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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GATEWAY CITY BIG BAND RETURNS TO SUPPORT NORTH COUNTY BIG BAND

~Afternoon of Music Includes North County Big Band, City of Music All-Star Chorus Year-End Recital~

Events: **North County Big Band and City of Music All-Star Chorus Year-End Recital**, Sunday, June 3 at 2 p.m.

Gateway City Big Band, Sunday, June 3 at 4 p.m.

Where: Sheldon Concert Hall

Tickets: **Both events are FREE.**

- Donations at the 2 p.m. concert will benefit the North County Big Band and City of Music All-Star Chorus.
- Donations at the 4 p.m. concert will benefit The Gateway City Big Band's North County Big Band College Assistance Fund.

ST. LOUIS - Known for its fine musicianship, great vocalists and soloists, and musical variety, The Gateway City Big Band is the feature attraction at concerts throughout the region. The band has made a number of recordings, most recently *50 Years & Counting!*, celebrating the band's 50th year of making music, and *Live at the Casa Loma*, made up of live recordings from the St. Louis Casa Loma Ballroom. The Gateway City Big Band has performed in some of St. Louis' premier music and dance venues, including the Fox Theatre, Khorassan Room at the Chase Park Plaza, and Missouri Botanical Gardens, and was a featured guest at the International Glenn Miller Festival in Clarinda, Iowa.

This year's North County Big Band (NCBB) graduates will be the third class to receive assistance from the Gateway City Big Band. The band requires that students participate in the NCBB program for at least two years and be admitted to college. The group then works with NCBB director Harvey Lockhart and the students' parents to determine the best use of the funds, whether it be the purchase of a professional instrument, provide scholarship money, or a mix of both.

Kicking off the afternoon at 2 p.m. will be the annual year-end recital by The Sheldon's North County Big Band, and for the first time ever, the City of Music All-Star Chorus.

MORE...

Sheldon Concert Hall / Gateway City Big Band cont'd.
May 9, 2018

Led by Harvey Lockhart of Riverview Gardens High School, The North County Big Band is made up of some of the most talented and dedicated jazz students from St. Louis area high schools. This year marks the fourth season of the band, with coaching provided by leading educators and musicians including Lockhart, Thomas Moore of Normandy Middle School and Delano Redman of East St. Louis Senior High. Made possible with lead support by World Wide Technology, Inc. and The Steward Family Foundation.

The City of Music All-Star Chorus, directed by Maria A. Ellis, Community Engagement Coordinator for The St. Louis Children's Choirs, make their performance debut. Created in 2018 to encourage talented high school singers, the chorus is comprised of students from St. Louis City and County schools, recommended by their high school choral directors. The chorus is made possible by lead support from Centene Charitable Foundation.

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