

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITA LOIS FISHER-SVITAVSKY

Lois Fisher-Svitavsky was a member of the voice faculty in the School of Music from 1956 until 1995. A pillar of the vocal and musical community both in the university and in the world of music, Professor Fisher defined commitment to art, hard work, and love of music to generations of students and colleagues.

Lois Fisher-Svitavsky received her Bachelor of Music degree in voice and in piano from Syracuse University, and her master's degree from Eastman School of Music. She taught at Blackstone College, Mars Hill College and Oberlin College before joining the UW faculty. Before her time at UW, she performed in musicals and plays around the world, and she continued to perform at UW, including roles in the University Opera Workshop and Madison Opera.

Professor Fisher-Svitavsky's dedication to teaching is reflected in the devotion of her hundreds of students, and in their successful pursuit of various careers. Singers from her studio went on to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Santa Fe, Glimmerglass, Atlanta Opera, Scottish Opera, and Des Moines Metro Opera, as well as on Broadway. Her example as a pedagogue and mentor led others to pursue careers in teaching, and still others to go into arts management.

Although, as one of her students said, "Teaching was her life; that was her goal, that was what drove her." Professor Fisher-Svitavsky had a most active interest in other arenas of life as well. A life-long fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, Professor Fisher-Svitavsky also held adamant political views that might have come as a surprise to someone incautious enough to categorize her as a sweet elderly lady. She was dedicated to the Democratic Party, and was outspoken in her views of current world events. When the American baritone William Parker was searching for places to perform the songs from the AIDS Quilt Songbook, Professor Fisher-Svitavsky supported bringing him to campus with the words, "Go to the deans if you need to!" Parker's concert here was one of the last he did before his death.

Words that come up when colleagues, students, and singers think of Lois are: dedicated, honest, and honorable. This colleague saw her weep when a 17-year old high school student auditioned for the School of Music and sang a simple song beautifully and clearly. These were principles of life for her, and we would do well to emulate her.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
Mimmi K. Fulmer, Chair
Martha Fischer
Bill Lutes