Legendary Opera Singer
Simon Estes
To give masterclass at
Michigan State University
Cook Recital Hall - March 28th at 11:30am

Internationally renowned singer Simon Estes enjoys the ecstatic praise of music lovers around the globe. On April 19, 1965, he made his operatic debut with the Deutsche Opera as Ramfis in Aida. Since winning the Bronze Medal in Moscow's Tchaikovsky competition in 1966, he has performed with 84 major international opera companies including the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala Mi-
lan, Lyric Opera of Chicago and many more. In high demand as a recitalist and orchestral soloist, he has appeared regularly with 115 orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic and Chicago Symphony.

Of the over one hundred roles in his repertoire, he is most often associated with King Philip in Don Carlo, Wotan in Wagner's Ring cycle and the title roles in Boris Godunov, Verdi's Nabucco and Macbeth. In the title role in Wagner's Die Flying Dutchman he appeared triumphantly for six successive years at the Bayreuth Festival. Mr. Estes' recording of The Flying Dutchman, with Wolfram in the title role, conducted by the Bayreuth Festival Orchestra and Chorus, is available on the Philips Classics label.

Aside from his landmark appearances at Bayreuth, many other historic musical events have marked Mr. Estes' career. He has sung for several US presidents. Mr. Estes holds the unique honor of being the only singer to sing for both the 25th and 50th Anniversary of the United Nations. He sang as a part of the opening of the Olympic Games in Munich, Germany in 1972. In July 1986, he performed in New York with the City Pops as part of the Statue of Liberty centennial celebration. He performed in the United States premiere of Shostakovich's 14th Symphony with Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra and received a Grammy Nomination for Best Classical Album of the Year.

Among the conductors with whom Mr. Estes has worked are Leonard Bernstein, James Conlon, Sir Colin Davis, James Levine, Lorin Maazel, Kurt Masur, Zubin Mehta, Riccardo Muti, Seiji Ozawa, Sir Georg Solti, Marcello Viotti and David Zinman.

Among the recording companies with whom Mr. Estes has recorded are Auvidis, Decca, Deutsche Grammophon, Deutsche Schallplatten, EMI, Philips, RCA Victor, Sony, Supraphon, Deutsche Grammophon, Deutsche Schallplatten, EMI, Philips, RCA Victor, Sony, Supraphon, and the American Record Company. In Bayreuth he recorded Wagner's The Flying Dutchman which was also filmed and televised by Unitek. Simon sang for the centennial produc-
tion of Parsifal with James Levine conducting the Orchestra and Chorus of the Bayreuth Festival.

Other recordings include Bizet's Carmen with Jessye Norman, Verdi's Requiem and Mozart's Requiem as well as Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, all conducted by Carlo Maria Giulini. With Sir Colin Davis he has recorded Handel's Messiah, the Faure Requiem, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Saint-Saens' Simphonon and Daliata; with the Vienna Philharmonic and Lorin Maazel Mahler's Symphony No. 8 and Stravinsky's Oedipus Rex with Esa-Pekka Salonen conducting. His last recording of Spirituals with Donald Ryan as accompanist and arranger has been re-
leased on the Deutsche Schallplatten label and in the recording of Berthold Goldschmidt's opera Beatrice Cenci - on Sony Classical - Simon Estes has portrayed the role of Count Cenci.

In June of 1990 Simon Estes sang for Mr. Nelson Mandela at the Riverside Church in New York City.

In the fall of 1994 he sang for Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu in The Cathedral of St. John The Divine in New York. He has also performed for the presidents of Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Swit-
zerland, and South Africa as well as royalty from Monaco, England, Sweden, Norway, Romania, and Spain.

In past seasons Simon Estes performed at the State Opera in Vienna, the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Teatro Real in Madrid, the Wash-
ington Opera, at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Los Angeles Opera and many, many more.

For the year 2006/2007, Mr. Estes was invited to sing in Carnegie Hall, Orchestra Hall in Chicago, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Denver Colorado, Germany, Switzerland, South America, South America, Prague Symphony Orchestra, Moscow, Florida, New Jersey, Mississippi. Mr. Estes was also on tour with the Yale Alumni Chorus in South Africa. In October 2007, Professor Estes sang for the inauguration of Harvard University’s first female president, President Faust.

In 2007/2008 Dr. Estes gave a number of master classes in Leipzig, Germany, and also performed at the Eisenach Castle with the Wartburg College Choir. Dr. Estes also performed in Boston Symphony Hall, Verdi's Requiem with the Boston University Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Professor Ann Howard Jones. With the Boston Chamber Orchestra Mr. Estes performed in New York City in 2008. During Black History Month, Dr. Estes performed and participated in a lecture honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King’s Birthday and the Anniversary of Dr. King’s assassination. Mr. Estes also sang for the Jefferson/Jackson Dinner, a fundraising event held in Des Moines, Iowa attended by Democratic candidates Barack Obama, Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Chris Dodd and Bill Richardson. Mr. Estes also sang three more times for Barack Obama during his campaign events.

In 2009, Dr. Estes served as President of the Vocal Competition and Jury in Geneva, Switzerland.

In January 2016 Simon Estes served as a member of the jury for the 53rd Francisco Viñes International Vocal Competition held at the Gran Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona, Spain. As a member of the jury, he will also be performing a concert.

Known throughout the world for his opera, concert, and recital performances, as well as for his recordings and appearances in television shows including the Tonight Show and the Today Show, Simon Estes still finds time to share his love and knowledge of music with students from elemen-
tary school through college with master classes and lectures. He is Professor of Voice at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa and at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, Iowa. In his master classes, across the country and the world, Dr. Estes teaches not only music, but artistic and personal values as well. Of the many master classes that Dr. Estes has given some of them include Harvard University, Duke University, John Hopkins, Peabody Conservatory, University of Indiana, San Francisco Conservatory, Russian Music Society in Moscow, Sidney in Australia, and the University of Iowa. Simon was Professor at Boston University for five years.

In 1993 he established The Simon Estes International Foundation for Children in Zurich, Switzerland with the purpose of fi-
canally assisting underprivileged and needy children as far as their education and health is concerned. In Cape Town, South Africa he initiated a school for underprivileged children, which is named after him as the Simon Estes Music High School. Endowed scholarships supported by Simon Estes are the Simon and Ovidia Estes Endowed Scholarship at Iowa State Univer-
sity: Classivity and the Dr. Simon, Ovidia and Tiffany Estes Endowed Scholarship at Wartburg College: 2017 Dr. Simon Estes was awarded a Lifetime Impact Award from the United Nations Foundation. 2018 Professor Simon Estes was awarded the prestigious honor as Singing Ambassador for The United Nation Foundation.

Of the many awards presented to Dr. Estes more recent ones include the Distinguished Iowa Citizen Award and the Alumni Medal of the University of Iowa. On January 12, 2012 Simon received the Gold Medal of Gran Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona, Spain.

In January 2014 Simon Estes was presented the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Achievement Award by Governor Terry Branstad. Other tributes given his name are: The Simon Estes Amphitheater in Des Moines, Iowa; A House Resolution “115” by the State Legislative of Iowa; The Simon Estes Auditorium at Centerville High School, Centerville, Iowa; and the Simon Estes “Buck” Rose.

Mr. Estes’ autobiography entitled “Simon Estes In His Own Voice” was published in 1999.

Mr. Estes continues singing performances to reach his a goal of one million dollars in order to purchase nets to save children's lives from needlessly dying from malaria.

Simon Estes is a man of great Christian faith, who is grateful for the talents and gifts he has been given by God. It is Mr. Estes' desire that through his singing he can share God's love in order to touch peoples' heart to love God and one another.