

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS DAVID HOTTMANN

David Hottmann, a beloved longtime professor of voice at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music, died on January 2, 2005. Professor Hottmann retired in 1998 after thirty-two years of distinguished service to the university, the community, and most importantly his students. He taught voice, vocal literature, and music education pedagogy. Upon his retirement, he became a professor emeritus, and continued to serve as a ready ear and knowledgeable resource to the voice faculty.

David Hottmann was born on April 18, 1933, in Sandusky, Ohio, and raised there. He held the bachelor of music degree from Oberlin Conservatory of Music, the Artist's Diploma from the Curtis Institute, and the master's degree from the University of Illinois. He came to UW-Madison in 1966, and became a fixture of the Madison musical scene through his performances with the UW Opera and Madison Opera. He sang in over forty opera productions with these two companies, including "Carmen", "The Merry Widow", "Gianni Schicchi", "Cosi fan tutte", "Tosca", "La bohème", and "Candide", and he sang the title roles in "Falstaff" and "Don Pasquale" with UW Opera. In 1971, he sang the role of Michael in multiple performances of "I Do, I Do" with Lois Dick for the very young Madison Civic Rep.

David was a member of the Madison Opera Showcase until his illness last year, and Ann Stanke of Madison Opera remembers him as having "that marvelous way of crossing over the footlights, twinkling his eyes, and making everyone happy". He was a member of the Regional Arts Vocal Ensemble, which toured the state sponsored by the UW School of Music. He was a charter member of "Opera Seen", which is now the tremendously successful Opera for the Young. He appeared in many recitals with his colleague Ilona Kombrink, in chamber music programs, and with the University Choral Union at the School of Music. For many summers, he sang as soloist with the Capitol City Band at Rennebohm Park, and was a member of the choir for many years at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Madison.

Through the years, Professor Hottmann was very active in the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, acting as state president, state governor, and regional governor. He was on the boards of the Madison Opera and University Opera Props. He was also active in Phi Beta Fraternity for the Creative and Performing Arts, having been elected to serve as president of Pi Eta Chapter for 2004-2005.

David was a kind, supportive, knowledgeable, and devoted teacher, colleague and friend. He was the chair of the voice area for many years, and had the integrity to make the department run well through changes of personnel and resources. He earned the respect of his colleagues through his honesty and professionalism. He gained the long-lasting devotion and love of his students through his vast vocal knowledge and his warm personality. A former student remembers "And of course, he had that David Hottmann twinkle in his eye, one thing that never left him whenever he got excited about anything over the years". David's students went on to success as singers, teachers, and other careers, with the training and discipline he provided them serving as their backbone.

He was devoted to his family, and spoke warmly about going home to Sandusky to enjoy cooking and eating, beloved rituals like their Christmas parties, and playing rummy and going for walks. After retirement, he occasionally treated himself to traveling and going to casinos. He was always interested in the careers of singers, and even while quite ill, became animated upon discussing the cast for a Metropolitan Opera production.

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On a personal note, I would like to add that, when I arrived at UW-Madison in 1984, starting my first full-time academic job, David provided the help and support I needed to navigate my work. He was extremely kind to my two children. I especially remember, when I was an assistant professor, confiding in David that my small son wanted me to come to a special school event on a day we had auditions at the university. David told me, in his most resonant voice, "When you need to go, just GO! And don't explain. I'll take care of things". It is a huge challenge to raise children while teaching full-time, and David always helped me to find a way.

His legacy lives on in many Madison musical institutions of which he was a charter member. He is survived by his sister, Jean Karbler, brother-in-law, Thomas Karbler, and niece, Susan, all of Sandusky, and his nephew, David Karbler, of Madison. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gertrude and Charles.

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