

2017

Honorary Degree Award Citation for Bonnie Koestner

Lawrence University

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Bonnie Koestner '72

BONNIE KOESTNER, you have served Lawrence University extraordinarily well, helping students and faculty prepare the finest productions in opera and musical theatre. As a vocal coach, you have worked tirelessly with students, helping them reach their highest potential. The results are performances of great power, grace and beauty.

You have actually had two careers at Lawrence. As a student, you played your first opera in Stansbury Theatre as a member of the first-year class. You graduated in 1972 with a Bachelor of Music degree and then returned in 2001 as a faculty member for your second Lawrence career. You earned tenure and promotion in 2006 and have continued to serve the university with distinction. In the time between being a student and becoming a faculty member, you earned a Master of Music degree in music education at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

You have served as chorus master, vocal coach and conductor at the prestigious summer festivals of Glimmerglass Opera and Central City Opera, have worked with the San Francisco Opera and Florida Grand Opera, have served as vocal coach at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and have made artistic contributions to many other performing companies throughout the United States. The repertoire of works for which you have played leadership roles fills two pages of your resume. At Lawrence, your many credits include preparing operas ranging from Henry Purcell to Phillip Glass, with a particular favorite being the 2014 production of Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring*. Somehow you also found time to be a visiting faculty member at the London Centre and at the Florence program of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest.

In recognition of your many contributions to Lawrence and its students, I am pleased to award you the degree of Master of Arts, *ad eundum*, on the occasion of your retirement from the faculty.

June 11, 2017