



# COMMENCEMENT

December 2008

Iowa City, Iowa

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF IOWA

## HONORARY DEGREES

The University of Iowa confers honorary degrees to individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in such areas as research, scholarship, education, artistic creation, social activism, human rights, or humanitarian outreach. Nominations are made by the faculty, with selections approved by the Provost and the Board of Regents, State of Iowa.

Honorary degrees have been awarded to the following individuals:

**Marvin Pomerantz, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, December 2007**

**Ignacio Ponseti, Honorary Doctor of Science, December 2007**

**Robert Solow, Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, May 2008**

The University of Iowa is pleased to make the following award in December 2008:

**HIMIE VOXMAN, HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS:** An internationally renowned music educator, researcher, publisher, and leader, Professor Himie Voxman's long and prolific career has contributed significantly to the fields of music and music education worldwide.

Professor Voxman began his teaching career at The University of Iowa in 1939. An avid clarinet performer, lecturer, and researcher, he constantly expanded his musical horizons, as well as those of The University of Iowa. Under his guidance, The University of Iowa School of Music became one of the first institutions to award a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree (DMA) in Music Performance.

From 1954 to 1980, Professor Voxman served as director of the School of Music. During this time, he served as graduate advisor to hundreds of music students in addition to being a mentor and teacher. Under Professor Voxman's leadership, additional coursework, advanced degrees, and an expanded faculty were added, thereby increasing the School of Music's scope and national prominence. By providing workshops and summer music sessions for high school students and teachers, the School of Music provided a public service to the State of Iowa and further developed the University's reputation.

Professor Voxman's area of research was the woodwind repertoire, particularly from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Over a 30 year period, Professor Voxman traveled to Europe in search of early, unpublished scores for woodwinds. The results were fruitful; Professor Voxman has so far contributed 366 folders of repertoire to the Rita Benton Music Library. These manuscripts, currently held in the Himie Voxman Research Archive Collection are a vital asset to the School of Music.

Professor Voxman has contributed substantially to the music repertoire through his publication of numerous method books and editions of music for brass and woodwind instruments, which have been and continue to be used around the world. These publications are innovative in their ability to help students progress musically at a consistent pace from beginning to advanced levels while performing high-

quality literature. Prior to his publications, such a system was not in existence. The National Federation Interscholastic Music Association estimates that one million high school musicians utilize Professor Voxman's method books every year. These books have become a fundamental part of American middle and high school band literature.

Throughout his career, Professor Voxman has remained exceptionally active in the music community. He has contributed countless articles to publications such as the *International Clarinet Journal*, *The Clarinet* (in which he also served as editorial associate), *The Instrumentalist*, *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, *Notes*, *Journal of Research in Music Education*, and the *Journal of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives, and Documentation Centres* to name a few. Interviews, tributes, and features on Professor Voxman have been published in *ClariNetwork*, *The Clarinet*, *Flute Talk*, and *The Bulletin of Historical Research in Music Education*. He has adjudicated innumerable musical competitions and served on the panel for the Canadian National Competitive Festival of Music.

He has held numerous offices in the Music Educators' National Conference and the Music Teacher's National Association, as well as served as vice-president of the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors. He has served as Chairman of the Commission on Graduate Studies for the National Association of Schools of Music, and contributed to health and welfare by serving on the National Commission for Accreditation of Teacher Education and Welfare as well as been involved in music assignments for the Department of Health Education and Welfare. He has served as a member of the Academic Panel for cultural exchange projects for the United States Department of State.

Throughout his career, Professor Voxman has promoted music and music education in the United States and beyond. Professor Voxman remains an immensely influential figure on an international level, and has contributed to the stellar reputation of The University of Iowa and its School of Music.