

Madam Chancellor, I present to you Maureen Forrester, artist and master teacher, whose accomplishments surely exemplify the thought: "Without music, life would be a mistake". Forrester's sonorous contralto has won her international acclaim since the early 1950s when she began her professional career. But beyond her personal artistic mastery, her commitment to Canadian culture has given voice to countless Canadian works, both through her own performances and through her promotion of this country's composers.

From her Montreal birthplace in 1930, Maureen Forrester embraced music for the first time as a child studying piano, later joining church choir before

beginning formal voice studies at age sixteen. Over the years of international appearances following her professional debut in 1951, audiences have always sought the emotional content of her