

TO: Dr. Taci Turel, Chair, Academic Events Committee
Academic Events Committee Members

FROM: Dr. Phyllis M. Paul, Dean
College of Creative Arts and Communication (CCAC)

DATE: March 16, 2017

SUBJECT: Commencement Speaker Nomination (Bill Bodine, Grammy Award Winner)

Bill Bodine—a Grammy-award winning composer who is also a producer, arranger, bassist, and trumpeter—has been a fixture in the Los Angeles music community for 35 years. He began his professional music career in Youngstown, Ohio and moved to Los Angeles in 1972, when he began touring and recording on upright bass with several notable musicians, including Van Morrison, Olivia Newton-John, Melissa Manchester, Joan Armatrading, Cher, Sergio Mendez, and Peter Criss (KISS).

During the same period, his television work included eight years in the *Star Search* House Band, two seasons on the *New Gong Show*, numerous appearances on *The Tonight Show*, *Merv Griffin*, *Solid Gold*, *Midnight Special* and more recently on trumpet for *Arrested Development*. As a composer for television specials and series, Bill includes *Judge Judy* and ABC's *Second Noah* as credits. As a songwriter, he has written for top music artists, including Glen Fry of the Eagles, Manhattan Transfer, and Laura Branigan. Furthermore, [Bill Bodine Music](#) has composed scores for over 300 television commercials, including Honda, McDonald's, Nike, Toyota, Gillette, HBO, Fox Network, and NBC.

In addition to his exceptional work as a musician, Bill is involved in numerous philanthropic causes, two of which directly impact students at Youngstown State University and the surrounding Youngstown area. In 1994, Bill established the Tony Leonardi Memorial Jazz Scholarship Fund as a 20th anniversary gift to the Dana School of Music Jazz program (of which Tony Leonardi, Phil Wilson, and he have been credited as "Founding Fathers"). He continues his involvement with the University by organizing and participating in seminars designed to bring active music professionals to YSU to inform and inspire current students and serves as a member of the College of Creative Arts and Communication Board of Visitors. In 2008, Bill partnered with another former YSU student, Penn State Professor Emeritus Dr. Daniel Marshall, to create [Creative Bridge Coalition](#), a non-profit corporation whose mission is to bring music programs to children with special needs. Currently, Creative Bridge is engaged in projects that serve Youngstown City Schools, Columbiana County

Schools, Leonard Kirtz School, and Fairhaven School in Warren. In 2016, Creative Bridge and Youngstown local educator Terry Grimm developed the [Valley of the DIVAs](#) concerts, a format to honor the contributions and talents of the women in the Mahoning Valley. The DIVAs concerts also serve as fundraisers for Creative Bridge, allowing the organization to continue to serve the children of the Mahoning Valley.

Bill lives in Los Angeles with his wife, singer Beth Andersen but visits his sister Brenda (YSU '71) and friends in Youngstown frequently. Bill and Beth have a son Billy, who is a songwriter/producer in Los Angeles. In April, Bill will return to campus for a series of masterclasses and performances with faculty and students in the College of Creative Arts and Communication.

Bill Bodine is an outstanding musician, composer, arranger, and producer. Accordingly, the Grammy Award he received confirms that he has reached one of the highest levels of achievement within the music industry. He also continues to serve YSU and the Youngstown area through his many charitable activities. Please give Bill Bodine your strongest consideration to receive the honor of Commencement Speaker. Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Bodine Selected Discography

COMPOSER/ARRANGER- TV/FILM

<i>Alexandra Bear Detector</i>	Children's Musical
<i>Black or White</i> [Michael Jackson]	Fox Special
<i>Daytona 500: The Movie</i>	Film
<i>History Of White People In America</i>	Cinemax
<i>Judge Judy</i>	Syndicated Series
<i>The Magic Of Live</i> [Harry Shearer]	HBO Comedy
<i>Maricela</i>	PBS Drama
<i>Middle Passage</i>	Film
<i>The Nose Job</i>	Comedic Short
<i>Portrait of a White Marriage</i>	Cinemax
<i>Second Noah</i>	ABC Series
<i>Sightings</i>	Fox Series
<i>Star Fever</i>	NBC M.O.W.
<i>Yearbook</i>	Fox Series

SONGWRITER

Hold Me [Laura Branigan]
I Volunteer [Glen Frey]
Sassy [Manhattan Transfer] (Grammy Award Winner)

BASSIST APPEARING AND RECORDING WITH:

Joan Armatrading
Cher
Funky Kings
Leo Sayer
Peter Criss Solo Album (KISS Drummer)
Hampton Hawes (Miles Davis)
Carol Kaye Trio
Melissa Manchester
Sergio Mendez
The New Gong Show House Band
Van Morrison
Olivia Newton-John
Nancy Sinatra
Star Search Orchestra