During the past forty years Vancouver has emerged as a major centre of the arts in Canada. Much of the responsibility for this is attributable to Mrs. Iby Koerner, whose vision, initiative and talent have supported so many of our community's greatest achievements. Few artistic enterprises of consequence have failed to gain from her dedication and hard work.

Since her arrival in Canada from Hungary in 1939, Mrs. Koerner has been heavily committed to community activities. As a musician herself, Mrs. Koerner has devoted much of her interest to improving the quality of our musical life. Her standards of excellence are the highest, and as a founder and driving force of the Vancouver International Festival she sought to bring to the Vancouver area artists and events of outstanding international quality. The first such Festival, in 1958, is remembered as an occasion of continental significance. Invariably in positions of great responsibility, Mrs. Koerner has served major artistic endeavours across our Canadian nation, from Charlottetown to Victoria. A recent accomplishment has been the establishment of the successful Vancouver Academy of Music where, as Chairman, she continues to provide strong leadership.

Her active associations have included the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Centennial Museum, the Vancouver Opera Association, the Symphony, and numerous other organizations. Her service to the arts in Canada was recognized in 1971 by her appointment to the Order of Canada.

Mrs. Koerner is known to many of us as a long-time friend and supporter of our University; she is a Convocation Founder and was a member of the original Senate of this Institution. Her work in the community on behalf of Simon Fraser University, particularly during some of the difficult early years, is remembered with extreme gratitude.

The talent, dedication and high artistic expectations of this outstanding woman place all of us in her debt; without her and the many whose enthusiasm and efforts she has inspired, the artistic scene in British Columbia and indeed in Canada would be immeasurably poorer. In honouring her, Simon Fraser University also recognizes those who have been inspired by her example.

Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, Iby Koerner.