

**The Honorands of
the 1998 Commencement**

Bowdoin College

**Barbara Gates Bonney
Doctor of Humane Letters**

Barbara Bonney's artistry is world-renowned through her masterful interpretations of vocal music ranging from Bach cantatas to Bernstein's *West Side Story*. Critics have called her "one of the most beautiful voices of her generation."

Bonney has made more than 50 recordings for such major labels as London/Decca, Deutsche Grammophon, Teldec, Angel/EMI, and Philips. Her discography comprises sacred music and choral works from Back to Faure; complete opera recordings; and lieder by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Schumann, and Strauss. She has sung the top lyric soprano roles with the world's best orchestras and has performed and recorded with many of the preeminent classical musicians and conductors today, including Andre Previn, Sir Georg Solti, Seiji Ozawa, Claudio Abbado, and Kurt Ollmann of the Bowdoin Class of 1977.

She appears regularly with the Metropolitan Opera, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, and Opera Bastille. In January, she gave her first Carnegie Hall recital and in March and April performed for the first time with the New York Philharmonic, singing works by Previn and Copland under Previn's direction.

She has received critical acclaim throughout the world. The *New York Times* said Bonney "sings with exceptional intelligence, and a sense of restraint that can come only with musical maturity." *Le Soir* of Brussels said "Bonney has . . . an absolutely extraordinary technique . . . everything is controlled with such mastery."

In addition to her performing and recording schedule, Bonney is committed to teaching the song literature and art of the recital to future generations. She frequently gives master classes to young singers and at major music festivals throughout the world. In 1997 she gave such classes at the Ravinia and Tanglewood festivals and this season will give master classes in Cleveland, Paris, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.

Bonney began studying piano at age five and the cello three years later. A graduate of Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham, she attended the University of New Hampshire for two years before enrolling in the University of Salzburg. While there, she was accepted into the renowned Salzburg Mozarteum, subsequently earning a repertory position with the Darmstadt City Opera, where she appeared in 40 roles over four years. Her debut was in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in 1979.