CAS



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
1976 Commencement Program

# COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

# **Baldwin Pavilion**

June 5, 1976

2:00 P.M.

# UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

At each Commencement Oakland University extends special recognition to those students who have attained outstanding levels of academic achievement.

The University Senate, acting on the advice of its Committee on Academic Standing and Honors, authorizes University Honors at three levels for those students who have completed 62 credits or more at Oakland, with cumulative averages as follows:

Cum Laude	3.60 - 3.74	
Magna Cum Laude	3.75 – 3.89	
Summa Cum Laude	3.90 – 4.00	

Each student who has a record of superior achievement in a major field of study is designated as graduating with departmental honors.

# **PROGRAM**

Processional William Schwab, Marshal Oakland University Brass Ensemble James Dawson, Director Selections from Water Music . . . . . . George Frideric Handel Sonata No. 22 . . . . . . . . . . . Johann Pezel Exordium Charles W. Akers, Professor History Welcome Reuben Torch, Dean College of Arts and Sciences Musical Selections Connie Grubaugh, Soprano Beverly Labuta, Pianist Depuis le jour . . . . . . . . . . . . Gustave Charpentier Queen of the Night's aria .... Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Remarks Frederick W. Obear Vice President and Provost Awarding of Degrees Graduate Degrees G. Philip Johnson, Dean Graduate Study Undergraduate Degrees Reuben Torch. Dean College of Arts and Sciences Valediction Donald C. Hildum, Professor and Chairman, Speech Communication Recessional Allegro and Air from King Arthur ..... Henry Purcell

Sarabande and Carillon . . . . . . . . . Louis Couperin

# On Academic Regalia An edifying note contributed by a certain anonymous doctor of philosophy

On at least two solemn occasions during the academic calendar — spring and fall commencement — the faculty of the university publicly displays its full academic regalia and participates in the liturgy of processional and recessional, that curious coming and going that symbolizes the ceremony of commencement. The purposes of commencement are well known, but the reasons for the peculiar garb of the celebrants and their odd order of march are often as obscure to the audience as they are, in fact, to the faculty itself. This note may serve to explain academic dress and the professorial pecking order it costumes.

Contemporary academics are descendants of clerical schoolmen in the universities of medieval Europe. Like the clergy, members of the bench and bar, and other learned professions, the medieval scholar clothed himself in heavy robes to stay warm in unheated stone buildings. Like all members of an hierarchical society, the medieval faculties rejoiced in visible insignia of rank. These outward signs of accomplishment and authority were tailored into the robes. Although the need for such voluminous garments to keep the scholar from freezing is long past, the use of them as emblems of dignity remains.

You will observe that all caps and gowns worn by our faculty are black, with certain disturbing exceptions. Black was the color adopted by mutual agreement among American universities at the end of the nineteenth century. In Europe each university has its own distinctive gown, varying in color and cut from all others. A European academic assemblage is a far gaudier occasion than its counterpart in America. Recently, certain universities in this country rashly broke the agreement and authorized robes in their own colors: for example, the crimson of Harvard and the green of Wayne State may be seen in our ranks. This unsuitable spontaneity has been frowned on by sister institutions, yet the mavericks not only persist in their madness, but gain adherents to their ranks with each passing year.

There are three basic academic degrees: the baccalaureate or bachelor's degree, the master's degree, and the doctorate. A special style of robe is prescribed for each. The bachelor's gown is sparsely cut, neat, but a bit skimpy and unadorned, as befits apprentices. The

master's gown is still simple, but fuller, sports a sleeve of extraordinary design impossible to describe, and has a hood draped from the shoulders down the back. Once used to keep the frost from the tonsured heads of medieval clerks, the hood now is solely a badge of a degree of scholarly achievement. The master's hood is small and narrow, but displays the colors of the institution that awarded the degree. If you knew the colors of American universities, you could easily identify from whence came our masters. The doctoral robe is the most handsome of academic rainment. Generous of cut, of fine aristocratic stuff, it is faced with velvet and emblazoned with velvet chevrons on the ample sleeves. You will note that most of the velvet facings and chevrons are black, but that some are of other colors. According to personal taste, the doctor may display the color of his doctoral degree on his sleeves and facings: green for medicine, purple for law, scarlet for theology, and many more. The royal blue of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is the most commonly seen in a liberal arts institution such as Oakland. The doctor's hood is the most elegant of all academic appurtenances. Large and graceful, it is lined in satin with the colors of the university that awarded the degree and is bordered with the color of the degree itself. Most academic costumes include the square cap called a mortarboard; the doctor's tassel may be either black or gold - tassels of all other degrees are black and stringy.

To instructed eyes, the order of march in the processional and recessional reveals the standing of individuals in the institution's formal hierarchy. In the processional the order of entrance into the hall is, quite fittingly, from most junior to most senior. The baccalaureate candidates enter first, followed successively by the masters and doctoral candidates with the whole separated from the faculty by a decent interval. In the faculty order, the instructors precede the assistant professors who in turn are followed by the associate professors. The august full professors bring up the rear. After a respectful distance, come the deans who in turn are separated by significant space from the awful majesty of the platform party, the president, the vice-president, and the members of the board of trustees. All remain standing until the board is seated. After the ceremony the order of recessional is the reverse of the processional. The greatest dignitaries stream out of the hall first, with the artfully organized ranks of priority wallowing in their wake.

It is hoped that these notes may make more intelligible the spectacle you are witnessing today. A discerning intelligence may detect in it many clues to an understanding of the academic profession as it confronts the ambiguities of the future with ancient wisdom and dignified confidence.

# DEGREES GRANTED DECEMBER 1975

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Hazel Y. Ray Frederick John Stone

## MASTER OF SCIENCE

Chitralekha Maheshchandra Kikani Mark Edward Williams

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Debra Juanita Donald James John Dutkiewicz Joseph Gregory Dwan James O. Elliott Thomas Andrew Engel Jodi Anne Estes Barbara Ann Feinberg Astrid Francisca Feistammel Carolyn Fisher Alan Craig Fishman Mary Fave Flemming Leo Adolph Garcia Gwen Marie Gardner Booker Gav Michael L. Gizzi Daniel Leonard Gordon Steven Bruce Graham Randy Dennis Grossman Mark Frederick Guzowski Steven Charles Halliday Susan Mary Kuschell Hamilton Denise Elaine Acord Harris Rod Galen Haynes Ronald N. Henderson Candace Jean Henschell Sharon Patricia Hicks Raymond Edward Hooton Ralph Thomas Howarth Denise L. Hurd Mark W. Ivory Sherrill Ann Jackson Frederick Charles Jacobites Carolyn Campbell James

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Jill R. Pfeil

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