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Dylana Jenson Introduction, delivered at the Department of Music Celebration on November 17, 2000

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Dylana Jenson Introduction

**Department of Music Celebration
Friday, November 17, 2000**

We are moving into new territory today. This is our first celebration of the appointment of a distinguished professor, an official position approved by our Board of Control at their October meeting. We take great pride in our Music Department, and the appointment of Dylana Jenson as Distinguished Professor of Music reinforces that pride. By creating the Distinguished Professor's position the University has the opportunity to bring to the faculty people who are recognized in their fields for exceptional performance. They bring with them a record of achievement that attests to their skills – skills that they will share with the students who are drawn to them.

Dylana Jenson is one of our nation's most noted violin virtuosi. We are fortunate that she lives in west Michigan, and that she finds an association with Grand Valley to her liking. The greatest beneficiaries of the association, I believe, will be the students already here and those who will be drawn here to study the violin with her. We welcome Professor Jenson today and celebrate her appointment to our music faculty.

Her husband, David Lockington, Music Director of the Grand Rapids Symphony is here to address us. The Lockington-Jenson combination has captured the interest and good will of music lovers throughout west Michigan in their first year amongst us. They demonstrate a high level of professional knowledge and skill, but they have brought more than that to us. Both have a human dimension that makes us feel they are friends of long-standing though they have been here a short time. They have given the music scene a new energy. Their enthusiasm for what they do is contagious, and all of us who need music in our lives are caught up in their spirit.

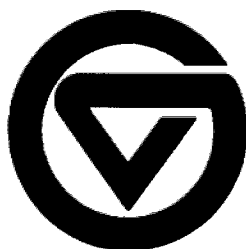
Obviously, they energize one another, and even learn from one another as confirmed by Maestro Lockington's speech title for this occasion, "Eighteen Years: What I Have Learned from Dylana." I must now quickly give the podium to David Lockington because we are all eager to learn what he has learned.

Closing Remarks

Our celebration to welcome Dylana Jenson we hope, Dylana, has conveyed to you how warmly we feel towards you and David, and how gratified we are that you are a part of the Grand Valley University community. I believe your joining us has symbolic as well as personal significance. It demonstrates that music at Grand Valley is important, that it is well taught and well performed and that the University is committed to keeping it that way. To you, David, your participation today is important to us, as I am sure it is to your wife. It also has symbolic meaning. It takes note of the long-standing relationships between the Symphony and the University. We could not teach our students as we do without the participation of excellent members of the orchestra. In your tenure you have brought to our relationship a spirit of friendly cooperation and we thank you for it.

To all who have performed today we extend our appreciation and to all who have attended we extend our appreciation also. Let us now go forth from this place knowing that music is alive and well at Grand Valley and that we have a new star to help us.

Grand Valley State University



**Department of Music
Celebration**

announcing the appointment of

DYLANA JENSON

as

Distinguished Professor of Music

Friday, November 17, 2000

12 noon

Cook-DeWitt Center

Dylana Jenson is one of the most acclaimed violinists in the world today. By the age of thirteen, she had performed with most major orchestras in the United States and traveled to Europe and Latin America for concerts, recitals and recordings. After her triumphant success at the Tchaikovsky Competition, where she became the youngest and first American woman to win the Silver Medal, she made her Carnegie Hall debut with Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra. The *New York Times* called her “a mature master” and critic Edward Downes stated, “unsurpassed since Heifetz.”

Ms. Jenson has toured Australia and Japan and was made an Honorary Citizen of Costa Rica for her artistic contribution to that country.

Recent performances have included the Louisiana Philharmonic, Colorado Symphony, New Mexico Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony, and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. The *Baltimore Sun* critic wrote: “...large warm tone...impregnable technique that was never merely flashy...she has a personal magnetism and an uncanny ability to communicate with an audience...her performance reached red hot levels.”

Dylana Jenson studied with Nathan Milstein and Josef Gingold. Her teacher, Manuel Compinsky, led her not only to a lifetime quest for mastery of her art but to the principles that guide her life today. Dylana and her husband David Lockington, Music Director of the Grand Rapids Symphony, home-school their multi-racial family.

Ms. Jenson, who has performed and recorded on a Guarnerius Del Gesu, plays on a violin made for her by Samuel Zygmuntowicz in 1995.

Dylana Jenson is creating a violin studio for exceptionally talented students at Grand Valley State University. In addition, she will offer master classes for all students in the string program.

David Lockington is in his second season as Music Director of the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra. Musicians and audiences alike have been thrilled by his leadership, musicianship and artistic style. David Lockington recently relinquished his positions as music director of the New Mexico Symphony and the Long Island Philharmonic to focus the majority of his time leading the Grand Rapids Symphony. He has also served as music director of the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, the Denver Young Artists’ Orchestra and the Boulder Bach Festival; assistant conductor of the Denver Symphony Orchestra and Opera Colorado; and associate conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to conducting more than 30 concerts with the Grand Rapids Symphony this coming season, Mr. Lockington will appear as guest conductor with the orchestras of Seattle, Indianapolis, North Carolina, Virginia, Oregon, Tulsa, and Vancouver.

David Lockington graduated from Cambridge University and earned a master’s degree in cello performance from Yale University, where he also studied conducting. A native of Great Britain, he has lived in the United States for more than 20 years.

Program

Psalm XIXBenedetto Marcello
William Klimas, M.M., University Organist

Canzona per Sonare, No. 3Giovanni Gabrieli
Grand Valley Brass Quintet
Richard Stoelzel, M.M. Trumpet Michael Bowman, M.M. Trumpet
Paul Austin, D.M.A. Horn John Meyer, M.M. Trombone
Monty Burch, M.M. Tuba

WelcomeArend D. Lubbers, Litt.D., D.S., L.H.D., HonDUniv
President, Grand Valley State University

Celebration Address David Lockington, M.M. Cello
Music Director, Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra
“Eighteen Years: What I Have Learned From Dylana”

IntroductionSherman Van Solkema, Ph.D. Musicology
Chair, Department of Music

Sonatine No. 5 for solo violin Jean Martinon
Dylana Jenson

“La Rejouissance”
from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*George Frideric Handel
Arr. Matthew K. Brown
Grand Valley Brass Quintet and William Klimas

Closing RemarksPresident Lubbers

Carillon music provided by Professor Julianne M. Vanden Wyngaard
University Carillonneur