

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*, conferred on Dr. McLachlan Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. Chancellor, music is a force of extraordinary and compelling power in all societies; it is a force of cultural transformation and has at times, given drive and direction to projects of social change. The best of popular music in particular, has at various turns and in diverse cultural contexts, opened our imaginations, moved us emotionally, socially, even politically, has driven and inspired us, has uplifted and enlightened us, has helped us to experience, explain, and imagine the possibilities of our lives, individually and collectively.

Most artful and pre-eminent in this respect is Sarah McLachlan.

Her continually luminous career has been infinitely more than musical, although she has had a singular and enduring impact on the progress and direction of popular music in Canada, and around the globe. For over 20 years, Sarah McLachlan has made her indelible mark in the music industry as a singer and a songwriter, a multi-instrumentalist, a producer, and an inspiration for many other musical careers. Her career is marked by a litany of awards as Sarah McLachlan has been recognized nationally and internationally for the grace and the beauty of her songwriting and her performances, for the excellence of her craft, and for her remarkable capacity to see music has a vehicle for social change. She has acted with dedication and resolve upon the vision that music can activate and mobilize popular understandings and commitments to critical issues and global events. She has recognized that music is not only good for the soul, but good for society, good for culture, good for positive and sustained social progress.

Sarah McLachlan has achieved international renown for her artistic accomplishment and she has equaled that accomplishment in her philanthropic imagination and dedication. As her recording career has been marked by multi-platinum success and critical acclaim, , Heg9McLachlaiv4.03eshl