

JAMES NEWTON,

You are a true renaissance man of music: a distinguished composer, flutist, conductor and professor.

THE SCOPE OF your compositions reaches across the genres of jazz, chamber, symphonic, dance, electronic and world music. You have explored, pushed and redefined the boundaries between notated composition and improvisation. Balancing intellect, spirit, passion and form, you've created new and inclusive universal music that transcends categorical barriers.

You have performed with the giants in your field, and notwithstanding your dislike of polls and ranking systems, you were voted top flutist in *Downbeat's* International Critics' Poll for a remarkable 23 consecutive years! Your award winning recordings include *Suite for Frida Kahlo*, *James Newton*, *African Flower* and *Mystery School*.

Born in Los Angeles in 1953, your early musical experiences of spiritual power and energy in the Black church made deep impressions that influenced your entire career. Your introduction to modern technique came through Eric Dolphy's playing with Charles Mingus, and your own innovations in extended technique—both in your classical compositions and jazz improvisations— included singing into the flute and the addition of multiphonics, microtones and key clicks.

As a community activist and citizen of the world you've traveled near and far, and brought your enlivening, joyful spirit—everywhere—from remote African villages to the inner city neighborhoods of Los Angeles. In honoring your ancestors you visited South Africa, performing before grateful and enthusiastic audiences wherever you went.

Your dedication to music education has been constant for the last 20 years. You've been a professor of music here at CalArts, at UC Irvine, and at Cal State L.A. where you also serve as Artistic Director of the Luckman Jazz Orchestra. Your fellowships and grants include two awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Multi-Arts production Fund and the Guggenheim, and you have conducted Master classes and lectures at the most prestigious educational institutions in the world.

You play without restraint. In your own words, "I'd rather give when I play, and when I get done, for people to feel that I gave everything that I had to give."

James Newton,

With the authority vested in me by the Board of Trustees and on the recommendation of the faculties of California Institute of the Arts, I hereby confer on you the degree of Doctor of Arts, *Honoris Causa*, together with all the rights, benefits and privileges that appertain thereto.
