

## **Rhodes University honours Professor Franklin Larey with prestigious Doctor of Music**

Rhodes University will confer an honorary Doctor of Music (DMus) upon Professor Franklin Larey in recognition of his remarkable contributions to music, education, and leadership. His influence has shaped the musical landscape in South Africa and internationally, advancing both performance and academia while championing diversity and inclusion in higher education.

Professor Larey, one of South Africa's most distinguished pianists, currently serves as Director and Professor at the School of Music at Ball State University. He previously held leadership roles as Director of the School of Music at Illinois Wesleyan University and the South African College of Music at the University of Cape Town. From 2006 to 2022, he was the Executive Director of the Adamant Music School in Vermont, USA. His career has been defined by a commitment to excellence, transformation, and the expansion of music education opportunities.

A highly accomplished scholar, Professor Larey holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Cincinnati, where he specialised in piano performance and research in Brahms studies. He also earned an Artist Diploma and a Master of Music from the same institution, which honoured him with a Distinguished Alumnus Award. Additionally, he has earned performance diplomas from the Royal Schools of Music (London) and Trinity College of Music. His leadership has spanned institutions across the globe, where he has driven curriculum development, mentorship, and funding initiatives to enhance music education infrastructure.

In South Africa, Professor Larey's impact is deeply rooted in his work at the University of Cape Town, where he spearheaded transformative initiatives to make music education more accessible. He played a pivotal role in securing grants, including funding for the restoration of the Kirby Collection of African Instruments and support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for scholarships in the UCT Opera School. His efforts helped provide world-class training for students from historically disadvantaged backgrounds, furthering their academic and professional success.

His advocacy for inclusivity extends beyond education into broader societal engagement. He has served as an evaluator for the National Research Foundation of South Africa, a juror for international music competitions, and a teacher on issues of transformation in higher education. His scholarly contributions to journals such as the *Journal of the Musical Arts in Africa* and his numerous public lectures underscore his role as a thought leader in music and cultural studies.

As a pianist, Professor Larey has graced stages across Africa, Europe, and the United States, and has performed at venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. His acclaimed recordings include works by Brahms, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, and

Debussy, and his playing has been described as possessing profound artistry and expressive depth. His performances have been lauded by critics, and his commitment to artistic excellence continues to inspire emerging musicians.

His story has been captured in national and international media, including a documentary aired on South African national television and his inclusion in the *Living Treasures* series by the Human Sciences Research Council. His oral history is also archived in the American Library of Congress.

Professor Franklin Larey's contributions to music education, performance, and advocacy have left an enduring mark on the academic and artistic communities. His leadership, both in South Africa and globally, has advanced the accessibility and appreciation of classical music, ensuring a lasting impact on future generations of musicians and scholars.

He will receive his honorary Doctor of Music (DMus) on 10 October 2025 at 09:30 during the Rhodes University graduation ceremony, where he will also deliver an address sharing insights from his distinguished career and vision for the future of music and education.