



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*, conferred on Dr. Hampton Thursday, October 6, 2011

Madam Chancellor, Ursula K. Le Guin described it as “but a little wrinkling of the air.” To Aldous Huxley it was “that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible.” And Friedrich Nietzsche observed that without it, “life would be a mistake.”

It, of course, is music. Throughout history and across the planet, music has been a vital part of human life. Essential as it is to our well-being, we often do not recognize the efforts and sacrifices of those who nourish and enrich our lives through the creation and performance of music. Ian Hampton is a man truly deserving of our esteem for his dedication to this most noble and vital art.

Cellist, teacher and advocate, Ian Hampton embodies the best aspects of music. A superb interpreter of both traditional and contemporary works, he is also a major force in the commissioning of new works for the cello, a singular figure in the training of young musicians and a strong champion for all aspects of his craft. Moreover his peers view him as an outstanding colleague: diplomatic, fair-minded, good humoured, selfless and kind.

He began his career with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields before arriving in Vancouver in 1966 to perform as a principal cellist and soloist with various professional orchestras and chamber groups. He was a founding member of the renowned Purcell String Quartet—for 10 years the string quartet-in-residence here at SFU. They played free concerts in the hallways, the pub, or in classrooms, gave master classes and commissioned new works by Canadian composers. The quartet also performed in many of Western Canada’s most remote hamlets as well as cities throughout the world.

In addition to his career as a musician and champion for Canadian new music, Ian Hampton has a distinguished record of service to the community through organizations such as the Langley Community Music School; the B.C. Association of Community Music Schools; the Hornby Island Festival; the Okanagan Summer School and Vanderhoof string workshops; the Courtenay Youth Music Camp; and the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Ian Hampton is known for his selfless generosity, his commitment to music education and his profound and positive influence on generations of musicians. As one of his colleagues wrote: “He makes great personal sacrifices to make things work... It seems he often puts more money into things than he takes out. Everything he does is a contribution to B.C. and Vancouver’s musical life.”

Madam Chancellor, for these accomplishments and the many more that time did not permit me to list, I ask on behalf of the Senate of this University that you confer upon Ian Hampton the Degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*.