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Singer-songwriter Caroline Herring Returns to Campus

Free Feb. 27 concert honors Charles Reagan Wilson

FEBRUARY 25, 2015 BY REBECCA LAUCK CLEARY

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Caroline Herring will perform at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at Barnard Observatory.

OXFORD, Miss. – Singer-songwriter Caroline Herring returns to University of Mississippi this week for a special concert as part of the Porter Fortune Jr. History Symposium. The symposium honors the recent retirement of Charles Reagan Wilson with a series of talks and panel discussions on Southern religion and Southern culture.

Set for 7:30 p.m. Friday (Feb. 27) in the Tupelo Room of Barnard Observatory, the concert is free and open to the public. Herring's music combines a unique voice and multiple musical influences.

She said it is her great pleasure to play a concert honoring Wilson.

"Dr. Wilson taught me when I earned my master's in Southern Studies at UM, and I loved everything about him, including his extensive Southern kitsch collection," Herring said. "I also went to the local Episcopal church with him and we took a yearlong Education for Ministry course together. After moving to Texas and working in El Paso with colonias communities, I came to a new

appreciation of the fact that Dr. Wilson grew up in El Paso and then shifted his work and life from one deepest South to another."

It was a natural choice to have Herring perform in honor of Wilson, a former director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, since she is a native Mississippian and 1998 Southern studies alumna.

"Charles Wilson has cared for many, many students, me included," Herring said. "I remember introducing him to my newborn daughter – he is the kind of person whom you want to meet your kids. A lot of the songs I sing are due, in part, to his tutelage."

Ted Ownby, director of the CSSC, said it will be fun to welcome Herring back.

"Caroline Herring does Southern studies when she writes and sings, so we're excited she can be part of the symposium," Ownby said. "Her M.A. thesis was on a topic in Southern religious history – she studied the religious roots of anti-lynching activists – and she deals with the intersections of religion, history and, obviously, the history of music in her performances. She's also a good friend to a lot of people around here, and she has plenty of fans both through her CDs and her work with Thacker Mountain Radio."

Herring released "I Will Go into the Day" in January 2014, where she sets to music the magic and wonder of childhood.

Fats Kaplin, who played on her 2012 album "Camilla" and plays more than 15 instruments, will accompany Herring at this concert. A review of that album named Herring one of the "most literate songwriters of her generation."

"I'm thrilled Fats Kaplin likes my work because he is a busy man," Herring said. "The last time I asked him to play a gig, he couldn't because he was playing with Jack White in Paris. Thankfully, he's free on the 27th."

Listeners can hear Herring's music at <http://www.carolineherring.com/>.

A full schedule of the history symposium is available at <http://southernstudies.olemiss.edu/events>. It began in 1975 as an annual conference on Southern history and is named for the late Porter L. Fortune Jr., UM chancellor emeritus. Past events have examined topics such as the Southern political tradition, childhood, religion and the role of gender in shaping public power.

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Campus Briefs

Donations Sought for 25th Annual Books and Bears Program

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi is asking the community to help spread a little joy this holiday season by donating to the 25th annual Books and Bears program. Donations such as toys, books, dolls, bicycles and other children's play items are being accepted through Dec. 14. All donations will be collected and sorted

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Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship Aims to Build Leaders

OXFORD, Miss. – Twenty-five inaugural recipients of the Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship – a program hosted by the University of Mississippi School of Education in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the Mississippi High School Activities Association – are expected to increase their impact on student-athletes and their communities. The coaching fellowship

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Clarion-Ledger: New Essay Collection Tells the Story of Meredith's Enrollment

Essays celebrate 60th anniversary of James Meredith's enrollment at University of Mississippi By Lauren Rhoades Oct. 1 marks the 60th anniversary of James Meredith's 1962 enrollment at the University of Mississippi as the school's first African-American student.

“James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier,” a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

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