



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 10, 2007

For more information contact: Roberta Cox, 214-768-2335, rcox@smu.edu;
Dena Hill, 214-768-1393, hilld@smu.edu

PERKINS' SACRED HARMONY: THE MUSICAL WESLEY FAMILY

Dallas, Texas – In honor of the tercentenary of the birth of Charles Wesley, Bridwell Library will stage the exhibition "Sacred Harmony: The Musical Wesley Family," from Feb. 1, 2007 to April 28, 2007, in The Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Galleries at Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

The exhibition, curated by Dr. Carlton R. Young, professor *emeritus* of Church Music at Emory University, former director of the Sacred Music Program at Perkins, and editor of *The United Methodist Hymnal*, features hymn and tune collections, period instruments, and correspondence. Beginning with the parents of John and Charles Wesley, the exhibition focuses on four generations of the Wesleys and their contributions to the development of worship-music and concert and cathedral music in England. The exhibition will also offer opportunities for hearing music of the Wesleys at listening stations in the galleries.

At 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 1, 2007, Dr. Larry Palmer of the Meadows School of the Arts, SMU, will perform Charles Wesley, Jr.'s keyboard "Sonata in F Minor" at Perkins

Chapel. Following the recital, Dr. Nicholas Temperley, professor *emeritus* at the University of Illinois, will give a lecture entitled “Music and Charity in 18th-Century England with Special Emphasis on the Lock Hospital.” Immediately afterwards, the exhibition opening and reception will be held in Bridwell Library.

The tercentenary celebration will continue at 8:00 P.M. on Feb. 4, 2007, in Perkins Chapel, when Dr. S T Kimbrough, Jr. will present “Charles Wesley: The Sweet Singer,” a dramatic presentation on the life and hymns of Charles Wesley. Kimbrough is a leading Wesley scholar, founder of the Charles Wesley Society, and an internationally recognized bass-baritone performing extensively in the United States and Europe. He has toured the world with his production of “Sweet Singer.”

In conjunction with Perkins School of Theology’s Ministers Week, at 4:45 P.M. on Feb. 5, 2007, Dr. Richard P. Heitzenrater, professor of Wesley Studies at Duke Divinity School, will present the lecture, “The Wesleys and Money,” in the Hughes-Trigg Theater, followed by dinner (by reservation only) with special entertainment by Dr. Heitzenrater, “John Wesley’s Oxford Variety Show,” in the Hughes-Trigg Ballroom. The evening will conclude at 7:30 P.M. in Perkins Chapel with “A Wesley Festival: An Evening of Hymns, Choral Music and Organ Works by the Wesley Family,” led by Dr. Carlton R. Young and featuring Dr. C. Michael Hawn, professor of Sacred Music at Perkins School of Theology, and Dr. Christopher S. Anderson, Festival Organist. In addition, the Choir from Custer Road United Methodist Church, with Director Tim Morrison, will sing “Omnia vanitas et vexatio spiritus” by Samuel Wesley in a new transcription and edition by Carlton R. Young.

For more information, please contact Page Thomas, Director of Methodist Studies, Bridwell Library, at 214-768-2363.

Photo attached: Portrait of Charles Wesley. Engraved by T. A. Dean. Bridwell Library Special Collections.

Perkins School of Theology is one of five University-related official schools of theology of The United Methodist Church. The school was founded in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church South, now The United Methodist Church. Degree programs include the Master of Church Ministries, Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Music, Master of Theological Studies, and Doctor of Ministry degree, as well as the Ph.D. in cooperation with SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

- # -

- # -

- # -