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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESLEYAN CHORALE SINGS “GLORIA!” THROUGHOUT THE MUSICAL AGES

The Department of Music at Texas Wesleyan University presents Wesleyan Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Steve Simons, in “Gloria!”—an evening of praise spanning centuries of musical styles—at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 11, at Polytechnic United Methodist Church, 1310 S. Collard St., on the Texas Wesleyan University campus. The performance is free and open to the public.

No reservations are required.

“I feel confident that this hour of music will showcase beautiful, challenging works from three different time periods,” said Simons. “Together, the pieces make a varied and interesting hour of ebullient choral music.” The program features Felix Mendelssohn's 30-minute cantata “Hymn of Praise” for chorus, soloists and organ. Following Mendelssohn’s Romantic period piece are two settings of the Gloria from the ordinary of the Catholic Mass. Marc-Antoine Charpentier’s Baroque Gloria (from his 1700 “Messe De Minuit”) includes strings, continuo (organ) and recorders, and John Rutter’s stirring 20th century setting of the same sacred text features an eight-piece brass ensemble. Soloists include music students Laura Scandizzo, Jessica Foster, Rachel Perkins, Krystal Vaughn, Pam Adair and Jād B. Saxton.

Dr. Steve Simons, professor of music, served as Director of Choral Activities for 23 years, directed Wesleyan Singers, Oratorio Chorus and Opera Workshop, organized Jazz Singers, and taught choral conducting. During Simons’ tenure as Director of Choral Activities, Wesleyan Singers sang in Washington D.C. on the centennial week of July 4, 1976 – our nation’s 200th birthday. Other choral successes include four European choir tours with the Chancel Choir from

First United Methodist Church Fort Worth and Simons' "career highlight" – a 1998 FUMC concert before a full house at Carnegie Hall.

A piece of Wesleyan history, Polytechnic United Methodist Church sits on the southeast corner of the Texas Wesleyan University Historic Campus at 1310 S. Collard St. in east Fort Worth. After \$1.2 million of fundraising in June 2004, the church's education building has now been renovated to make room for Humanities classrooms and faculty offices. The concert will be held in the yet-to-be renovated sanctuary.

As a community choral organization, Wesleyan Chorale welcomes students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends of the university to join its ranks. The ensemble hopes to revitalize choral singing at the university, present significant vocal works with orchestral accompaniment and provide a campus-wide singing experience to strengthen Wesleyan's tradition of arts interest and participation. Wesleyan Chorale rehearses weekly to present a substantial choral concert at the end of each semester with the Wesleyan Singers. No audition is necessary, only a love of singing and of performing quality choral repertoire.

To learn more about Wesleyan Chorale, contact the Department of Music at (817) 531-4992 or visit <http://department.txwes.edu/mus/T>.