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SEVENTH ANNUAL “A MUSICAL FOURTH” ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Music Lovers Gather Together To Sing Patriotic Songs

(DALLAS, May 15, 2010) – The rat-tat of a snare drum leads off as voices burst into the air singing *The Star Spangled Banner* at the seventh annual *Musical Fourth* concert. The free patriotic program of audience sing-alongs, anthems, and organ music followed by a barbecue and pie tasting starts at 4 p.m. Sunday, July 4, at The Chapel of the Cross, 4333 Cole Avenue, two blocks south of Knox Street in Uptown Dallas.

“From the ringing rhetoric of Thomas Jefferson set to music by the contemporary American composer Randall Thompson to the beloved songs of Foster, Copland and Berlin, *A Musical Fourth* presents a panorama of music and lyrics mirroring the faith, hope and courage of our American forbearers,” said Dr. Paul Thomas, director of music and organist at The Chapel of the Cross. “We invite friends to augment our Chapel Choir and the audience to sing our most familiar patriotic songs. What better way to celebrate those whose rich heritage we now enjoy.”

Audience sing-alongs of flag-waving favorites include *America, the Beautiful* and *You’re a Grand Old Flag*. The choir will sing old favorites, such as *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* and *Armed Forces Salute*, as well as *Be Glad Then America* written by composer William Billings, a tanner at the time of the American Revolution. New to the program this year is the lively pre-Civil War spiritual *Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho*. Dr. Thomas will heroically pump the organ to its limits when he plays Aaron Copland’s *Fanfare for the Common Man*.

Ed Sheen, a server at the popular Uptown restaurant Trulucks, sings the powerful love song *Some Enchanted Evening* from Rodgers and Hammerstein’s musical *South Pacific*. Tenor Dan Crowell performs the romantic *I Dream of Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair*, written by pre-Civil War composer and minstrel showman Stephen Foster. The program closes when soprano Sheila Case prayerfully sings the opening lyrics of Irving Berlin’s *God Bless America*, with the audience joining in to sing the refrain.

The Dallas Chapter of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution provides an honor guard during the singing of *The Star Spangled Banner* and the Texas flag will be presented by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas during *Texas, Our Texas*. The Chapel Choir School will lead the congregation in the pledges of allegiance to both the United States and Texas, recite the preamble to The Declaration of Independence and sing *The Presidents Song*.

“Music is a powerful vehicle for patriotism, and we’re thrilled to share our love of both with our neighbors,” said the Rev. John Boonzaaijer, rector of The Chapel of the Cross. “Everyone’s invited to a free community barbecue picnic and pie tasting prepared by the Chapel family immediately after the program. Sharing music, food and friendship is a perfect way to keep the Fourth of July.”

Although there is no admittance charge to the concert or barbecue, a free-will offering will be taken to help defray costs. The facility is wheelchair accessible.

For further information, please contact the Chapel Office either by phone (214-521-6062), email (office@TheChapeloftheCross.com) or visit the *A Musical Fourth* website (<http://www.MusicalFourth.com>).

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