

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* TEACHERS *of* SINGING



Richard Sjoerdsma

THE RICHARD D SJOERDSMA FUND

SUPPORTING THE RICHARD SJOERDSMA AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN WRITING

Upon his retirement as editor in chief of the *Journal of Singing*, the *Journal's* editorial board voted to establish the *Richard Sjoerdsma Award for Excellence in Writing*. The Award is presented to the author of the best article published in the *Journal of Singing* within the two-year time span at the national conference of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

For 22 years, Richard Sjoerdsma as Editor in Chief thoughtfully and lovingly stewarded the *Journal*, transforming it into the premier peer-reviewed journal exclusively dedicated to the art of singing and the teaching profession.

Dr. Sjoerdsma received his A.B. degree from Calvin College, an M.M. in voice from the University of South Dakota, and a Ph.D. in musicology from The Ohio State University. His research and dissertation on the music of Franz Christoph Neubauer (1760–95) have rendered him an authority on this composer, resulting in contributions to *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* and *The Grove Dictionary of Opera*. Additionally, he has written articles for *The NATS Journal*, penned reviews for *NOTES* and *The Piano Quarterly*, and has authored a book on Neubauer published by A-R Editions.

He retired from a 39-year career at Carthage, where he taught studio voice, opera, vocal literature and diction, voice pedagogy, and directed opera productions. During that time, he served almost three decades as Chair of the Department of Music and eight years as Chair of the Fine Arts Division.

A multifaceted career as scholar, pedagogue, performer, and editor was instrumental in Sjoerdsma being honored by the OSU School of Music 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award. Further honors accrued as Carthage College dedicated his former voice studio and established an endowed scholarship in his name.

Dr. Sjoerdsma, a tenor, also has performed widely in opera, oratorio, concert, and recital, both in the United States and in Western Europe. A veteran of 22 European solo concert tours, he has performed principally in Germany, but also in Sweden, Hungary, Austria, and France. Additionally, he has appeared frequently as guest clinician and adjudicator, has conducted symphony orchestras, and has led a number of voice master classes.

After having managed the "Bookshelf" column since 1972, a responsibility assumed under editor Harvey Ringel, Dr. Sjoerdsma was appointed Editor in Chief of *Journal of Singing* in 2001. He has been a member of NATS since 1971 and was invited into membership of the prestigious American Academy of Teachers of Singing (AATS) in 2002.

GIVING to NATS

Contribute to the Richard Sjoerdsma Award Fund [here](#). You also may contact the NATS Executive Office at (904) 992-9101 for assistance.

