

MAYA ANGELOU

Poet, musician, actress, teacher, maker of documentary films, and fighter for the cause of human rights, you have taught us that not only does "the caged bird sing" -- given the chance, she flies, she soars, she carries us with her on her lofty trajectory of song. We know now that we are not free unless she also is free,, and you have taught us, with grace and good humor and compassion, how terrible a price has been paid for that freedom, and for that lesson we stand humbly in your debt today. We recall your service to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, to the Women's Prison Association, and to the American Film Institute. We cherish your books and plays and your memorable performances -- from Nyo Boto in *Roots* to your appearance three years ago on this campus. our joy today in your accomplishments is tempered only by our knowledge that the victory of the cause is still incomplete -- not only in South Africa and other distant places, but here at home. Sing on, and let us sing with you, until every door is opened. *Honoris causa*, DOCTOR OF LETTERS.