



Doctor of Arts, honoris causa

Citation

Quincy Delight Jones, Jr., from humble roots you have risen to the pinnacle of the music world--as musician, composer, arranger, producer, conductor, and humanitarian. From bebop to hip-hop, from Dizzy Gillespie to Ice-T, your influence over sixty years across genres and artists has left an indelible mark on modern culture. Your brilliant light has been a guiding force shaping popular music that will be heard and felt for generations to come. You have written the soundtrack for a century.

Born on the south side of Chicago during the Great Depression, you knew well the violence and hopelessness that can cripple a human spirit. But not your spirit. You experienced life's hardships, yet you endured to find yourself in Port Orchard, Washington one night, a young boy and an old upright piano in an empty hall. With those eighty-eight keys, you would unlock your destiny.

Your path took you through Seattle and Garfield High School, where you became an accomplished trumpet player. By age 15, you had performed with Billie Holiday, written your first big band arrangement, and been invited to join Lionel Hampton's band.

You have collaborated with the giants of twentieth century jazz and popular music, from Count Basie and Duke Ellington, to Sinatra, Ray Charles, and Michael Jackson. You produced the best selling album of all time, Jackson's Thriller, and the biggest selling single in history, We Are The World, which raised \$60 million to combat world hunger. You wrote the music for the landmark miniseries Roots and co-produced The Color Purple with Steven Spielberg. You have composed 34 major motion picture scores, and received 7 Academy Award nominations. Your honors and awards include France's Commander of the Legion of Honor and an unprecedented 79 Grammy nominations, resulting in 27 Grammy awards.

At Mercury Records you were the first African-American vice president of a major record label. You were the first African-American to serve as musical director, conductor and executive producer of the Academy Awards, and the first African-American composer to be embraced by the Hollywood film establishment. You have mentored young artists, fused together diverse musical styles and, in the process, united the generations. Prejudice, with its many bitter faces, has never been a match for your creative fire and the sheer force of your passion for life.

You were a major supporter of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Operation Breadbasket, and you have continued to help others in need through numerous charitable organizations, including your own Quincy Jones Foundation, which offers children hope by connecting them with technology, education, culture, and music. Around the world, you are celebrated for your passionate devotion to humanitarian causes.

For your wonderful gift of music, for opening doors that were once closed and for building bridges where none before existed, for being a courageous and loving person, and for teaching us all to embrace the vibrant oneness of humanity, the University of Washington is proud to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Arts, honoris causa.

STANLEY H. BARER
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

MARK A. EMMERT
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

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