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RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY



**A Dedication
of the
Mason Gross School of the Arts
January 18, 1979**

Mason Welch Gross

1911-1977

Mason Gross' career exemplified the philosopher as a man of action equally at home in the worlds of thought and of practical affairs. A Renaissance man, his interests ranged from football and crew to abstruse problems of symbolic logic and the cultural climate in the state.

He was awarded his bachelor's and master's degrees at Cambridge and his Ph.D. at Harvard, where he was an assistant in philosophy. He taught at Columbia and served in the Air Force before joining the Rutgers faculty in 1946 as assistant professor of philosophy and assistant to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (later Rutgers College).

In three years, he advanced to full professor and also became provost, making him the chief educational officer of the State University. In 1958, he was given the additional title of vice president.

He was named sixteenth president of Rutgers in February 1959 and, in the next decade, presided over its greatest expansion.

In September 1959 Dr. Gross made headlines with his address to the annual meeting of the N.J. Constitutional Convention Association in which he charged New Jersey was "educationally impoverished" and "culturally almost bankrupt."

He called for the establishment of a state commission to study educational and cultural issues including the possibility of developing community cultural centers and the general interrelationship of cultural and educational programs.

In 1974, three years after Dr. Gross retired, the State Department of Higher Education designated Rutgers University a "center of excellence" in the arts and authorized the university to develop a professional school of the arts.

*Cover portrait: Mason Welch Gross by Will Barnet
Commissioned on June 17, 1971*

DEDICATION

The Mason Gross School of the Arts

Concert

Kenny Barron, *piano*; Yusef Ali, *drums*;
Paul Jeffrey, *tenor saxophone*; Larry Ridley, *bass*.

*Faculty and student of Livingston College and
The Mason Gross School of the Arts*

Welcome and Acknowledgements

John I. Bettenbender, *Dean, Mason Gross School of the Arts*

Tribute to Mason Welch Gross

Dr. Edward J. Bloustein, *President
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey*

Remarks

The Honorable Brendan Byrne, *Governor of New Jersey*

Remarks

The Honorable Livingston L. Biddle, Jr.
Chairman, The National Endowment for the Arts

Song

"The Pilgrim Song" Tchaikovsky

Sandra Rains West, *Mezzo-soprano*
Nancy Robinson, *piano*

M.F.A. candidates in Music, Mason Gross School of the Arts

Address

Joan Adams Mondale