Ladies and Gentlemen, music-lovers and music-makers, It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the Rhodes University Gala Concert this evening. It is good to know that some members of this audience are Old Rhodians, who have come to support their alma mater as well as to enjoy the music.

It also gives me pleasure to welcome Councillor Ormond Fenn, the Deputy Mayor of Johannesburg. (Please ensure that he will be at the concert before handing this to Dr Mackenzie.)

The University is most grateful to Mr Norman Nossel and Adcock Ingram for their sponsorship of this event. Commerce and Industry, the Arts and Education need to be seen to be supporting and encouraging one another and this is a fine example of understanding and co-operation.

I am relieved to see that Dr Edgar Cree and Mr Gerry Bosman are waiting to take over from me. I am an experienced conductor myself, having had several years of exposure to appreciative audiences at the Rhodes University Graduation Garden Party, where the band comes under my baton each year for a performance of "The Teddy Bear's Picnic". However, this is the only item in my repertoire and I see that our programme for this evening has rather wider appeal, so I hope you will forgive me for not giving you an example of my prowess.