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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Texas Wesleyan University presents Mozart's *Requiem*

FORT WORTH, Nov. 1 – The Wesleyan Choral, a 50-voice choir that consists of students, alumni, faculty and staff volunteers, will perform Mozart's *Requiem* on Monday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be held at the Polytechnic United Methodist Church, located at 1310 S. Collard St.

Choral director and Wesleyan professor of music Dr. Steve Simons said he chose Mozart's requiem for the choir's first fall performance because of its depth and broad appeal.

"The work is powerfully autobiographical. With Mozart at death's door in December of 1791, he hurried to complete this work, which he saw as his own funeral song," said Simons. "Mozart was dying with each movement of the work and actually died before its completion. So there's a chilling awareness that gives this work an otherworldly feel and distinction among his other masterpieces." Mozart's *Requiem* was finished after his death under the direction of his widow, Constanze.

Simons has been a part of the Wesleyan music community for over thirty-five years. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa, a master's from the

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University of Northern Colorado and a doctorate in music education from the University of North Texas. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, and, as the recipient of many professional awards and distinctions, Simons has been the director for several musical groups, including Wesleyan’s Oratorio Chorus and Opera Workshop, and the following united Methodist church choirs: Arlington Heights, First United Methodist Downtown, Polytechnic and Westcliff.

The Wesleyan Choral performance is free and open to the public. A 20-piece orchestra will accompany the singers, and soloists for the evening include Andrew Campbell, a graduate student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth who will be singing tenor, and Wesleyan students Eric Medlock, singing bass, Sharon Milas, singing contralto, and Jad B. Saxton, singing soprano. For more information, contact the music department at (817) 531-4992 or www.department.txwes.edu/mus.

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