



SMU. PERKINS
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2009

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Fiftieth Anniversary of *Christmas Worship Services*, Perkins C

Meadows Chorale, directed by Pamela Elrod, will contribute various chorale selections that comment on Mary's role in the Christmas narrative, including music by Franz Biebl, Benjamin Britten, Maurice Duruflé, Charles Theodore Pachelbel, and Alan Smith.

The Christmas Worship Services, sponsored by Perkins, were instituted by Professors Grady Hardin and Lloyd Pfautsch in 1959. The services are a tradition closely tied to the development of the Master of Sacred Music Program, established in 1960. A forerunner to this tradition was established in 1948 when Perkins Professor Fred Gealy led the Seminary Singers and seminary community in a program of Christmas music during the last chapel of the fall semester.

In 1959 Professor Richey Hogg, in his capacity as chair of the Community Affairs Committee, recommended to the Perkins faculty a Perkins community Christmas dinner followed by a service, a practice followed at Yale Divinity School. This service included scripture, prayers, choral music, congregational singing and a Christmas sermon drawn from church history. Under Pfautsch's tenure, one of Martin Luther's Christmas sermons became a staple of this service, as well as the pattern of including a choral group from Meadows School of the Arts along with the Seminary Singers, a tradition maintained to the present day. Professor Carlton Young collaborated with Pfautsch between 1964 and 1975 in this endeavor. Between 1976 and 1990, the collaboration continued with the late Professor Roger Deschner from Perkins. Pfautsch (1921-2003) retired in 1992.

Following the appointment of C. Michael Hawn to Perkins and Constantina Tsolainou to Meadows in 1992, the service structure became a variation of the Nine Lessons and Carols of King's College Cambridge. Upon his appointment to the faculty of Perkins School of Theology in 2006, Professor Christopher Anderson M.S.M., M.M. '91 became the service organist. Joining the SMU faculty in 2007, Professor Pamela Elrod, Director of Choral Activities in the Music Division of the Meadows School of the Arts, will direct the Meadows Chorale, continuing the long-established relationship between the two schools for these services.

Robert Anderson (1934-2009) joined Pfautsch

11/10/2009 2:44 PM