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AUG. 8: CONDUCTOR ISAIAH JACKSON TO RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREE AT UD

For his involvement in music, community and education, Isaiah Jackson will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree during the Sunday, Aug. 8, commencement exercises at the University of Dayton Arena.

In addition to Jackson's honorary degree, 427 UD students will receive their diplomas at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 8, at UD Arena. Of the 427 students, 318 will receive master's degrees, 97 will receive bachelor's degrees and 12 will receive doctoral degrees.

Jackson, music director of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra from 1987 to 1995, is also being recognized for "orchestrating racial harmony and integrating music within the lives of the young," according to his degree citation. He is known for bringing together community gospel choirs with city symphony orchestras and for creating musical programming for children such as the Magic Carpet Series for preschool children in Dayton.

Jackson has conducted symphonies around the world including those in London, Melbourne, Sydney, Stockholm and Vienna. He was the first American to hold a major position at the Covent Garden in London where he was first appointed principal conductor and later music director of the Royal Ballet. In the United States, he has been a guest conductor with orchestras in more than 30 cities.