



the schools, thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands of children each week, every month, and every year. They are taught in an amusing way some of our operas, some new works, like at this moment the composer Nathan Wang, also a graduate of the Class of 1979, and librettist Mathew Leavitt, from the Class of 2003, are writing a youth opera entitled "Orpheus" for LA Opera. Nathan was also the composer of "On Gold Mountain" in 2000.

In the last few years, we have had two interns from Pomona College, Ben Yarbrough, Michael Petry, and four from Scripps: Carolyn Angius; Laura Steinroeder; Marissa Butler, Marissa is also working for us now; and Julia Petraglia. The young artists perform here at the Pomona College in 2011.

It has been many, many of you or some of your companions, they have been coming to the rehearsals or performances of the LA Opera, performances of "Don Giovanni," performances of "Two Foscari." Some of you are coming this week for "A Streetcar Named Desire," which is being performed by Renée Fleming today at 5:00 and 3 performances this week. But you are coming for free. You have been to "Le nozze di Figaro," "Lohengrin," "Roméo and Juliette," "Così Fan Tutte," "Albert Herring," and "La Bohème." So you can see that the combination is really extraordinary that we are able to be together.

I am very honored to be at the same time receiving this honorary degree. I am humbly proud to receive it, and together with Father Gregory Boyle and with Michael Starbird coming after and Valerie Jarrett, I am very, very proud to be together with you. I have to tell you that I have heard the chorus that Mrs. Di Grazia has conducted. They sang beautifully, and her beautiful conducting has touched me very, very much artistically and so the brass ensemble at the beginning.

I have to say it also, my God, the senior class, both Emma Wolfarth and Darrell Edward Jones, without any, any doubt they will be . . . I mean, I can see Emma having her own talk show in television, you know, and perhaps, yes perhaps a little more serious, but perhaps he will be a politician, but he will be involved in serious programs with a lot of wit, etc., Darrell. So congratulations for your speeches.