

Blake Ellege performs tonight

Brevard College student Blake Ellege will perform his junior voice recital at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28 in the Porter Center for Performing Arts.

Ellege, who is a Vocal Music Performance major, will perform works by Franz Schubert, Gabriel Faure and Hall Johnson.

The recital is free and open to the public.

A graduate of East Henderson High School, Ellege began singing southern gospel music with his mother at the age of four. At the age of six, he recorded his first solo recording at "Proclaim Studios" in Brevard. At the age of 10, Ellege began competing in the youth division of the North Carolina Gospel Singing Championship, winning the competition six straight years in a row.

In 2005, he began performing in the

Tribute Artist circuit, as "Jake" of The Carolina Blues Brothers and in a Tribute Show to Elvis Presley. Ellege's Elvis Tribute show gained so much attention that he was asked to perform at B.B. Kings Blues Club in Memphis, Tenn. He has also performed at Blues City Café, Voodoo Ally, Pepsi Pavilion and Graceland.

Ellege has recorded three additional albums with "Chosen", a southern gospel trio consisting of his mother, Margie Osteen-Marshall, and step father, Rev. Randy Marshall.

While attending Brevard College, Ellege has performed with the College's Chamber Chorale as well as its Jazz Band. Under the direction of his vocal instructor, Dr. David Gresham, he has honed his vocal technique as well as received classical instruction in vocal performance.



Photo by Dylan Wood

Blake Ellege

LOCAL HAUNTS AND LEGENDS

Park Baker
Editor in Chief

Ghosts, the undead and monsters all have played distinct roles in shaping our imaginations. From campfire stories to 3-D horror films, humans are fascinated by the inexplicable; re-telling century old stories for new generations. In celebration of All Hallows Eve, the Clarion staff has found a few local legends that we wanted to share with you.

BROWN MOUNTAIN LIGHTS

Just east of Asheville, near Morganton there is a phenomenon that remains a mystery to this day. The Cherokee Indians have record of seeing the Brown Mountain Lights as early as the 13th century. The lights rise up from the hills near Brown Mountain Ridge, and then disappear when they reach altitude.

Scientists have tried to explain the lights many times. The USGS (United States Geological Survey) has sent teams into the field to try and explain them, as the area where the lights are most frequently seen rests on a fault line. Interestingly, the location of the Maco Lights, another "ghost light"

in North Carolina also rests on a fault line. Some geologists think the lights are a result of the enormous pressure the earth's plates are under.

Other people claim the lights are the lanterns of Cherokee women, searching for husbands lost during a great battle between the Cherokee and the Catawba Indian tribes on Brown Mountain.

The lights are best viewed from Linville Falls in October and November as the leaves fall from the trees.

MOON EYED PEOPLE

The Moon Eyed People are reportedly a race of nocturnal humanoids that live underground. According to Cherokee legend, they are bearded and have pale white skin. Their presence in Southern Appalachia is marked by the many mounds located in the western part of the state, which pre-date the Cherokees arrival in North Carolina. One mound in particular is in Fort Mountain, Ga just over the NC border. This is said to be a remnant of the great war between the Creek Indians and The Moon Eyed people. The Creek drove the humanoids to live beneath the surface after the battle, but reports still float around of their presence in more rural parts of the mountains.

SIREN OF THE FRENCH BROAD

Northwest of Asheville, near the small town of Paint Rock, NC many a man has lost themselves to the mystery that is the Siren of the French Broad. Legend has it that the path northward from Asheville has long been a popular day hiking trip, where those adventurous enough will head out with enough food for an overnight trip.

Halfway through the first day, the day hiker will become more and more fatigued until he reaches a spot suitable for camp. After establishing a spot, the tale goes that he will begin to hear a beautiful voice singing from somewhere indeterminable. Visions of a dark haired woman will come to him in his dreams, making for a restless night. The woman seems to be luring the dreamer.

The next day it is hard to get motivated to hit the trail again. With each step, the pack becomes heavier, and the water quenches no thirst. The hike becomes unbearably long, and the hiker will not make it as far down the river as expected. Most times, according to local lore, the hiker will pitch his tent again in the middle of the day, and relax by the river. The singing becomes louder in his head, and it seems to coax him from reality, ensnaring him in her trap.