

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Approved by the Regents

May 19, 2006

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

James E. Dapogny, D.M.A., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and professor of music (theory) in the School of Music, will retire from active faculty status on May 31, 2006.

Professor Dapogny received his B.M., M.M., and D.M.A. degrees in 1962, 1963, and 1971, respectively, from the University of Illinois. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an instructor in 1966 and was promoted to assistant professor in 1971, associate professor in 1976, and professor in 1989. He was awarded the Arthur F. Thurnau professorship in 1988.

During his exemplary career at the School of Music, Professor Dapogny has taught and counseled numerous students. His inestimable value as a teacher and the high regard with which he is held by students and colleagues were recognized when he received the Thurnau professorship in 1988. Professor Dapogny has taught a wide range of graduate and undergraduate courses, and his calm, wise demeanor has made him an exemplary ambassador for the School of Music.

Professor Dapogny is also widely known within the music industry as a performer of early jazz. He has many recordings to his credit, and is the author of published articles and transcriptions. In performances as a jazz pianist-bandleader-arranger, Professor Dapogny has appeared in thirty states, at jazz festivals, and in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Newport Jazz Festival. His expertise as a jazz pianist and arranger has led to notable engagements on "A Prairie Home Companion" and other radio broadcasts, along with repeated New Years' Eve performances in major cities and recordings with the James Dapogny Chicago Jazz Band. He has performed in collaboration with popular-music icons ranging from the Rolling Stones' pianist, Ian Stewart, to blues megastar Bonnie Raitt. His persistence and skill in transcribing countless musical performances from recording into musical notation resulted in an extensive anthology of Jelly Roll Morton compositions. This anthology not only became a model for a new sort of musicological documentary study, but also was one of the single most important contributions in leading the academy as a whole to admit jazz (and by extension other popular music) as a valuable and rewarding topic for study. Professor Dapogny's interest and expertise in stride piano led him to make discoveries that culminated in his large-scale reconstruction of "De Organizer" and "The Dreamy Kid," two operas by James P. Johnson that were once thought to be lost.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member for his dedicated service by naming **James E. Dapogny Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus and professor emeritus of music (theory)**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2006