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Commencement Ceremonies Spotlight Musicmakers, Newsmakers on May 19

Chapman University's Commencement Ceremony Takes a Musical Turn on May 19

Renowned Opera Star Milena Kitic Will Give Undergraduate Commencement Address; Acclaimed Composer Terry Riley to Receive Honorary Doctorate

OC Superior Court Judge James P. Gray Will Also Be Awarded Honorary Doctorate; Famed Anti-Tobacco Attorney Richard Scruggs Will Address Law School Graduates

Gospel of Judas Professor Marvin Meyer Will Address Graduate Students

More Than 1,400 Chapman Students Will Participate in Undergraduate, Graduate and Law School Ceremonies on Wilson Field

ORANGE, Calif., May 7, 2007 More than 1,400 students will pick up their diplomas during Chapman University's undergraduate, graduate and law school commencement ceremonies, which will take place on Saturday, May 19. There will be a musical flair to this year's festivities: the undergraduate ceremony will be highlighted by an address from Milena Kitic, the renowned opera star recently appointed Artist-in-Residence at Chapman's new College of Performing Arts. The ceremony will also spotlight acclaimed American composer Terry Riley, who will be awarded an honorary doctorate.

Kitic, a mezzo-soprano who began her career as a star of the Belgrade (Yugoslavia) Opera, has won critical acclaim for her starring roles with many major U.S. opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Washington, D.C. Opera and Baltimore Opera. Most recently, she appeared as the fiery heroine of Bizet's *Carmen* with Orange County's own Opera Pacific. She is married to ICN Pharmaceuticals CEO Milan Panic, the former prime minister of Yugoslavia. The couple lives in Orange County. As Artist-in-Residence in Chapman's College of Performing Arts, Kitic will work closely with Chapman's talented student singers, sharing her professional knowledge with the potential opera stars of tomorrow.

Riley, iconic composer of the Minimalist movement, is perhaps best known to classical music audiences for his longtime association with the famed Kronos Quartet, for whom he has written 13 major works. Riley's 1964 work *In C*, for any number of unspecified players, was first performed by Steve Reich and Morton Subotnick, among others, and is considered the seminal piece that launched the Minimalist movement. By 1968 he had become notorious for his all-night solo improvisational performances, lasting up to nine hours. Seriously interested in Indian classical music, Riley has taught and performed Hindustani music since the early 1970s. His groundbreaking compositions heavily influenced such rock groups as The Who their Baba

ORiley is a tribute to him, and Won't Get Fooled Again also shows his influence.

The selection of Milena Kitic as commencement speaker, and Terry Riley for an honorary doctorate, pays tribute to our new College of Performing Arts, which will become a reality in just a few weeks, on June 1, said James Doti, president of Chapman University. The performing arts have always been a signature component of a Chapman education, and for the first time, our highly regarded School of Music will be under the same roof as our exemplary departments of theatre, dance and visual arts. This will pave the way for more of the type of interdisciplinary collaboration in which Chapman has always excelled.

Orange County Superior Court Judge James P. Gray, known for his innovative stance on drug control and his many civic activities, will also be awarded an honorary doctorate during the undergraduate commencement exercises.

The School of Laws commencement will spotlight a keynote address by Mississippi plaintiff attorney Richard F. Scruggs, who spearheaded litigation against 13 tobacco companies in the 1990s a story brought to the screen in the Oscar-nominated movie *The Insider*.

The graduate ceremony, held the evening of May 19, will feature a keynote address by Dr. Marvin Meyer, Chapman's Grisct Chair in Bible and Christian Studies, who recently garnered international recognition for his role in translating the Gospel of Judas for the National Geographic Society.

More than 1,400 students will participate in Chapman's undergraduate, graduate and law school commencement exercises, which will take place on the university's Holly and David Wilson Field.

Schedule: Chapman University Commencement Ceremonies

Saturday, May 19, 2007<>

8:30 a.m. Undergraduate Commencement Wilson Field

- Commencement Address: Milena Kitic, internationally renowned mezzo-soprano
- Honorary Degree: Judge James P. Gray, Doctor of Laws
- Honorary Degree: Terry Riley, Doctor of Arts

Open to the public.

2:15 p.m. Doctor of Physical Therapy Hooding Ceremony Memorial Hall (DPTs and guests only)

5:30 .m. Graduate Commencement Wilson Field

- Commencement Address: Marvin Meyer, Ph.D., Grisct Chair in Bible and Christian Studies, Chapman University

Open to the public.

8:00 p.m. School of Law Commencement and Hooding Wilson Field

- Keynote Speaker: Richard F. Scruggs, J.D., of the Scruggs Law Firm, P.A., Oxford, Mississippi

Open to the public.

BIOGRAPHIES

Milena Kitic (Undergraduate Commencement Speaker), recently selected as the inaugural artist-in-residence in Chapman University's new College of Performing Arts, is an internationally renowned mezzo-soprano who began her career as a star of the Belgrade (Yugoslavia) Opera. She has won critical acclaim all over the world for her performances with the major opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Washington D.C. Opera and Baltimore Opera. Kitic recently drew raves for her fiery performances in the title role of Bizet's *Carmen* this spring with Opera Pacific.

Terry Riley (Honorary Doctorate in the Arts), iconic composer of the Minimalist movement, is perhaps best known to classical audiences for his longtime association with the famed Kronos Quartet, for whom he has written 13 major works. Riley's 1964 work *In C*, for any number of unspecified players, was first performed by Steve Reich and Morton Subotnick, among others, and is considered the seminal piece that launched the Minimalist movement. By 1968 he had become notorious for his all-night solo improvisational performances, lasting up to nine hours. Seriously interested in Indian classical music, Riley has taught and performed Hindustani music since the early 1970s. His groundbreaking compositions heavily influenced such rock groups as The Who their Baba ORiley is a tribute to him, and Won't Get Fooled Again also shows his influence.

Judge James P. Gray (Honorary Doctor of Laws), cited on numerous occasions for his work in the areas of social reform and civic philanthropy, currently presides over the civil trial calendar for the Superior Court of Orange County. He was appointed to the Santa Ana Municipal Court in 1983 by Governor George Deukmejian, and in 1989, Deukmejian elevated Gray to his post with the Superior Court. Throughout his 25-year career within the legal and judicial community, Jim Gray has not only donated hundreds of hours of volunteer time to existing community service-oriented activities, he also has created and implemented a number of innovative programs of his own. He has been an adjunct professor at Chapman University, the College of Trial Advocacy for new Orange County attorneys, and the Continuing Legal Education of the Bar.

Marvin Meyer, Ph.D. (Graduate Commencement Speaker) holds the Griset Chair in Bible and Christian Studies at Chapman University and has taught at Chapman since 1985. The author of more than 20 books on early Christian texts and ancient mystery religions, Dr. Meyer most recently gained international recognition for his part in bringing to light the 2nd-century A.D. Gnostic text known as the Gospel of Judas. An expert in Coptic, the language of early Christians living in Egypt, he was a member of the National Geographic Societys team of scholars studying the text, and his elegant English translation anchored last year's bestselling book *The Gospel of Judas*. Dr. Meyer is also the director of Chapman Universitys Albert Schweitzer Institute, dedicated to studying the life, thought and ethical approach of the great humanitarian who is considered the guiding spirit of Chapman.

Richard F. Scruggs, J.D. (School of Law Keynote Speaker) is a Mississippi plaintiff attorney who catapulted into international headlines for his bold litigation against 13 tobacco companies,

as told onscreen in the Oscar-nominated motion picture *The Insider*. Prior to that, he was well-known for his class-action suits against the asbestos industry. He also served as lead attorney for the plaintiffs in the Ritalin class-action suit, and is currently leading a suit against State Farm Insurance on behalf of Hurricane Katrina survivors. Scruggs attended law school at the University of Mississippi and practiced law in Jackson, Mississippi and New York before opening his own private practice in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

For more information on Chapman University's commencement ceremonies, the public can visit www.chapman.edu/commencement or call (714) 997-6826.