
December 6, 2023

Melissa Dobrosh, Chair
UNI Faculty Senate

It is my honor and privilege to write in support of Dr. Jean McDonald's Emeritus request. A complete accounting of Dr. McDonald's many accomplishments is impossible in this format (her Cv runs to 53 pages!); these few, brief paragraphs will have to suffice.

A graduate of Simpson College and the University of Iowa, Dr. McDonald came to UNI in 1988. Her exemplary work as a master teacher of voice is evident in the success of her students, who have earned national awards and secured placements and positions in young artist programs and prestigious opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and LA Opera. In 2015, she received the Regent Award for Faculty Excellence in recognition for her contributions to the School of Music and the university.

In addition to teaching, Dr. McDonald has maintained an active career as a performer, appearing as a featured soloist on campus, throughout the state, and nationally. She has performed with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra, Des Moines Symphony, Cedar Rapids Symphony, Quad-Cities Mozart Festival, and the Messiah Festival of Music and (Lindsborg, KS). In 2001, she performed the world premiere of Jeremy Beck's monodrama *Black Water* at California State University at Fullerton, and later recorded this important American work in collaboration with UNI faculty pianist Dr. Robin Guy (released by Innova Records). I had the good fortune to collaborate with Dr. McDonald and Dr. Guy in 2017, when we presented a lecture recital, "The Quest for Artistic Identity in Ingeborg von Bronsart's *Sechs Lieder des Mirza Schaffy*." Dr. McDonald's professionalism, careful preparation, attention to detail with this little-known repertoire, and willingness to collaborate with junior faculty are yet further examples of her outstanding contributions to UNI.

Dr. McDonald is gracious with her time in mentoring students, and humble in accepting praise for the exemplary work she has accomplished. I am proud to be able to call her my colleague and my friend. I heartily endorse her request for Emeritus status, and wish her well on the next phase of her artistic journey.

Sincerely,



Melinda Boyd, Ph.D.
Interim Director and Professor of Music History