

Connecticut State University System

Developing a State of Minds

BR#05-45



RESOLUTION

awarding the title of

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

to

LYLE RUSSELL CEDRIC 'Skitch' HENDERSON

by

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

July 22, 2005

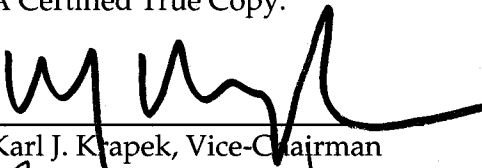
WHEREAS, Lyle Russell Cedric 'Skitch' Henderson has been internationally recognized for his long and illustrious career as a musician, recording artist, composer, and conductor, having served as music director for NBC Television, the original conductor of the orchestras for the Tonight Show and Today Show, as conductor of numerous symphonic orchestras throughout the world, and as the founding conductor of The New York Pops, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henderson has received a Grammy Award, New York City's prestigious Handel Medallion for the vital role he has played in the cultural life of New York and the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal in recognition of his contributions to American culture, and

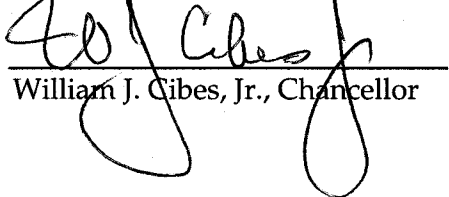
WHEREAS, Mr. Henderson has been recommended by the President of Western Connecticut State University, in consultation with the WCSU Music Faculty, to bring his special knowledge and expertise in music to the University in an extraordinary role, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to BR 2000-27, Lyle Russell Cedric 'Skitch' Henderson be named Distinguished Professor of Music at Western Connecticut State University for the 2005-06 academic year and retain this title during this period of his appointment at the university in accordance with all relevant sections of Article 4 of the AAUP collective bargaining agreement.

A Certified True Copy:



 Karl J. Krapek, Vice-Chairman



 William J. Cibes, Jr., Chancellor

ITEM

Awarding the title of Distinguished Professor of Music to Lyle Russell Cedric 'Skitch' Henderson by Western Connecticut State University

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Board Policy, the title of Distinguished Professor may be awarded from time to time to recognize individuals of prominence who have made significant academic or otherwise valuable service to a university. The award of such a title allows a University to recognize significant contributions made to students, faculty and the university community by such individuals.

ANALYSIS

Mr. Henderson has a distinguished career that spans over 60 years. From 1951 to 1966 he served as music director for NBC Television and was the original conductor of the orchestras for the Tonight Show and Today Show. After leaving NBC, he forged a career as a conductor of numerous symphonic orchestras throughout the world. In 1983 he founded The New York Pops.

Earlier this year he was awarded the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal in recognition of his contributions to American culture. Skitch has been honored for the vital role he has played in the cultural life of New York, including receiving New York City's prestigious Handel Medallion. He received a Grammy Award in 1964 and has also received three honorary degrees—including one from WCSU.

Mr. Henderson will serve as consultant in the development of the WCSU Orchestra and string program; present four guest lectures or panel discussion on topics related to the business of music; present several lecture/demonstrations for various music courses; and conduct a gala concert during the Spring 2006 semester. His professional career in music, including composing, conducting, recording, and performing in major concert halls world-wide, as well as on radio and television, qualifies him for this position and brings a unique vantage point in the field of music that is beyond the theory and application.

President Schmotter has indicated that resources have been identified to support this position.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Lyle Russell Cedric 'Skitch' Henderson be awarded the title of Distinguished Professor of Music at Western Connecticut State University.

Dr. William Cibes
Chancellor
Connecticut State University
39 Woodland Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105

Dear Chancellor Cibes:

I write to request formal Board of Trustees approval to appoint Mr. Skitch Henderson Distinguished Professor of Music at Western Connecticut State University, effective with the beginning of Fall Semester, 2005.

Skitch Henderson has been called a "one-man celebration of twentieth-century American music." As a immigrant from England during the Great Depression, he began his music career playing piano in roadhouses in the Upper Midwest. In the 1930s, he moved to Hollywood, where he worked with popular entertainers such as Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney and Bob Hope while studying music theory, history, philosophy and conducting with Arnold Schoenberg, Albert Coats and Fritz Reiner. After service in World War Two as an aviator with both the R.A.F. and U.S. Air Corps, he became music director for Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby. He served as guest conductor for Arturo Toscanini and the NBC Symphony and became music director for that network, along with the band leader of the popular Tonight Show. In 1983, Henderson founded the New York Pops in order to share symphonic pops fare with larger audiences. He continues as music director of the Pops, which pursues a wide range of educational outreach to youth and a free *Summermusic* program as well as its regular season at Carnegie Hall. Henderson has won the Handel Medal from the Music Educators Association of New York City and the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal.

As a Distinguished Professor of Music at Western Connecticut State University, Skitch Henderson will:

1. Serve as a consultant in the development of the WCSU Orchestra and string program. As such a consultant, Mr. Henderson would reach out to the public schools of Connecticut and New York to identify and recruit highly talented high school string students. He would use his contacts in the region to promote WCSU as a viable choice in the region for the study of orchestral instruments, conducting, and music education.
2. Present four (4) guest lectures or panel discussion on topics related to the business of music and/or, teach a FDS course on the business of music (Spring 2006)

3. Present several lecture/demonstrations for MUS 320 Basic Conducting, MUS 321 Instrumental Conducting, and MUS 322 Choral Conducting.
4. Conduct a gala concert during the Spring 2006 Semester. This concert will feature student and faculty musicians from WCSU enhanced by professional musicians brought in by Mr. Henderson. The concert would feature one or more guest artists.

This appointment has been crafted in close consultation with WCSU's Music faculty, and resources to support it have been identified. We wish to establish it for the 2005-2006 Academic Year with the option of renew if appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please don't hesitate to let me know if you have questions.

Warm regards as always,

James W. Schmotter
President