

Big band gets break on the big screen

By **CHASSE REHWINKEL**
For the Daily Record/Sunday News

The holiday celebration starts early at the Eichelberger Performing Arts Center this year, thanks to the musical stylings of the Blue Moon Big Band.

On Sunday, the Blue Moon Big Band will play a mix of holiday and classical big band favorites.

"We play music that everyone can relate to, young and old," said band director Rob Leonard. "It makes you want to dance. It's just a great way to celebrate the holidays. We are certainly looking forward to the night and helping people ring in the holidays a little early this year."

The performance marks the third time the Blue Moon Big Band has played at the Eichelberger.

And if past success is any indicator, this year's performance should be well received.

"It's always very wonderful to be there. It's a really nice venue," Leonard said. "Every time we've played there, I think it's been a packed house."

The Blue Moon Big Band is a classically styled big band that has been selling out box offices since 1998.

Along the way, the band has recorded six CDs, played in many prestigious theaters and even had the opportunity to work in Hollywood.

"Most recently, we finished playing a 1940s-style big band for the upcoming movie



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The Blue Moon Big Band performs in 'My One and Only,' a film set to open in 2009, starring Kevin Bacon and Renée Zellweger. The band will perform a holiday concert in Hanover on Sunday.

'My One and Only,' " Leonard said. "We got to work right alongside Kevin Bacon and Renée Zellweger. It was a great opportunity."

"My One and Only," a comedy based on the early life of actor George Hamilton, is expected to open in 2009.

Even though the Blue Moon Big Band members are no strangers to the Eichelberger Performing Arts Center, Deb Levy, executive director of the Eichelberger, said she is excited about their return.

"(The Blue Moon Big Band members) are sort of local legends here," Levy said. "It's really exciting for us, because the band has participated in some great stuff recently. We are looking forward to their performance."

If you go

WHAT: Holiday concert, featuring the Blue Moon Big Band

WHEN: 3 p.m. Sunday

WHERE: Eichelberger Performing Arts Center, 195 Stock St., Hanover

COST: \$30 and \$25

FOR DETAILS: Visit www.theeich.org or call 632-9356

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