

MARK O'CONNOR

Doctor of Public Service

Mark O'Connor, your musical journey has led you from child prodigy and champion fiddler in your mid-teens to a successful career as a violin virtuoso, renowned composer and captivating performer of your music in classical settings. That journey and the myriad of eclectic musical influences you have absorbed are reflected in your music. You have created a personal style, in composition and performance, which has been described as a new American classical music.

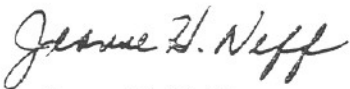
At this pinnacle of your journey, you are regarded as one of America's premier musical artists and one of the generation's brightest talents. Whether performing with elite symphony orchestras, as a member of an ensemble, or as a soloist, your technique and instrumental mastery transcends musical styles and has claimed legions of fans in every genre. We can only imagine what you will evoke in the future, but we know your accomplishments thus far.

After a stint as one of Nashville's most celebrated country musicians, during which you appeared on some 500 albums, you released your first recording for the Sony Classical label, *Appalachia Waltz*, a collaboration with cellist Yo Yo Ma and bassist Edgar Meyer. The follow-up recording, *Appalachian Journey*, won a Grammy Award. After several more albums, you premiered your first symphony, *The American Seasons: Seasons of an American Life* at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall in 2001 in honor of the 20th anniversary of the hall's concert series. Performed on a national tour, the work was broadcast on PBS stations on New Year's Day 2002.

A variety of distinguished performers have interpreted your compositions, including the New York City Ballet and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. You have received many commission grants, including one from the Library of Congress, and have appeared on major network television shows such as "Great Performances" on PBS. Your music was a backdrop for the PBS documentary "Liberty", the story of our country's founding, and you composed "Olympic Reel" for the Centennial Olympic Games ceremonies in Atlanta.

Having overcome personal hardships during your youth and triumphing to blaze your own path, you give generously of your time and guidance to encourage young musicians, through involvements such as the Honorary Committee of Sphinx, an organization that encourages, develops, and recognizes classical music achievement in young minorities. You also founded an international Fiddle Camp near Nashville, Tenn., and a Fiddle Conference near San Diego, Calif., and regularly teach masters classes and conduct symposia at many prestigious schools of music.

In recognition, Mark O'Connor, of your talents and contributions to American musical culture, we confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Public Service with all the rights and privileges pertaining hereto; in token of which I present you with this diploma, cause the hood of your alma mater to be placed upon your shoulders; and ask that your name be inscribed upon the list of honorary graduates of The Sage Colleges.



Jeanne H. Neff

President

The Sage Colleges Commencement

May 19, 2002

