THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Andrew W. Jennings, B.M., professor of music in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2021.

Professor Jennings received his B.M. (1970) degree from The Juilliard School. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1992, and was promoted to professor in 2001. Prior to joining the U-M faculty, Professor Jennings’ teaching career began at Dartmouth College where members of the Concord Quartet were engaged as artists-in-residence from 1974-87. For 25 years, he served on the faculty of Oberlin College and is currently chair of the U-M Department of Strings. He devoted his summers to chamber music instruction at the Tanglewood Music Center in Massachusetts, where he held the Beatrice Proctor Master Teacher Chair.

Professor Jennings was a founding member of the Concord String Quartet, an ensemble that quickly gained international recognition by winning the Naumburg Chamber Music Award in 1972 and which performed more than 1,200 concerts throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. Specializing in the performance of new works (with an emphasis on American composers), this quartet gave more than 50 premieres and commissions; it also performed the standard repertory and 32 cycles of the complete Beethoven quartets and made numerous recordings, three of which were nominated for Grammy Awards. Professor Jennings maintained his association with this quartet until it disbanded in 1987. The Concord Trio, which Professor Jennings subsequently formed with Norman Fischer and Jeanne Kierman, debuted in 1993.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming Andrew W. Jennings, professor emeritus of music.

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

Adopted by the Regents
May 20, 2021