



Professor Emeritus **Horace Clarence Boyer** (1935-2009) was a Department of Music & Dance faculty member from 1973-1999, conducting the Vocal Jazz ensemble, teaching theory and bringing the traditions of gospel music to the students and the community. He received a B.A. from Bethune-Cookman College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the Eastman School of Music. He performed throughout the United States with the Boyer Brothers (Horace and his brother James), Mahalia Jackson, Dorothy Love Coates, James Cleveland, and many other great musicians.

Dr. Boyer's numerous articles on the history of gospel music appeared in a variety of publications including *The New Grove Dictionary of American Music*, *Music Educators Journal*, the *Black Music Research Journal* and *Black Perspectives in Music*. His book, *How Sweet the Sound: The Golden Age of Gospel Music*, was published in 1995. He directed the Voices of New Africa House Choir, consisting of singers from the Five Colleges.

Dr. Boyer served as Curator of Musical Instruments at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution from 1985-87; during that time he also was a United Negro College Fund Distinguished Scholar-at-Large at Fisk University, conducting the Fisk Jubilee Singers. Dr. Boyer is listed in the *Biographical Dictionary of Afro-American and African Musicians* and in the *International Who's Who in Music and Musicians' Directory*. He participated in the UMass Amherst Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series and was awarded the Chancellor's Medallion. He was a recipient of many awards during his career, the most recent being the Lifetime Achievement Award of The Society of American Music during its 2009 convention. Before coming to UMass, Professor Boyer was on the faculties of Albany State College (GA) and the University of Central Florida at Orlando. In 1992, he was a Senior Research Fellow and Visiting Professor at Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music. His music can be heard on the Savory and Nashboro labels.

A public memorial service will be held at Grace Episcopal Church in Amherst at 1pm on Saturday, October 10, 2009, followed by a reception at 3pm at the UMass Student Union Ballroom. An obituary and register are at www.douglassfuneral.com. A comprehensive obituary may also be found on "[In the Loop](#)," UMass Amherst's online newsletter. Click to make a [Memorial Donation](#) to the Horace Clarence Boyer Gospel Music Fund.