD come from popular Broadway productions like South Pacific, Carousel, and Brigadoon. When You Wish Upon a Star was made popular in the Walt Disney classic Pinocchio. All these songs hold special meaning for the Whites, especially reminding Dr. White of his mother who inspired him to learn to play on an old $50 upright piano at 50 cents a lesson, "no matter how many times I wanted to quit!"

"This project was dedicated to my mother and father, Christine and Martin White, and Linda’s parents, Leonard and Geneva Fleming, and is a continuation of the Veterans Memorial inspiration we dedicated on the Chowan campus," Dr. White explained. "We felt so much fulfillment and everyone was so appreciative of that effort that the spark led to this CD as another way that we could give back."

Creating this CD was also a great way for Dr. White to give back to Chowan University, with all the proceeds going to fund scholarships for Teacher Education students.

"Teacher Education is at the core of the Chowan campus, and has even expanded to now include a Masters Degree level, so we will use these scholarships to attract even more, and better, young inspired educators."

For more information about Because of You: Love Songs from the Forties or Dr. White’s other CDs, contact Administrative Assistant to the President Portia Davis at (252) 398-6221 or davisp@chowan.edu.
Chowan University, a Christian liberal arts university founded in 1848, enrolls more than 1200 students each year and is located in the Historic Inner Banks community of Murfreesboro in Northeastern North Carolina. The university is in close proximity to the Outer Banks and Hampton Roads Virginia. Chowan’s park-like campus features 300 acres including Lake Vann, the beloved “Squirrel Park” and the original McDowell Columns Building, erected in 1851 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Accredited with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Chowan offers 63 undergraduate academic programs among The School of Arts and Sciences, The School of Education and The School of Business, and offers Masters Degrees through the School of Graduate Studies. Several departments are also individually accredited, such as Teacher Education Program’s accreditation by NCDPI and NCATE, as well as the Music program’s institutional accreditation by NASM. Chowan offers 11 varsity programs in the CIAA conference as well as co-ed cheerleading, with dual-affiliation in the NCAA D-II and NCCAA.

For more information about Chowan University, call 1-888-4-CHOWAN.