

Dartmouth

Class of 1961 Special Recognition Award

Presented to

David Birney

David, in 1957 you matriculated into Dartmouth's Class of 1961. By graduation in 1961, you were the lead student thespian at the College, with major roles in almost most every stage show. After graduation and over several decades, your career as a stage actor developed impressively.

Over the decades, your involvement with and commitment to Dartmouth and the Class of 1961 never wavered. In 1996, the then '61 Class President (Oscar Arslanian) called you to discuss and develop a potential class project which would improve the performing arts at Dartmouth, from the point of view of the performing arts and music students and faculty as well as the general audiences at the Hopkins Center productions.

After much thought and discussion, you and Oscar created a class project far greater in scope and depth than initially anticipated. The project would be for the Class of 1961 to endow at its upcoming 40th Reunion a fund which would sponsor talented performing artists in the American tradition to visit the campus for 2-4 days during which time they would both perform publicly and meet personally with performing arts and musical arts students as well as faculty members from both disciplines.

The proposed class project was approved overwhelmingly, but with trepidation, by the Class' then leadership group. The *1961 Legacy for the Performing Arts Endowment* was born! After significant time and effort by you and Oscar, the endowment was fully funded by the Class and presented to the College at its 40th Reunion in June 2001. After more than 20 years, the *Endowment's* current fund balance is approximately \$2 million.

During the past two-plus decades, the visiting performing artists program at Hopkins Center has been highly successful from inception and has expanded significantly since then, due substantially to your relentless and continuing efforts. As a result, the Class of '61 thanks you and has selected you to receive the *Class of 1961 Special Recognition Award*.

Dated: February 10, 2022