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## **Lowell Milken Receives Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion**

**LOS ANGELES, May 18, 2009** – Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D., president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), today presented the Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, to **Lowell Milken**, chairman and co-founder of the **Milken Family Foundation** at HUC-JIR's Los Angeles Graduation Ceremony.

According to Rabbi Ellenson, “Lowell Milken is a loyal son of our people who has created the **Milken Archive of American Jewish Music** to explore the vast panorama of sacred and secular works reflecting 350 years of Jewish life in America.”

The **Milken Archive of American Jewish Music** ([www.milkenarchive.org](http://www.milkenarchive.org)) is a cultural and historic project of unprecedented scope, created by Milken in 1990 to preserve the diverse body of sacred and secular music inspired by 350 years of Jewish life in America. Key elements include 50 CDs released through Naxos American Classics, a full curriculum, oral histories and an upcoming 20-volume music series titled *World of Jewish Music in America*, intended to educate and inspire people of all faiths and cultures.

Dr. Bruce Ruben, director of the School of Sacred Music at HUC-JIR, noted, “Lowell Milken’s receipt of this honorary doctorate is most fitting in light of his tremendous vision in establishing the Milken Archive. Because of his foresight, combined with his obvious intense concern for Jewish culture and Jewish education, our rich heritage of Jewish music as expressed in so many varied ways as part of the American experience will now be preserved, strengthened and enlarged. The Milken Archive has already proven to be an invaluable resource for our own cantorial education program, and will clearly be the more so as it expands in the future. But it is equally valuable to Jewish music awareness well beyond the cantorate, and beyond the horizons of those engaged professionally in other Jewish musical areas. The Archive’s impact on all students of music and history will be enormous.”

According to Marvin Hamlisch, the Oscar/Emmy/Grammy/Tony/Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, “That HUC is recognizing in this way Lowell Milken’s rare commitment to Jewish music culture speaks to its understanding of his vision in seeking to preserve, broaden and strengthen our precious Jewish musical heritage in its many forms, genres and styles; and in encouraging continuing creativity. It also speaks to the enormous impact the Milken Archive will have both in reinforcing Jewish identity and in educating the wider public about the amazing breadth of Jewish music.”

Adding his thoughts on the honor, Hazzan Henry Rosenblum, dean of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS), said, “The Milken Archive

recordings have already enriched our own classes and curricula at JTS; the same is obviously true at HUC and, according to colleagues, at many other schools. One of the most glaring gaps in Jewish cultural knowledge is now being filled through this ambitious project.”

As a philanthropist, Lowell Milken is also known for his work as an education reformer, including creation of the nation’s preeminent teacher recognition program—the [Milken Educator Awards \(www.mff.org\)](http://www.mff.org), and the [Teacher Advancement Program \(TAP\)](#)<sup>TM</sup>, a comprehensive reform for creating powerful and sustained opportunities for career advancement, professional growth, teacher accountability and competitive compensation. In his home community of Los Angeles, Lowell Milken established the **Jewish Educator Awards**, and continues to be a force in support of **Milken Community High School**, a state-of-the-art Jewish day school designed to educate students to the highest standards across all disciplines.

Named by *Worth* magazine as one of America's most generous philanthropists, Milken is also an involved businessman who chairs Knowledge Universe, Inc., a leading company in early childhood education and educational programs and services, and London-based Heron International, a worldwide leader in property development.

Lowell Milken is a product of California's public school system, graduating *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Berkeley, where he received the School of Business Administration's Most Outstanding Student Award. He earned his law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, with the distinctions of Order of the Coif and *UCLA Law Review*.

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Founded in 1875, **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion** is the nation's oldest institution of higher Jewish education and the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism. HUC-JIR educates men and women for service to American and world Jewry as rabbis, cantors, educators, and communal service professionals, and offers graduate and post-graduate programs to scholars of all faiths. With centers of learning in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York, HUC-JIR's scholarly resources comprise renowned library and museum collections, the American Jewish Archives, biblical archaeology excavations, research institutes and centers, and academic publications. HUC-JIR invites the community to an array of cultural and educational programs which illuminate Jewish history, identity, and contemporary creativity and which foster interfaith and multiethnic understanding. Visit [www.huc.edu](http://www.huc.edu)

Established in 1982, the **Milken Family Foundation (MFF)** is dedicated to discovering and advancing inventive and effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. MFF advances this mission primarily through its work in education and medical research. For more information, visit <http://www.mff.org>.

For downloadable AP-size photos of Lowell Milken, go to [http://www.milkenarchive.org/press/press.taf?page=pressphotos\\_lmilken](http://www.milkenarchive.org/press/press.taf?page=pressphotos_lmilken)

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