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## Music Professor Honored as Musical Icon in Ghana

George W.K. Dor lauded for contributions to Ghanaian music and culture

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 BY EDWIN B. SMITH

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UM music professor George Worlasi Kwasi Dor (left) receives a citation presented by Adwoa Arhine (center) head of the Department of Music in the University of Ghana School of Performing Arts, and Benjamin Amaky Boateng, a lecturer in the department. Submitted photo

OXFORD, Miss. – This summer, George Worlasi Kwasi Dor visited his home country of Ghana as a renowned music professor at the [University of Mississippi](#). He returned as an icon.

The University of Ghana's [School of Performing Arts](#) named Dor an Iconic Composer of Ghanaian Art Music. Additionally, the school declared him a Distinguished Contributor to the Development of Contemporary Ghanaian Music and African Musicology.

The [University of Ghana](#), Salt and Light Ministry and Ghana National Theatre punctuated Dor's trip home with a three-hour concert in his honor. Choral Music TV of Ghana broadcast the event globally from the National Theatre [via Facebook](#) and YouTube, and the video has since racked up more than 4,000 views.

"I am happy that my contributions are acknowledged, and that my compositions continue to be meaningful to audiences in Ghana and beyond," Dor said. "The event serves as an inspiration for me to do more, and I believe it will motivate others to contribute in like manner."

The concert itself was a celebration of Dor's compositions and drew a national audience. Performers included the Ghana Police Band, Ghana National Symphony Orchestra and the Harmonious Chorale. Dor discussed his original music during an in-concert interview with Ghanaian music professor Daniel Avorgbedor.

Other highlights included recorded remarks from Felicia Sandler, of the New England Conservatory; George Mensah Essilfie, a former student of Dor's turned renowned Ghanaian composer; Distinguished Professor Kofi Agawu, of City Universities of New York and the Hughes-Rogers Emeritus Professor at Princeton University; and written comments from Cosmas Mereku, a Ghanaian composer and educator.

"But more telling was the invaluable gratification I derived from the support my family and hometown, Alavanyo, my former students and choir members, colleague faculty in Ghana and the USA, church music directors and lovers of choral music gave me," Dor said.



George Dor dances to one of his songs as it is played during the concert in Ghana. Submitted photo

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## Campus Briefs

### Donations Sought for 25th Annual Books and Bears Program

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi is asking the community to help spread a little joy this holiday season by donating to the 25th annual Books and Bears program. Donations such as toys, books, dolls, bicycles and other children's play items are being accepted through Dec. 14. All donations will be collected and sorted

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### Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship Aims to Build Leaders

OXFORD, Miss. – Twenty-five inaugural recipients of the Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship – a program hosted by the University of Mississippi School of Education in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the Mississippi High School Activities Association – are expected to increase their impact on student-athletes and their communities. The coaching fellowship

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## Ole Miss In the News

### Clarion-Ledger: New Essay Collection Tells the Story of Meredith's Enrollment

Essays celebrate 60th anniversary of James Meredith's enrollment at University of Mississippi By Lauren Rhoades Oct. 1 marks the 60th anniversary of James Meredith's 1962 enrollment at the University of Mississippi as the school's first African-American student.

Dor's research and creative activity widen the scope of culture and humanity, said Nancy Maria Balach, UM chair and professor of [music](#).

"Dr. Dor connects the University of Mississippi globally," Balach said. "Dr. Dor has engaged in successful recruitment efforts in Africa and established a key partnership initiative between the University of Mississippi and three African universities. We applaud Dr. Dor for this esteemed and well-deserved honor."



The Ghana National Symphony Orchestra plays a composition by music professor George Dor during the televised 'An Evening with George Worlasi Kwasi Dor' concert. Submitted photo

Since 2005, Dor has been the initiator, coordinator and producer of the annual Black History Month Concert that brings together diverse groups of performers and showcases guest artists at Ole Miss. In 2012, the Black History Month Concert was key in the celebration of 50 years of integration at the university, and he composed a commemorative song that included a tribute to James Meredith.

In 2018, the Black History Month Concert featured the Fisk Jubilee Singers with the UM Concert Singers at the Gertrude C. Ford Center

for the Performing Arts, showcasing works by William Grant Still.

Each semester, Dor leads the Ole Miss African Drum and Dance Ensemble. In 2007, the LOU community celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Ghana's independence as Oxford Mayor Richard Howorth and the Board of Aldermen declared March 6, 2007 as "Ghana Friendship Day in Oxford."

Dor was a 2019 Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow/Visiting Professor at the University of Port Harcourt. He was also awarded the UM 2021-22 Diversity Innovator Award.

 FILED UNDER: [DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC](#), [FEATURED NEWS](#), [NEWS RELEASES](#)

"James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier," a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

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