



Photo by F.W. Biddenstadt

Dr. Alexander Clark (left) talks with Sir Michael Tippett (right) and Merion Bowen at the opening of the Tippett Memorabilia Exhibit on Jan. 8.

McDermott houses Tippett exhibit

A traveling exhibit of Sir Michael Tippett memorabilia, including photographs, letters, scores, programs and awards is being shown at UTD until Jan. 31.

Tippett, a British composer considered one of this century's foremost musicians, presented three of his works at UTD on Jan. 8.

Tippett has written more than 35 works, including four symphonies (the most recent premiered by Sir Georg Solti and the Chicago Symphony in January 1978 to critical acclaim); three string quartets; a piano concerto for orchestra; two piano sonatas; songs; the 1946 oratoria *A Child of Our Time*; and four operas, *The Midsummer Marriage*, *King Priam*, *The Knot Garden*, and *The Ice Break*.

Tippett's works have been described by critics as "unique to the history of music." The North American premiere of *The Knot Garden* and the major choral work, "The Vision of St. Augustine" prompted *Newsweek* magazine to declare that "England's (Sir) Michael Tippett may well be the most popular contemporary composer in America."

In recognition of his creative achievements in the arts, Tippett was made an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1980. The Academy cited his music for "the feeling it communicates of a richness of temperament and of humanity." He was also recently awarded the Gold Medal of England's Royal Philharmonic Society, an honor he shares with composers Johannes Brahms, Charles Gounod, Edward Elgar, Igor Stravinsky, Benjamin Britten and Olivier

Mesian, among others.

Former artistic director of the Bath Festival, Tippett has been guest conductor of symphonies throughout the world, including the St. Louis, Boston and Dallas symphonies, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Berlin Philharmonic. His appearances abroad have also included a highly acclaimed and well-received 1978 tour of Australia and work as composer-in-residence at the 1978 Aspen Music Festival, as well as appearances at Tanglewood, Pennsylvania's Ambler Festival and Canada's National Arts Center in Ottawa.

Tippett's free concert at UTD on Jan. 8 featured Dallas' new music ensemble Voices of Change. The discussion/performance program began with a performance of "Songs for Ariel," a medium voice piece with instrumental accompaniment featuring texts from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, followed by "Sonata No. 2 for Piano," both Tippett compositions. "Words for Music Perhaps," a recitation of W.B. Yeats poems with instrumental accompaniment was then given its American premiere.

Between musical presentations, Tippett came on stage with Merion Bowen, an English musicologist and music critic who is also Tippett's biographer, to talk with the audience.

This presentation is part of the Cecil H. and Ida M. Green Distinguished Lecture Series. The Tippett memorabilia exhibit, housed in McDermott's Special Collections area, will be open to the public free, Monday-Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.