

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

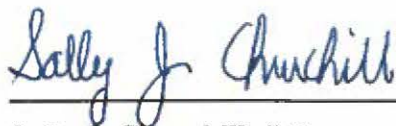
Robert Swedberg, M.B.A., clinical associate professor of music in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, retired from active faculty status on September 1, 2018.

Professor Swedberg received both his B.A. and B.M. degrees from California State University, Northridge in 1975 and his M.B.A. degree from the University of Central Florida in 1998. From 1990-2007, Professor Swedberg was the general director of the Orlando Opera, where he was responsible for the artistic direction and management of one of the largest opera companies in the southeastern United States. He held a number of important positions, including general director of the Syracuse Opera Company, manager and artistic director of Opera Carolina, and adjunct appointments at Syracuse University and the University of Central Florida. Professor Swedberg joined the University of Michigan faculty as a clinical associate professor of music and director of opera in the Department of Voice in 2008.

In addition to Professor Swedberg's extensive and impressive list of credits as a stage manager and director, he also possessed professional experience as a singing actor. He performed at numerous operas, including the Long Beach Opera, the L.A. Philharmonic, the Hidden Valley Opera, the Seattle Opera, and the San Francisco Merola Opera Program. Professor Swedberg produced or directed more than 125 productions for several prestigious opera companies in the United States. His international profile includes directing productions for a number of companies, such as the Macau Music Festival and the Beijing Music Festival in China; the Calvia Music Festival in Mallorca, Spain; the William Walton Music Foundation in Ischia, Italy; and at several theaters in Germany, including those in Hof, Bamberg, Pforzheim, and Bayreuth. Professor Swedberg founded the Heinz Rehfuss Singing-Actor Awards, co-founded the "Negro Spiritual" Scholarship Foundation, and hosted *Opera with Robert Swedberg* on 90.7 WMFE-FM for over 15 years. A certified yoga instructor, Professor Swedberg authored the book *Yoga for Performers* in 2005. He played an instrumental role in leading eco-friendly opera productions that lowered the carbon footprint of rehearsals and performances, strengthening the curriculum and depth of the opera program's offering, and developing students' artistic skills and professional careers in the field of opera.

The Regents now salute this eminent artist and exemplary teacher by naming **Robert Swedberg, clinical associate professor emeritus of music**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

September 2018