

David Becker

DAVID BECKER, you returned to the Lawrence Conservatory of Music in 2005 as Professor of Music, Director of Orchestral Studies, and Conductor of the Symphony and Opera. It was a long-awaited encore, so to speak, as you had first brought your marvelous baton to the Memorial Chapel stage in 1976.

Through countless rehearsals and rousing performances you have inspired your students to reach new heights as musicians and as people, much to the delight of your audiences. Students praise your patience and the genuine care you showed for them. One describes you as a “man of surpassing integrity, respect and empathy” who is a “true and tireless servant of the orchestra.” You are certainly all of that and more.

Your colleagues call you “a rare combination of true gentleman, loyal friend, committed colleague, inspirational mentor and world-class musician” and said your “professional excellence, pedagogical mastery and personal graciousness have made Lawrence a better place to teach and make music.”

You are widely respected for your dedication to young musicians and have instilled in them a lifelong love of music.

Conductor, performer, teacher and friend, you have enriched our lives and filled our hearts with song. Maestro Becker, as a final ovation for all of your achievements as a member of the Faculty of Lawrence University, I am pleased to confer upon you the honorary degree of Master of Arts on the occasion of your retirement.

June 10, 2012