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Dedication of the Charles W. Davis Concert Hall

De La Royce, speaker

David Stech, speaker

Steve Lay, host

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University of Alaska Fairbanks in Fairbanks, Alaska

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Steve Lay said Sunday November 4 during a special Choir of the North performance the fine arts concert hall was named in honor of Charles Davis. It is now known as the Charles W. Davis Concert Hall. The honor recognizes the work of a man who ran the university's music department. Dr. Patrick O'Rourke came to the music department after Charles Davis retired. O'Rourke said while we are here today to honor Davis it is the university that is honored for the use of Davis's name. The students who will follow will benefit from Davis's inspiration. O'Rourke reads the inscription from the plaque which will be placed in the hall.

Steve Lay said it is not a simple project to name a university building. O'Rourke said every time he has an opportunity to hear many of the performances from the music department he is filled with pride, emotion and gratitude for the performers and faculty members as well as Charles Davis for his foundations of excellence. The naming of a physical entity at the university is not taken lightly. Such action requires the support and endorsement of colleagues, consideration by the administration and approval of the Board of Regents. He said in all of the units there was enthusiastic support.

Dr. David Stech said the university reserves the honor of naming a place after an individual for those persons whose contributions to the institution has been truly outstanding and whose leadership and vision continue to follow in their place. He talked about how the music department has developed since Davis came to the music department in 1963. When Davis joined the music department that year there was only one full time faculty member and there was only one declared music major. At that time the department was housed in the upper level of the old museum building, Signer's Hall. During Davis's tenure and largely because of his efforts the department grew in size to ten full time faculty positions and approximately seventy declared music majors at the time of his retirement in 1979. Stech said for thirteen of his sixteen years Davis was head of the music department. He led the music faculty in a critical review of its curriculum which resulted in full accreditation of all of its academic programs by the National Association of Schools of Music in 1979. He also led the faculty in the development of its Master of Arts degree in music. This program also received approval in 1979. As director of the Choir of

the North Davis presented scores of concerts on campus as well as throughout Alaska, Canada, in the lower forty-eight states and Europe. The first concert held in the hall in the spring of 1974 was a Choir of the North concert. Twenty years ago Davis started what is now called the University of Alaska Fairbanks Summer Fine Arts camp. The program attracts over 200 junior and senior high school students to the campus each summer from Alaska and the lower states. Stech said his contributions to music in the community are numerous. He contributed significantly to the formation and artistic leadership of the Fairbanks Light Opera Theater. This organization has received national recognition for the quality of its performances. Due to his leadership the Fairbanks Concert Association has developed a concert series. Stech said Davis had an overriding concern for excellence. Combined with Davis's insistence for high quality was his ability to bring his vision into reality and to encourage others to expand their vision. As a member of the faculty Davis challenged his students and colleagues to set their goals beyond what they thought were possible and convinced them of their ability to exceed these expanded goals.