



THE CHARMAINE PURDY COPPOM SCHOLARSHIP

for
Mezzo-Soprano Students in the Applied Voice Degree Program
in the
School of Music
College of Performing and Visual Arts
University of Northern Colorado

Charmaine Purdy Coppom retired from the University of Northern Colorado in the year 2000, after serving the institution for 29 years. She worked as a performer, teacher and administrator in higher education for 34 years.

Professor Coppom began her career as a teaching assistant in voice for Hastings College (Nebraska) during her senior year in college. She received a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal music education with a secondary emphasis in keyboards in 1967 and was named Outstanding Performer and Outstanding Student in the Music Department upon graduation. In addition to her work as a singer and teaching assistant, she served as assistant conductor for the Hastings College Touring Choir and was named to *Who's Who at Hastings College* by the faculty and administration.

Professor Coppom was offered several assistantships to graduate schools, and she accepted one to the University of Missouri at Columbia, where she was a student of Thomas L. Mills. She completed her Master of Arts degree in music history with an emphasis in vocal performance in 1969. Her enthusiasm for teaching led her to choose a career in higher education rather than to pursue opportunities in professional performance. She accepted her first full-time university teaching position in 1969 at Wisconsin State University (WSU) in Eau Claire.

During her first year at WSU, Charmaine Purdy met her future husband, John Coppom. They married and moved to Athens, Ohio, where John began a Ph.D. in higher education administration and she ran a private studio in voice, which was affiliated with the pre-professional theater program at Ohio University. During their year in Ohio, the University of Northern Colorado invited Professor Coppom to renew her application for an upcoming position opening. She was hired and became a member of the voice faculty at UNC in 1971.

During her tenure at UNC, Professor Coppom served at various times as Associate Director of the School of Music, Coordinator of Music Student Services and Chair of the Voice Department for approximately 14 years. She served on numerous School of Music, College, and University committees, including Faculty Senate, the Performing Arts Committee, Student Fee Allocation Committee, Musical Theater Steering Committee and School of Music Administrative Council. She taught undergraduate and graduate applied voice lessons, vocal pedagogy, and musical theater repertoire and served as faculty advisor for Delta Omicron and the Representative Music Student Council.

Students from her studio were active at the regional, national and international levels in vocal performance, teaching as well as performing leading roles on Broadway, with the New York City Opera and on stages throughout the world. Many former students serve on music faculties at universities and colleges, while others are outstanding educators in K-12 education. The UNC Alumni Association has recognized two of her students as Outstanding Alumni in the Arts. Many have received regional and School of Music awards.

Professor Coppom received the Favorite Teacher Award from UNC's Mortar Board Society and was nominated by the School of Music for the M. Lucille Harrison Award for Excellence in Teaching. She was named to the Grand Island Hall of Honor in 1988 for "outstanding contributions in music education and performance" and received the Outstanding Academic Advisor Award from UNC in 2000.

A mezzo-soprano, Professor Coppom has performed extensively in the Rocky Mountain Region, throughout the United States and in Southeast Asia. Her performances include opera, oratorio and musical theater roles, as well as frequent appearances with orchestras and choral organizations. She has performed frequently with the Little Theater of the Rockies, the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra and the UNC Opera Theater. Professor Coppom was the guest soloist for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the Union Colony Civic Center and served as Queen for the Tenth Annual Greeley Chorale Madrigal Feast in 1998. Post-retirement plans include continuing to work as a clinician in vocal performance and pedagogy throughout the country and performing "when it is fun and convenient."

In addition to her two degrees, Professor Coppom did graduate work with Berton Coffin in vocal performance and pedagogy at the University of Colorado. She is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the Voice Foundation, Pi Kappa Lambda, Alpha Chi and Sigma Alpha Iota. She is a member of several community and social organizations, including W.T.K., P.E.O., and the Social Science Circle. She and John have two sons, Michael and Jonathan. Her family, community, friends and students established this scholarship. It honors Charmaine Coppom for her generous spirit, wisdom, energy and excellent teaching that will continue through the lives of those whom she mentored.

The Charmaine Purdy Coppom Scholarship is awarded to a full-time, female graduate or undergraduate student in the Mezzo-Soprano Program working on a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Music degree, Master of Music or Doctor of Arts degree.

The University of Northern Colorado Foundation is pleased to recognize the generosity of the Coppom family and others who provided the gifts to create this permanent fund to perpetuate excellence in the School of Music.
