

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

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


William E. Bolcom, D.M.A., Ross Lee Finney Distinguished University Professor of Music and professor of music in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2009.

Professor Bolcom received his B.A. degree from the University of Washington in 1958, his M.A. degree from Mills College in 1961, and his D.M.A. degree from Stanford University in 1964. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor of music in 1973, and was promoted to associate professor in 1977 and professor in 1983. He was appointed the Ross Lee Finney Distinguished University Professor of Music in 1994.

A renowned composer, Professor Bolcom has written four violin sonatas, nine symphonies, three operas, several musical theatre operas, eleven string quartets, two film scores, incidental music for stage plays, including Arthur Miller's *Broken Glass*, fanfares, and occasional pieces, and also has an extensive catalogue of chamber and vocal works. He has received numerous fellowships and grants from major foundations in support of his work. In 1988 he won the Pulitzer Prize for music for *12 New Etudes for Piano*, and in 2005 he won four Grammy Awards for his setting of William Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience* on the Naxos label. In 2007, he was named the Composer of the Year by Musical America. In February 2008, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Chorus premiered his Eighth Symphony in Boston and Carnegie Hall, New York City. He was admitted to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1993, and in 2006, he was awarded the National Medal of the Arts, the nation's highest award given to artists by the United States government.

Within the University of Michigan, Professor Bolcom received the Henry Russel Award in 1977 and was named Henry Russel Lecturer, the highest honor bestowed upon a faculty member, in 1997. He served as chair of the Department of Composition in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance from 1998-2003. He is the recipient of the University of Washington's highest honor, the Alumnus Summa Laude Dignatus Award, and holds a number of honorary doctoral degrees.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member and composer by naming **William E. Bolcom Ross Lee Finney Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Music and professor emeritus of music.**

Requested by:

Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**Vice President and Secretary of the University****July 2009**