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**HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS PUBLISHES  
FIRST-EVER TITLES IN NEW IMPRINT  
BY CELEBRATED AUTHOR AND PERFORMER  
JULIE ANDREWS:**

***The Julie Andrews Collection***

***Julie Andrews Edwards and daughter Emma Walton Hamilton team up to build a new collection of books for young readers***

New York – July 1, 2003 – HarperCollins Children's Books announces that it is publishing the first four titles in ***The Julie Andrews Collection*** debuting this October. The imprint is headed up by Julie Andrews Edwards along with her daughter, Editorial Director Emma Walton Hamilton. Inaugural titles include ***Simeon's Gift, Dumpy and the Firefighters, Grateful,*** and ***Blue Wolf.***

In many ways this is a homecoming for Andrews, who published her first children's novels, *Mandy* and *The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles*, with HarperCollins in the 1970s. The best-selling mother-daughter team plans to acquire books for the new imprint as well as author books both together and separately.

"My mom has been blessed throughout her career to be involved in a number of projects that have influenced a great many people, especially children," says Hamilton. "As a result, I think she has become passionately interested in the welfare of young people's hearts and minds, and she has inspired a certain amount of trust – in her value system, who she is as a person, as a performer and as an author. Therefore, something with her name on it comes with a seal of approval that I believe garners a certain recognition and respect. Something that bears the name Julie Andrews embodies all that she represents."

Andrews hopes that her imprint will help create a sense of wonder and magic in children today. "The themes in my own books and those that I admire usually have to do with a sense of wonder, a sense of respect for the world around us," says Edwards. "There are so many miracles right under our noses. I'm hoping this imprint will encourage children to notice that and will nurture their imaginations."

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Katherine Tegen, HarperCollins Editorial Director At-Large, has been working with Julie Andrews Edwards since 1998 when she edited *Little Bo: The Story of Bonnie Boodicea* (Hyperion Books for Children/Disney Publishing). Tegen also edited the first two titles in the *Dumpy the Dump Truck* series, co-authored by Edwards and Hamilton and illustrated by Tony Walton.

“Working with Julie has been one of the highlights of my career,” says Tegen. “She is a true author who loves to get editorial feedback and has a wonderful sense of storytelling. I am very much looking forward to helping Julie and Emma create an exciting publishing program at HarperCollins.” Tegen will act as the in-house coordinator for all of the titles in The Julie Andrews Collection.

The first part of this publishing program includes:

**Simeon's Gift**

By Julie Andrews Edwards and Emma Walton Hamilton, Illustrated by Gennady Spirin

A classically beautiful picture book about the power of giving, ***Simeon's Gift*** was originally developed during Hamilton's childhood as a means of bridging the gap created by her parents' divorce. When Emma traveled to her father's home during vacations, she carried with her text of a story she'd written with her mother, which her father, famed set designer Tony Walton, would then illustrate. Years later, that story has become an original picture book and CD package by Edwards and Hamilton titled ***Simeon's Gift***.

In a faraway time and place, a humble musician named Simon sets out on a quest. Thirsting for knowledge and eager to improve his craft, he risks losing all that is important to him, including the love of his beautiful Sorrel. The journey brings many discoveries, and though he tries hard to absorb the vast new tapestry of sounds and ideas before him, the choices become overwhelming. Dispirited, he turn for home, only to experience a series of wondrous events that lead him to the discovery of his own true self, and the glorious gift he has to offer. With glorious illustrations by the award-winning artist Gennady Spirin, this book embodies many of the themes close to the authors' hearts: the importance of beauty, music, nature, creativity, kindness and the power of love.

**Dumpy and the Firefighters**

By Julie Andrews Edwards and Emma Walton Hamilton, Illustrated by Tony Walton

Inspired by Hamilton's son Sam, ***Dumpy and the Firefighters*** is the seventh book in the best-selling *Dumpy and the Dump Truck* series. It's New Year's Day in Apple Harbor, and all the villagers are celebrating at Farmer Barnes' annual Open House, including Charlie, Pop-up and Dumpy the Dump Truck. But when the fire bells sounds, everyone's help is suddenly needed in town. Discovering that Pharaoh's General Store is ablaze, the firefighters bravely work to fight the flames and save the village.

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**Grateful**

By John Bucchino, Illustrated by Anna-Liisa Hakkarainen

Once in a while, a perfect union of words and music creates a transcendent song that soars from the heart and speaks to every soul. **Grateful** is such an anthem. Several years ago at a Thanksgiving dinner, Julie Andrews Edwards, Emma Walton Hamilton and family were discussing what everyone was thankful for in the past year. As they went around the table, a friend of Edwards' and Hamilton's said that she could best describe her feelings in a song, and began singing the lyrics to "Grateful." With not a dry eye in the house, Edwards and Hamilton took note of the song's universal appeal – especially to children. But it wasn't until Hamilton's son Sam asked to listen to the song over and over again that Edwards had the idea to illustrate the lyrics in a picture book for children. The result is a loving reminder of the gifts available to us when we approach life with gratitude. In this exquisite book and accompanying CD recorded by Art Garfunkel, radiant paintings by Anna-Liisa Hakkarainen bring John Bucchino's words to life.

**Blue Wolf**

By Catherine Creedon

Impressed with Creedon's evocative language, compelling story and the fact that the book celebrates the power, magic and gifts of nature, Edwards and Hamilton felt **Blue Wolf** was right in line with the mission of *The Julie Andrews Collection*. In this stunning debut novel by school librarian Catherine Creedon, Korean-American teenager Jamie Park is struggling to cope with the recent loss of his mother and a workaholic father. When his Aunt Louise, invites him to her isolated mountain home, he reluctantly accepts. But as he explores the wilderness surrounding his aunt's cabin, he begins to have some strange experiences – the sensation of wolves nipping at his heel when he is running, and the strong sense that he is connected to a pack of wolves that lurk around the cabin. As the mystery of the wolves unravels, Jamie realizes that he has been given a unique ability to transform himself into a wolf.

**The Julie Andrews Collection** encompasses fiction and non-fiction for young people, ages 1-16, which nurture the imagination and encourage a sense of wonder. Julie Andrews' work as an actress and an author has delighted children of all ages throughout her long career. Her own books speak of appreciating the joys of the world around us and the importance of preserving it for future generations. Books chosen for the Collection will reflect these values and will embrace the themes of integrity, creativity, and the gifts of nature. The Collection will include new works, in addition to out-of-print gems worthy of resurrection. Offering connections and gentle wisdom for the growing years, *The Julie Andrews Collection* will help stimulate feelings of self-worth for young readers and promote understanding, consciousness, and respect for the natural world.

**HarperCollins Children's Books** is one of the leading publishers of children's books.

Respected worldwide for its tradition of publishing quality books for children, HarperCollins is home to many of the classics of children's literature including *Goodnight Moon*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *A Light in the Attic*, *Charlotte's Web*, and countless others. HarperCollins Children's Books is a division of HarperCollins Publishers, one of the leading English-language publishers in the world.