

Regina Spektor, whereas, nine years before you began your journey at Purchase in 1998, you had emigrated to New York City with your family from the Soviet Union as religious and political refugees.

Whereas, at Purchase College, you graduated in three years cum laude with a Bachelor of Music in the Studio Composition program, and established yourself as a pure and unique voice in music by merging your early classical piano training with your affinity for pop, jazz, soul, and rock/folk styles,

Whereas, in your freshmen songwriting class at Purchase, your first original song assignment greatly impressed the class of 80 students, foretelling the gifted musician developing in our midst,

Whereas, as a senior at Purchase in 2001, you self-published your first CD *11:11* and by 2003, you were touring nationally and internationally as the opening act for The Strokes and Kings of Leon,

Whereas, you signed with Sire Records in 2004 when you released your third of now seven studio albums, entitled *Soviet Kitsch*; your fourth album in 2006, *Begin to Hope*, went Gold peaking at number 20 on the Billboard 200 and was nominated for the Short List Music Prize; and *All The Rowboats*, a video of a single from your sixth album *What We Saw From The Cheap Seats* was nominated for an MTV Video Music Award,

Whereas, you have performed at many impressive locations including the White House, Radio City Music Hall, the music festivals Coachella, Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza and Austin City Limits, the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, London's Hyde Park and Royal Albert Hall, and Sydney's Opera House; on television shows like Stephen Colbert and Saturday Night Live, and most importantly at our Performing Arts Center, where, in 2007, you gave a benefit concert for our students,

Whereas, you write and perform your original music for numerous films, television shows and commercials, most notably your original "You've Got Time" theme song for the Netflix show *Orange is the New Black*, nominated in 2014 for a Grammy award and winner of the Broadcast Music Streaming Media Award for the last three years in a row,

Whereas, you have demonstrated through your art and through your philanthropy that words and deeds can be meaningful, and you have touched and inspired hearts and souls here as well as around the world,

Now therefore do I, Thomas J. Schwarz, President, on behalf of the faculty, students and staff of Purchase College, State University of New York proudly recognize, Regina Spektor, Recipient of the Purchase College President's Award for Distinguished Alumni, presented on this the Nineteenth of May, 2017.