

Contact: John Nash

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY PROPOSED NAMING

Action Requested: Recommend the Board approve the proposed naming of Music Hall as the “Simon Estes Music Hall.” A waiver of the following Board policy is requested, as Dr. Estes has been an adjunct professor at Iowa State University since 2000.

- Board’s *Policy Manual* §2.3, section 17C states that the Board may name facilities, properties or university units in honor of persons (living or deceased) or, entities such as a business or foundation. Examples of the categories of persons and entities eligible include:
 - vi. Employees (presidents, superintendents, faculty staff) – no earlier than two years following the end of employment/appointment or upon death. No unit may be named for a current Regent employee.

Executive Summary: Simon Estes, 81, is an adjunct professor of music and The F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Artist in Residence in the Department of Music and Theatre at Iowa State University. He is an internationally acclaimed opera vocalist, humanitarian, and philanthropist.

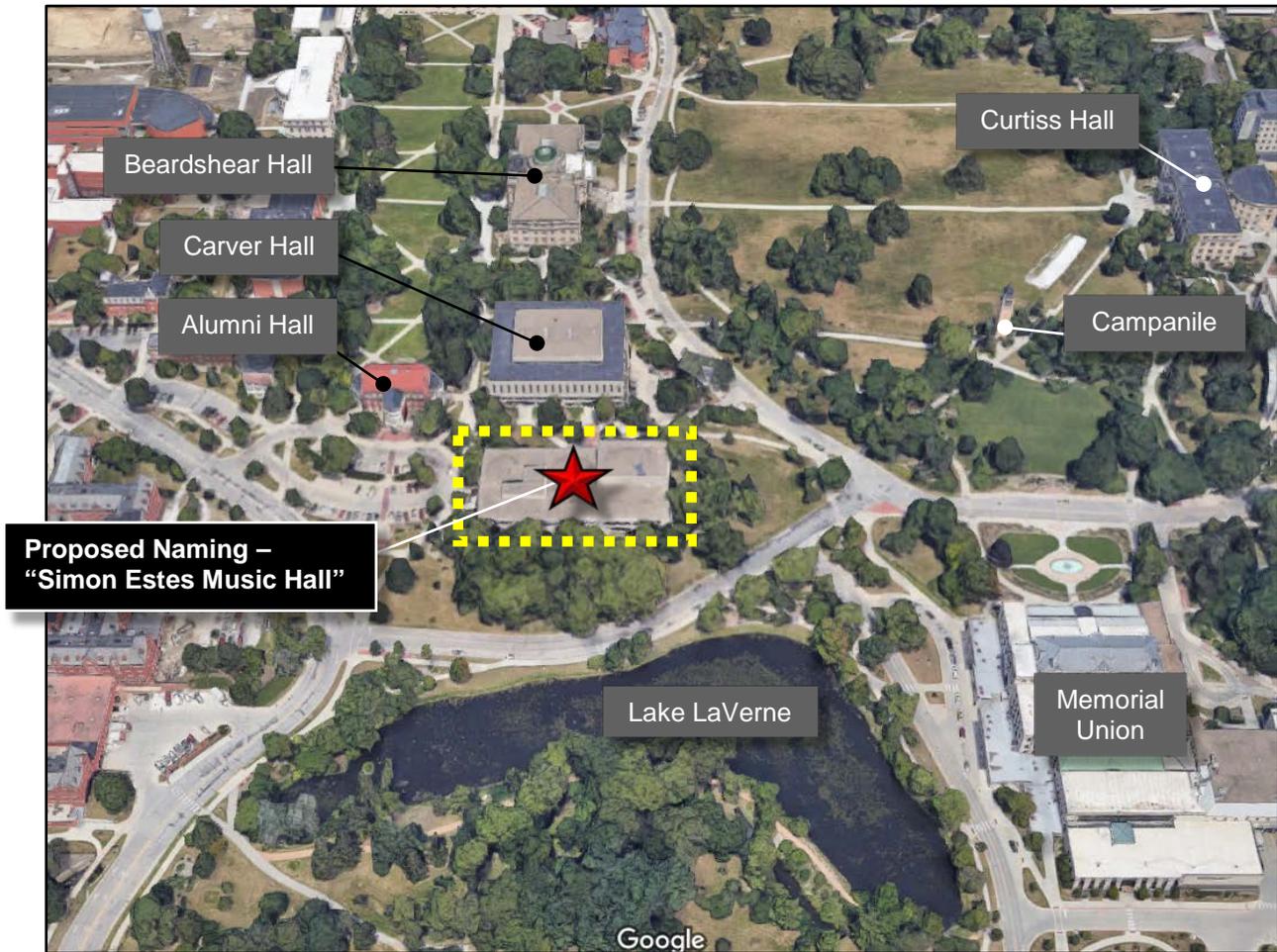
A native of Centerville, Iowa and a man of very humble beginnings, Dr. Estes is truly an Iowa treasure, inspiring countless people worldwide with his musical gifts. His thundering bass-baritone voice is unmistakable and has delighted audiences around the globe, including six presidents, two popes, and many kings and queens. He has performed on six continents, including opera houses in Paris and Barcelona, the Olympic Games in Munich, and the World Cup in South Africa, and *still* he makes it a priority every spring and fall to sing at Iowa State University’s commencement ceremonies. In spring 2019, Dr. Estes gave the undergraduate commencement keynote, sharing his deeply inspiring personal story of faith, courage and love.

Dr. Estes has helped attract world-class students to the Department of Music and Theatre. Under his tutelage and mentorship, many Iowa State graduates have gone on to gain admission to prestigious music schools such as the Boston School of Music Arts and the Julliard School of Music in New York City, of which Dr. Estes attended. Dr. Estes was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Iowa State University in 1997 and was named an Honorary Alumnus of ISU in 2007 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Iowa State’s pursuit of excellence.

Dr. Estes is an equally passionate and dedicated humanitarian and philanthropist, using his platform to bring awareness to worldwide issues and serve the less fortunate. He started the Simon Estes Music High School in Cape Town, South Africa; he has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for mosquito nets to help prevent malaria in Africa; and the Simon Estes Education Foundation awards scholarships annually to dozens of students across Iowa to pursue their college education and make a difference in their communities. At Iowa State University, he established the Simon and Ovida Estes Scholarship in Music in 2010 and he is a regular performer at the Department of Music and Theatre’s annual Musicale event to raise additional support for scholarships. In his own words, Dr. Estes explains his philosophy for giving, “I’m just really joyful and happy that I am able to help these students. I don’t do it for praise or glory or anything like that; I just do it because my heart tells me to do it.”

In 2018, Dr. Estes was honored with the “Sage Over 70” award from *dsm Magazine*, recognizing a lifetime of personal and professional achievements and significant contributions to the development of others. At the age of 81, Dr. Estes has and continues to bring tremendous pride to the state of Iowa and Iowa State University.

Iowa State University respectfully requests the Board to grant a policy waiver and approval for the naming of **Simon Estes Music Hall**.



Iowa State University, southwest of central campus

