

CHARLES A. LEAVELL, Doctor of Humane Letters (LHD)

A largely self-taught keyboardist, Charles A. (Chuck) Leavell started his first band at the age of fourteen and became a session musician at fifteen. He performed with Dr. John, The Marshall Tucker Band, and Gregg Allman and joined The Allman Brothers Band in 1972. His playing can be heard on the works of Eric Clapton, the Rolling Stones, The Black Crowes, the Indigo Girls, and many other artists. In 1982 he became keyboardist and musical director for the Rolling Stones, a position he still holds. With The Allman Brothers Band, he received a Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award in 2012. Leavell became a tree farmer in the early 1980s, when his wife, Rose Lane Leavell, inherited land in Georgia. Together they created Charlane Plantation, a 2,500-acre tree farm and hunting preserve. The Leavells are two-time winners of the Georgia Tree Farmers of the Year and in 1999 were named National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year. The author of several books on forestry and an autobiography of his life in music, Leavell cofounded The Mother Nature Network, an environmental news and information website, and was made an Honorary Forest Ranger by the United States Forest Service.