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**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

**Honorary Degree Citations  
The degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*,  
conferred on Leila Getz  
Wednesday, June 1, 2005**

Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present Leila Getz. For more than twenty-five years this exceptional British Columbian has been at the cultural centre of our province. Her vision and daring have made our musical landscape infinitely richer and more rewarding.

After earning her music degree in South Africa, Leila Getz taught music there until she immigrated to Canada in 1966 and, to our great good fortune, made Vancouver her home. Here, she continued in her chosen profession until 1980 when, in an inspired moment, she founded the Vancouver Recital Society with the goal of presenting the rising young stars of the international music scene. It was the perfect marriage of life and work, for with this bold stroke she would transform Vancouver's classical music scene.

It is a testament to her impeccable musical taste that the Society not only endured but thrived, quickly becoming a centerpiece for the performing arts in Vancouver. As its Artistic Director, she has brought world-renowned musicians to Vancouver and also introduced to us those young artists about to shine on the international stage. Her thrill of discovering new performers and her joy in sharing them with us proved infectious and Vancouver audiences responded enthusiastically. Today, the Vancouver Recital Society enjoys a reputation as one of North America's finest classical music societies, and Leila Getz has earned the loyalty and affection of performers and concert-goers alike.

Her contributions, however, did not end with the Society. In 1986, she founded the Summer Music