

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS DEGREE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to award an honorary Doctor of Musical Arts degree to Michèle Crider at Spring 2018 Commencement.

**Executive Summary:** The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Michèle Crider for her extraordinary achievements in the musical arts and her deep commitment to mentoring young artists.

**Details on Ms. Crider's Accomplishments:**

Michèle Crider is one of the preeminent dramatic sopranos of her generation. She regularly performs in the world's great opera houses and concert halls, and has collaborated with renowned contemporary conductors such as Riccardo Muti, Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta, James Levine, Nello Santi, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Semyon Bychkov, Seiji Ozawa, Riccardo Chailly and Sir Colin Davis.

A first generation college student from Quincy, Ill., Ms. Crider studied voice at the University of Iowa under renowned operatic bass-baritone and University of Iowa graduate Simon Estes and National Association of Teachers of Singing Master Teacher, John Van Cura. While a graduate student, she twice won the District Metropolitan Opera Auditions. In 1988, she was a finalist of the Luciano Pavarotti competition and in 1989 she was a First Prize winner at the Geneva International Music Competition, which led directly to her engagement as Leonora in *Il Trovatore* in Dortmund and to her participation in the International Grand Prix, which she also won. After appearing in leading roles in European opera houses, including the Vienna State Opera and the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, she made her American debut in 1996 in her signature role as *Aida* at the San Diego Opera. Debuts at the San Francisco Opera as *Aida* and the Metropolitan Opera in New York as *Madame Butterfly* followed. Over her distinguished career, she has performed a remarkably wide repertoire, garnering particular acclaim for her expressiveness and power as an interpreter of Verdi.

Ms. Crider has dedicated herself to mentoring younger singers by giving master classes at European conservatories and American universities (including the University of Iowa), as well as for the Opera Studios (competitive professional training programs) at Les Azuriales in Nice, AIMS in Graz, the Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv, and Opernhaus Zürich. She is on the master class faculty for the Summer Academy of the Mozarteum, which annually attracts the most talented young singers from around the world to study during the Salzburg Festival.

She has graced the University of Iowa community with performances such as Verdi's "Requiem" at the celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the School of Music in 2006, and as a soloist in a memorable performance of Mahler's Second Symphony with the UI Symphony Orchestra in its inaugural performance at the new Hancher Auditorium.

Ms. Crider is a trailblazer in her field, an extraordinary performer and inspiring teacher, and an outstanding representative of the University of Iowa.