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President's Convocation (1997 Program)

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Illinois Wesleyan University

PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION

Westbrook Auditorium
Presser Hall
September 10, 1997
11:00 A.M.

PROGRAM

President Minor Myers, jr., *Presiding*

Organ Prelude .....J. Scott Ferguson, *Organist*
Associate Professor of Music

Prelude in B minor (BWV 544) — *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

*Invocation .....Dennis E. Groh '61
University Chaplain

Welcome .....President Minor Myers, jr.

Greetings from the Student Senate .....Andrew L. Killian '98
President, Student Senate

Recognition of Presidential Scholars and The Anderson Physics Scholar ..... Roger H. Schnaitter
Associate Provost

Special Music
Kol Nidrei, Opus 47 — *Max Bruch (1838-1920)*

Stefan Kartman, cello
Assistant Professor of Cello

Eva Ferguson, piano
Lecturer in Piano

Awarding of Honorary Degree .....President Minor Myers, jr.
Provost Janet M. McNew

Remarks .....Derek Walcott

*Alma Wesleyana — NATIONAL HYMN
George William Warren (1828-1902)

From hearts aflame, our love we pledge to thee,
Where'er we wander, over land or sea;
Through time unending, loyal we will be—
True to our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.

When college days are fully past and gone,
While life endures, from twilight gleam til dawn,
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on—
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.

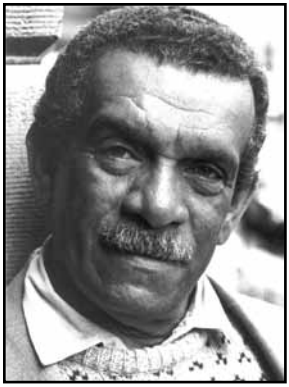
—Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)

*Benediction .....Dennis E. Groh '61
University Chaplain

Organ Postlude .....J. Scott Ferguson, *Organist*
Associate Professor of Music

Carillon-Sortie — *Henri Mulet (1878-1967)*

*Audience will please stand



DEREK WALCOTT

Poet-Playwright

He won the 1992 Nobel Prize for Literature, an honor shared with some of the world's most distinguished 20th century authors.

When the Swedish Academy awarded poet-playwright Derek Walcott the Nobel Prize, it cited his writing for having "a poetic oeuvre of great luminosity, sustained by a historical vision, the outcome of a multicultural commitment." Walcott, the Swedish Academy added, "has both African and European veins. In him West Indian culture has found its great poet."

Walcott, who was born on the West Indian island of St. Lucia, Windward Islands, in 1930, shares the famed literature award with distinguished men and women of letters like Russia's Boris Pasternak, France's Albert Camus, the United Kingdom's Winston Churchill, and Toni Morrison of the United States.

Walcott, who for more than 20 years has maintained a permanent residence in Trinidad, graduated from the University College of the West Indies.

In 1957, he was awarded a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship to study American theater.

He founded the Trinidad Theater Workshop. His plays have been produced by the New York Shakespeare Festival, the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, and the Negro Ensemble Company.

In 1969, Walcott received the Eugene O'Neill Foundation-Wesleyan University fellowship for playwrights.

Walcott has published several books of plays: *Dream on Monkey Mountain and Other Plays, The Joker of Seville* and *O Babylon!, Remembrance and Pantomime; Three Plays: The Last Carnival; Beef, No Chicken; and A Branch of the Blue Nile,* and *The Odyssey.*

Dream on Monkey Mountain won the Obie Award for a distinguished foreign play in 1971.

Walcott's poems have been published in *The New Yorker, Kenyon Review, The New York Review of Books, The Nation, London Magazine, Antaeus,* and other periodicals.

He is the author of eight books of poetry, including: *Selected Poems; The Gulf, Another Life; The Star Apple Kingdom; The Fortunate Traveller, Midsummer; Collected Poems, 1948-84, The Arkansas Testament,* and *Omeros. Collected Poems, 1948-84* won the 1986 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Poetry.

Among Walcott's honors are the Guinness Award for Poetry, a Royal Society of Literature award, the Cholmondeley Prize, the New Statesman's Jock Campbell award, and the Welsh Arts Council International Writers Prize. He was awarded the Queens Medal for Poetry in 1988.

In 1981, Walcott received a five-year fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, popularly known as a "genius" award.

He is an honorary member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

Walcott lives in Trinidad except during the academic year, when he lives in Boston and teaches at Boston University.