

2018

Honorary Degree Award Citation for James DeCorsey

Lawrence University

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James DeCorsey

JAMES DECORSEY, since coming to Lawrence University in 1990, you have distinguished yourself as one of the most accomplished members of our Conservatory faculty. After earning a Bachelor of Arts with a major in English at Stanford University, you went on to pursue graduate studies in horn at Yale University, where you received the Doctorate in Musical Arts. The celebrated instrumentalists you count among your most influential teachers include Los Angeles Horn Club founder Wendall Hoss, San Francisco Symphony principal A. David Krehbiel, the natural horn virtuoso Anthony Halstead and Paul Ingraham of the New York Brass Quintet.

Your performing career has included appearances with some of the world's most celebrated ensembles, among them the San Francisco Symphony, the English Chamber Orchestra and the London Philharmonic; the conductors you have worked with are no less distinguished, among them the maestros Seiji Ozawa, Georg Solti, Edo de Waart and Simon Rattle. You have

also performed in the pit of numerous Broadway shows and worked with popular artists like Frank Sinatra, Roberta Flack and Henry Mancini.

During your years at Lawrence, you performed as principal horn for many area ensembles, including the Green Bay Symphony, the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. Your contributions to the musical life of the university include performances with Lawrence Brass, the Lawrence Wind Quintet and the Lawrence Chamber Players. As an instructor, you brought to the classroom the same attention to excellence that has characterized your work in the concert hall, offering classes in music history, chamber music and *Freshman Studies*, in addition to your studio instruction in horn.

In recognition of your many contributions to Lawrence and its students, I am pleased to award you the degree of Master of Arts, *ad eundem*, on the occasion of your retirement from the faculty.

June 10, 2018