

For Immediate Release

April 5, 2010

**FWBBC to Present *Oklahoma!***

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College will give two evening performances of Rodgers and Hammerstein's award-winning musical *Oklahoma!* this spring, according to Dr. James Stevens, chair of the Music Department. The 7:30 p.m. performances are scheduled in Memorial Auditorium (3607 Richland Avenue) on April 22 and 24, and will feature singers from the college's Choral Union, an 18-piece orchestra directed by Mark Lancaster, and drama productions under the direction of AnnaGee Harris. A special matinee performance is scheduled Thursday, April 22, at 1:00 p.m.

Admission to the two-hour performances is free. The college invites area churches and friends from surrounding neighborhoods to join with FWBBC faculty, staff, and students and attend one or more of the presentations.

Dr. Stevens said, "This will be an exciting time for the college to share one of the nation's most beloved musicals. *Oklahoma!* is an adaptation of Lynn Riggs' 1931 stage play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*. It was the first musical written by lyricist Richard Rodgers and composer Oscar Hammerstein II. Set in Oklahoma Territory in 1906 outside the town of Claremore, it tells the story of cowboy Curly McLain's romance with his farm girl Laurey Williams. The original Broadway production opened in 1943 and ran for an unprecedented 2,212 performances."

*Oklahoma!* is presented as part of the college's ongoing Sarah Lacey Nicholas Artist Series.