

# About Our Honorary Degree Recipient



Peter Yarrow

Peter Yarrow has charmed, inspired, delighted, and just plain entertained generations of audiences since **Peter, Paul and Mary** first sang their way into the national consciousness in the early 1960s. As a member of that renowned musical trio for 49 years, he has earned five Grammys and an Emmy nomination, recorded eight gold and five platinum albums, and six Top 10 hits. The late Coretta Scott King once proclaimed, "Peter, Paul and Mary are not only three of the greatest folk artists ever, but also three of the performing arts' most outstanding champions of social justice and peace."

Peter's gift for songwriting has produced some of the most moving songs Peter, Paul and Mary recorded, including "Puff, the Magic Dragon," "Day is Done," "Light One Candle," and "The Great Mandala."

During the last decade, Peter has devoted himself primarily to the work of heading **Operation Respect** (OR), an educational nonprofit he founded. OR is dedicated to assuring children and youth a caring, safe, and respectful climate of learning where students' academic, social, and emotional development can take place in a welcoming environment, conducive to learning. OR disseminates a classroom-based program called "Don't Laugh At Me," at no cost through the generosity of The McGraw-Hill Companies, that has been utilized by an estimated 22,000 schools in the United States, Hong Kong, Croatia, Canada, and elsewhere.

**Don't Laugh At Me** (DLAM) is designed to help establish a school and classroom climate that encourages acceptance of differences and is free of bullying, ridicule, and any sorts of emotional or physical violence. The program incorporates music that reaches adults and children alike, opening their hearts and inviting discussions that lead to a greater sense of community and healthy deliberation. OR has distributed more than 150,000 copies of DLAM free of charge to educators through **[www.operationrespect.org](http://www.operationrespect.org)**.