

July 21, 2010,

Dear MSM Alumna/us:

We are fifty years old! Yes, the first class began in 1960 and since then nearly 300 graduates have gone through the sacred music program and are serving in a variety of church music vocations from ministering to local congregations, composing, performing, teaching, and supporting denominational agencies. This May we graduated a large class of eight (four in choral conducting and four in organ) and have admitted seven highly qualified entering students, one of the largest classes in many years.

**I invite you to the campus for this celebration from Sunday evening, September 26, through Tuesday evening, September 28.** This is the third reunion of the decade. Our first two honored those who have done so much to conceive and assure the founding vision of the program. Several of these have joined the great cloud of witnesses including Lloyd Pfautsch, Robert Anderson and Roger Deschner. While we will continue to celebrate their contributions, our fiftieth anniversary will focus on “Bringing our Heritage into the Future.” I want you to know what the program is doing now to meet the needs of the ever-changing vocation of church music and to help us reflect on how we can better prepare future generations for effective music ministry in the many possible venues of service this vocation offers.

The schedule is included in this communication. Among those many reasons to return to campus, you will find a beautiful new classroom building (Prothro Hall) and renovations to Selecman and Kirby Halls, as well as a wonderfully restored Perkins Chapel. You will also meet new faculty colleagues including Christopher S. Anderson (M.M. and M.S.M. '91) and Pamela Elrod, Director of Choral Activities. I want you to know the wonderful colleagues with whom I have the privilege to serve. You will also be led in worship and become acquainted with our most recent graduates—the M.S.M. classes of '08, '09, '10—and current students. You will appreciate the quality and commitment of our most recent students.

The schedule is full but still with ample space for reflection, memories and fun. **The cost is only \$75. This includes all materials, two lunches, an ample Sunday evening reception, breakfast and a sumptuous banquet on Tuesday evening.** A gracious gift in honor of church musician Twila Stowe Bryan has made it possible for us to keep the costs down and provide an event where we may both reflect on the future of our profession and celebrate our heritage together. We will inaugurate a recognition only for M.S.M. alumni/ae, the *Soli Deo Gloria Award for Excellence in Church Music*. Five awards will be given at this reunion to distinguished graduates.

**Please return the enclosed registration card and a check for \$75 made out to Perkins School of Theology with a note "MSM Reunion" to Teresa Rosado and contact her ([teresar@smu.edu](mailto:teresar@smu.edu); 214/768-2502) or myself with any questions.** We have special rates at local hotels if you reserve by the deadline. Most of all, make sure that we have your current contact information. It is hard to keep up with our graduates and the SMU database is not as accurate as I would hope. So, pass the word along to classmates to make sure they know.

Friends, the Perkins/Meadows M.S.M. is a distinctive program and is thriving where some other programs are closing or have become much more limited in their focus. This is one of only ten programs accredited by both the National Association of Schools of Music (N.A.S.M.) and the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (A.T.S.). In my 18 years at Perkins and the last five as Director of the Program, I have met so many distinguished graduates who are proud and grateful for the bond they have to Perkins School of Theology and Meadows School of the Arts. We enjoy the unqualified support of Dean William B. Lawrence at Perkins and Dean José Bowen at Meadows as well as colleagues in both Perkins and Meadows. I have the best position in graduate sacred music education in the country and am grateful to be a steward of a program with such a fine heritage and so much promise.

Please come and join us for this celebration. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Cantate Domino,

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