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# Excellence in Creative Activity Award Citation for Michael Mizrahi

Lawrence University

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## 2013 AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE ACTIVITY

### MICHAEL MIZRAHI

Your work as a creative artist has led to impressive concerts and the creation of several critically acclaimed recordings. Your recording portfolio includes the world premiere of three works for violin and piano by Aaron Copland, and most recently, *The Bright Motion*. This is a collection of new works for solo piano that was cited by both *Time Out New York* and *Time Out Chicago* as one of the best albums of 2012.

Your piano performances are of extraordinarily high quality. Terms such as “astonishing” and “totally immersed” are used to describe the experience of hearing you play. Your artistry and technical skill combine to make you a performer of stunning versatility. You are lauded for your courage in playing both classical works and newly composed pieces, some of which you have commissioned. You are a founding member and participant in the NOW ensemble, which is cutting edge in its instrumentation and musical offerings. Not only do you play with commanding expertise, you provide a rich context for understanding the pieces you perform by offering verbal explanations of the historical setting for these works and the techniques used to compose them.

Your performance ability, innovative spirit, and devotion to the beauty of both traditional and contemporary music combine to make you an exceptional artist. You have brought joy and insight to us at Lawrence and to the world beyond.

In recognition of your creative accomplishments, I am extremely pleased to present you with the 2013 Award for Excellence in Creative Activity.