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5-16-00

Son (?) called to inform
us of death -

Mingon thought a
letter would be
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C. Eric
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2507 Taylor Drive
Durham, NC
27705

His best-known books were "The
Black Muslims in America," writ-
ten in 1961, and "The Black
Church in the African-American
Experience," written in 1990 with
a former student.

"The Black Church" book, con-

5-17-00

Send to Burkhardt?

Yes ☒

No ☐

and

al
cut-

89, a watercolor is in the permanent collection of major institutions as Washington's Museum, died of pancreatic cancer May 12 in New

York also is in the permanent collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

Mr. Kingman had long been fascinated by the movies. His watercolors were used to set the visual moods in films, including "Flower Drum Song" and "55 Days at Peking." He also had served as a technical adviser for "The World of Suzie Wong."

C. Eric Lincoln **Religion Scholar**

C. Eric Lincoln, 75, a Duke University professor emeritus who was among the leading scholars of black religious life, died May 14 in Durham, N.C. The cause of death was not reported.

He wrote or edited 22 books. His best-known books were "The Black Muslims in America," written in 1961, and "The Black Church in the African-American Experience," written in 1990 with a former student.

"The Black Church" book, con-

sidered the definitive work on the subject, revealed the strength of the black church in America and raised troubling issues, including the failure of the black church to pay attention to young black males and the lack of young blacks entering the ministry.

Virgil 'P...'
"

Blessed Are The Peacemakers

00 MAY 17 PM 4:47

**PEACE DAY
2000**

***A Day For All People
The Hope & Promise of PEACE***

53 Churchill La.
Smithtown, NY 11787

PEACE so long dreamed of through the passing ages. PEACE so long searched for and sought for, through the loss of life of myriads of our loved ones.

The hope and promise of PEACE ever shines before us as a bright morning star beckoning us ever onward in the quest for PEACE. Now at the new millennium, may we give a bright new lustre to the hope and promise of PEACE.

Please be hereby informed that June 5th has been proclaimed annually to be PEACE Day, in many locales. Crossing the divisive barriers that divide us and all too often lead to strife and conflict. Stifling and smothering our hopes and dreams, dimming and obscuring the bright potential of the future, beneath ever darkening clouds of threat.

The vision of PEACE Day is PEACE through the arts and education. May PEACE be the children's birthright.

Will you please proclaim June 5th to be PEACE Day in The United States

Looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you very much.
May the hope and promise of blessed PEACE live ever on in the heart of humanity.

5-17-00

For PEACE

Send to Burkhardt?

Yes ☒

No ☐

is House Telling Of The Gospel Of PEACE

cal

HE DID NOT DIE IN VAIN

"He did not die in vain."
A very old refrain
The soldiers' tragic deaths each day
Keep the "enemy?" away
This high price of tragic deaths is far too much to pay;
I know there is a better way.
Design a banner of PEACE, I say;
Entwine and mingle every color of a rainbow's ray,
Fly the PEACE banner o'er every country;
Let us all be
Forever free
To dwell in blessed PEACE and harmony.
I ask all leaders of great power and fame,
Declare PEACE now and forever
Rather than war after war.
PEACE now
We must vow
"He did not die in vain"
A very old refrain
Never to be spoken true
Until war shall forever cease
And in the spirit of sister and brother all shall
Dwell in blessed PEACE



ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS
MAYOR

PEACE DAY

JUNE 5, 1999

BY THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the goal of peace is one that all individuals can share; and

WHEREAS, long term efforts to ensure a peaceful future for generations to come may be achieved through our daily wishes, thoughts and prayers, that maybe, one day, there will be world peace; and

WHEREAS, since all through our world's history, many persons have lost their lives protecting and defending peace, it is appropriate that each of us work toward lasting peace for the world in which we live:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim June 5, 1999, as "PEACE DAY" in Washington, D.C., and call upon all the residents of this great city, and throughout the nation, to join with me to help make this world a better place to live.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony A. Williams".

Anthony A. Williams
Mayor
District of Columbia





*City of Louisville
Office of the Mayor*

Proclamation

*To all to whom these presents shall come
greeting: Know ye that*

June 5,

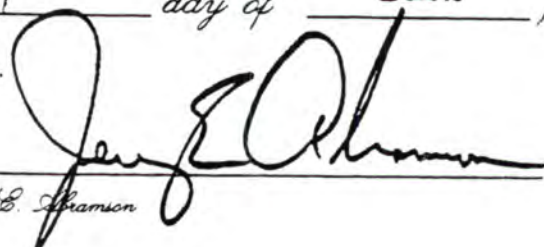
is hereby proclaimed to be:

Peace Day

*In Louisville, and I urge all citizens to take notice of
this special recognition.*



*Done in the City of Louisville,
Commonwealth of Kentucky, This*
the 5th day of June,
1996.



Mayor, Jerry E. Abramson

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792
Phone (303) 866-2471



Bill Owens
Governor

HONORARY PROCLAMATION

PEACE DAY
June 5,

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Colorado and throughout the world share a common desire for peace; and

WHEREAS, everyone can be a part of the peace process, and if all Coloradans practice cooperation, understanding, and acts of good will, the positive effects will be felt around the nation and world; and

WHEREAS, by striving to achieve peace among all people, we help preserve our world for future generations to enjoy;

Now Therefore, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim
June 5, as

PEACE DAY

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive
Seal of the State of Colorado, this twenty
seventh day of May 1999

Bill Owens.

Bill Owens
Governor



State of
MINNESOTA

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

In recognition of

Peace Day

*This certificate of recognition is presented to
The National Peace Organization
with the appreciation and respect of the people of Minnesota.*



I have hereunto set my hand and caused
the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota
to be affixed at the Capitol in the City
of Saint Paul, June 5, 1999.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jesse Ventura".

GOVERNOR

State of South Carolina

PROCLAMATION

BY

GOVERNOR DAVID M. BEASLEY

WHEREAS, peace entails more than an end to warfare, but also the necessity to promote the reality of the oneness of the human race, leading to racial unity, active promotion of justice, universal education, and social and economic development opportunities for all people; and

WHEREAS, a day of peace offers an opportunity for diverse groups and individuals to express their aspiration through word and action; and

WHEREAS, by striving to achieve peace among all people, we help preserve our world for the generations that will follow us.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David M. Beasley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 5, 1997 as

PEACE DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the diversity of our citizenry and to support efforts to bring greater peace to our state and nation.



David M. Beasley
David M. Beasley
Governor
State of South Carolina

State of North Carolina



JAMES B. HUNT JR.
GOVERNOR

PEACE DAY

1995

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, peace is a goal shared universally by all of the people of the world, yet true peace is difficult to obtain; and

WHEREAS, throughout the world's history, strife and conflict have taken lives, torn apart families, and destroyed property; and

WHEREAS, the pain and sorrow of these conflicts teach us valuable lessons and provide us with the inspiration necessary to prevent future tragedies; and

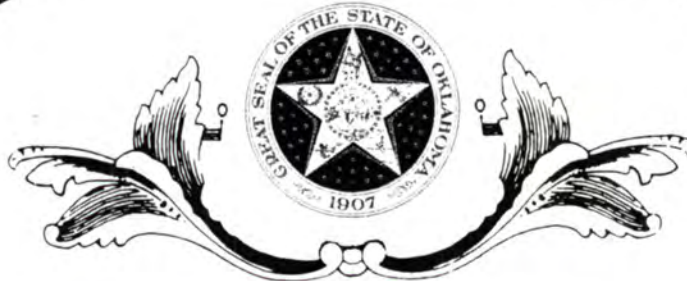
WHEREAS, the families and friends of those who have lost their lives in our nation's conflicts know the value of peace; and

WHEREAS, it is to their memory that we dedicate ourselves to promoting peace in our world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAMES B. HUNT JR., Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 5, 1995, as "Peace Day" in North Carolina, and urge our citizens to work for peace both at home and across the globe.



STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, The people of the State of Oklahoma and throughout the world share a common desire for peace; and

Whereas, everyone can be a part of the peace process. If all Oklahomans practice cooperation, understanding, and acts of goodwill, the positive effects will be felt around the nation and world; and

Whereas, by striving to achieve peace among all people, we help preserve our world for future generations to enjoy;

Now Therefore, I, Frank Keating, Governor of the State of Oklahoma do hereby proclaim June 5, 1996, as

Peace Day

in the State of Oklahoma.



OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM
STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The people of Texas and throughout the world share a common desire for peace.

Everyone can be part of the peace process. If all Texans practice cooperation, understanding, and goodwill, the positive effects will be felt throughout our nation and world.

By striving to achieve peace among all people, we help preserve our world for future generations to enjoy.

Therefore, I, George W. Bush, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim June 5, as:

PEACE DAY

In Texas and urge the appropriate recognition thereof.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Wisconsin and throughout the world share a common desire for peace; and

WHEREAS, everyone can be a part of the peace program; and

WHEREAS, if all Wisconsinites practice cooperation, understanding, and acts of goodwill, the positive effects will be felt around the nation and world; and

WHEREAS, by striving to achieve peace among all people, we help preserve our world for future generations to enjoy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOMMY G. THOMPSON, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim June 5, 1998

PEACE DAY

in the State of Wisconsin, and hereby commend this observance to all citizens.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twentieth day of May in the year one thousand nine hundred ninety-eight.

A handwritten signature, likely of Tommy G. Thompson, is located at the bottom right of the page.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, peace is a goal shared universally by all the people of the world, yet true peace is difficult to obtain; and

WHEREAS, long term efforts to ensure a peaceful future for generations to come may be achieved through our daily wishes, thoughts, and prayers; and

WHEREAS, throughout the world's history, strife and conflict have taken lives, torn apart families, and destroyed property. The pain and sorrow of these conflicts teaches us valuable lessons and provides us with the inspiration necessary to prevent future tragedies; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that each of us work toward lasting peace for the world in which we live;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

JUNE 5, 1999

as a

DAY OF PEACE

in New Jersey.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-eighth day of May in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine and of the Independence of the United States, the two hundred and twenty-third.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christine Todd Whitman".

GOVERNOR



CYNTHIA STEFFE

5/17/00

Send to Burkhardt?

Yes ✓

May 12, 2000

President Clinton
White House
Washington D.C.

5/18
TO AGENCY
LIAISON IF
APPROPRIATE
Carl

Re: Just Cynthia, Inc.
d/b/a Cynthia Steffe
Immigrant Visa Petition
on behalf of Ms. Yoon J. CHANG
EAC-00-100-51845

Dear President Clinton:

I am writing to request your assistance in the above-captioned matter.

On May 9, 2000 Just Cynthia, Inc. was acquired by Leslie Fay Company, Inc. Ms. Yoon Chang, a national of Canada, was employed by Just Cynthia, Inc. d/b/a Cynthia Steffe until March 30, 2000, pursuant to an H-1B visa. She is considered to be a key employee of the company. In accordance with H-1B regulations, because Ms. Chang had spent six years in the U.S. in H-1B status as of March 30, she was not entitled to any further extensions of H-1B status.

In February 2000, Just Cynthia, Inc. filed an immigrant visa petition for Ms. Chang, based on an approved Application for Alien Employment Certification. Attached please find a copy of the Immigration & Naturalization Service receipt.

Since Ms. Chang's H-1B expired on March 30, she is not legally entitled to work for Just Cynthia, Inc. or any other employer. We have been in contact with the Vermont Service Center and have been informed that the Center is currently processing immigrant visa petitions received in August/September 1999. Once Ms. Chang's petition is approved, it will take approximately 90 days for her to obtain interim employment authorization while waiting for her green card to be approved, which can take an additional 15+ months. Therefore, it may be nine months before Ms. Chang may be able to be reemployed in the U.S.

Due to Leslie Fay's recent acquisition of Just Cynthia, Inc., it is essential that key personnel of Just Cynthia, Inc. be available to ensure a smooth transition. Ms. Chang has been identified as such an individual. She had been employed a Designer for Just Cynthia, Inc. for seven years and is considered crucial to the design of the collection. Her inability to continue working for the company will be detrimental to the business. In addition, it is obviously a serious hardship for Ms. Chang not to be available to work for a period of nine months.

CYNTHIA STEFFE

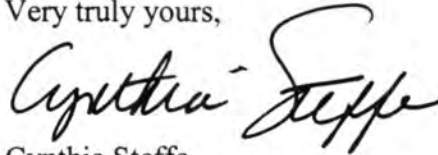
May 12, 2000

Page 2

Any assistance that can be provided to expedite Ms. Chang's immigrant visa petition would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia Steffe', written in a cursive style.

Cynthia Steffe
Chairperson

NYK 635240-1.037761.0010



RECEIPT NUMBER EAC-00-100-51845		CASE TYPE I140 IMMIGRANT PETITION FOR ALIEN WORKER
RECEIVED DATE February 14, 2000	PRIORITY DATE	PETITIONER JUST CYNTHIA
NOTICE DATE February 17, 2000	PAGE 1 of 1	BENEFICIARY CHANG, YOON J.
STEPHANIE YUTKIN 401 BROADWAY SUITE 406 NEW YORK NY 10013		Notice Type: Receipt Notice Amount received: \$ 115.00 Section: Skilled Worker or Professional, Sec.203(b) (3) (A) (i) or (ii)

The above application or petition has been received. It usually takes 90 to 180 days from the date of this receipt for us to process this type of case. Please notify us immediately if any of the above information is incorrect. Our customer service phone number is listed below.

We will send you a written notice as soon as we make a decision on this case. You can also use the phone number below to obtain case status information direct from our automated system 24 hours a day with a touch-tone phone and the receipt number for this case (at the top of this notice).

Please see the additional information on the back. You will be notified separately about any other cases you filed.

IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE
VERMONT SERVICE CENTER
75 LOWER WELDEN STREET
SAINT ALBANS VT 05479-0001
Customer Service Telephone: (802) 527-4913



Notice of Action

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

RECEIVED NUMBER EAC-00-124-51302		CASE TYPE I539
RECEIVED DATE March 16, 2000	PRIORITY DATE	APPLICATION TO EXTEND/CHANGE NONIMMIGRANT STATUS
NOTICE DATE March 20, 2000	PAGE 1 of 1	APPLICANT CHANG, YOON JONG
STEPHANIE YUTKIN 401 BROADWAY STE 406 NEW YORK NY 10013		Notice Type: Receipt Notice Amount received: \$ 120.00 Class requested: B1

The above application or petition has been received. It usually takes 45 to 90 days from the date of this receipt for us to process this type of case. Please notify us immediately if any of the above information is incorrect. Our customer service phone number is listed below.

We will send you a written notice as soon as we make a decision on this case. You can also use the phone number below to obtain case status information direct from our automated system 24 hours a day with a touch-tone phone and the receipt number for this case at the top of this notice.

Please see the additional information on the back. You will be notified separately about any other cases you filed.

IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE
VERMONT SERVICE CENTER
75 LOWER WELDEN STREET
SAINT ALBANS VT 05479-0001
Customer Service Telephone: (802) 527-4513



From PODESTA

Frank D. Stella

7000 Fenkell Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48238

(313) 341-6400
Fax (313) 342-8398

May 12, 2000

Honorable John Podesta
Chief of Staff to the President
Of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear John:

... Looking forward to seeing you in Rome at the NIAF Economic Conference ...

My purpose in writing you is to recommend to the President that our super intelligent Italo American, Dr. David DiChiera General Director and Founder of The Michigan Opera Theatre and the Detroit Opera House, whom I am recommending that he be awarded the Presidential Medal of Arts which he deserves.

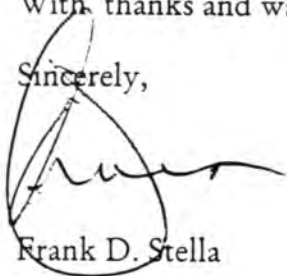
For your information, I am enclosing a letter from my friend, Congressman John D. Dingell, nominating David to the President for this award; along with my NIAF letter of support to the President and a copy of his vitae.

Dr. David DiChiera also received endorsements from Senator Carl Levin, Congressman Sander Levin, Mayor Dennis Archer, John Conyers, as well as, Senator Spencer Abraham and Congressman Joseph Knollenberg and others.

I will deeply appreciate your intercession for David as he is deserving of this cherished accolade because he has earned it. His national and international recognition is well known.

With thanks and warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



Frank D. Stella

5/17/00 ✓ CC: Sean Maloney
COP1 MELANNE +
RUBY SHAMIR
'00 MAY 17 PM 9:15

JOHN D. DINGELL
16TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE
CO-CHAIR
HOUSE GREAT LAKES
TASK FORCE
MEMBER
MIGRATORY BIRD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2216

March 13, 2000

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
ROOM 2328
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2216
(202) 225-4071

DISTRICT OFFICE S:
5465 SCHAEFER ROAD
DEARBORN, MI 48126-3277
(313) 846-1276
23 EAST FRONT STREET
SUITE 103
MONROE, MI 48161-2228
(734) 243-1849

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am honored to nominate Dr. David DiChiera for a Presidential 2000 National Medal of Arts.

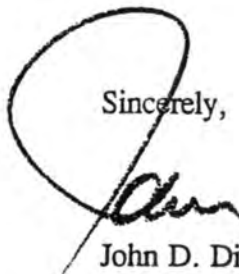
Dr. David DiChiera is the founding general director of the Michigan Opera Theatre in Detroit, Michigan, and the founding general director and current artistic director of Opera Pacific in Orange County, California. Both of these outstanding companies are among the top 15 professional opera companies in the United States. He is the only general director in the nation to lead two important companies in what is a unique and precedent-setting arts collaboration.

Dr. DiChiera brought the Michigan Opera Theatre from obscurity to a very successful operation and a jewel in Detroit's cultural life. As a composer, his music continues to receive critical acclaim. Dr. DiChiera has earned honor and recognition both at home and abroad. He has been singled out by the Detroit City Council, the Michigan State Legislature, the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the Governor of Michigan. In recognition of his contributions to the musical world, David DiChiera has been honored by the mayors of New York, San Francisco, New Orleans and Detroit.

It is with great pride that I ask you give Dr. David DiChiera consideration for this Presidential honor.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

mjr

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 2000

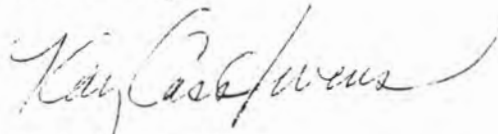
Dear Representative Dingell:

Thank you for your letter nominating Dr. David DiChiera for the Presidential Medal of Arts. I have forwarded your letter to the Office of the Staff Secretary and requested that Dr. DeChiera be included on the list of potential recipients. You can be assured that this nomination will receive the utmost consideration.

I am happy to assist you with this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

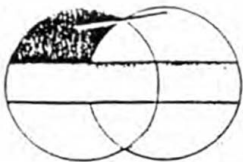
Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kay Casstevens".

Kay Casstevens
Deputy Assistant to the President
and Deputy Director for Legislative
Affairs

The Honorable John D. Dingell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



The National Italian American Foundation

The Ambassador Peter F. Secchia Building

1800 19th Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20009-5501 • (202) 387-0600 • FAX (202) 387-0800

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Baroness Maria Pia Zerilli-Marimò
Salvatore J. Zizza

Board Emeritus

Edward DiCorleto
Dr. Ross B. Cohen
Adele Malone
Antonino Visciglia

Executive Director

Alfred M. Rinaldi

Founding Chairman

Jerrold Poulos, 1975-1981

Please Reply To:
Mr. Frank D. Stella
7000 Fenkell Avenue
Detroit, MI 48238

June 23, 1998

Honorable William Clinton
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our Foundation, who you know very well, I am pleased to recommend to you for the Presidential National Medal of Arts Dr. David DiChiera, who deserves your consideration to receive this honor.

I am enclosing herewith a package on Dr. DiChiera's accomplishments and a brief history on Michigan Opera Theatre and the Detroit Opera House which he has founded. This was no little task to bring it from nothing to the status that it presently is ... a very successful operation and a "might" toward Detroit's Cultural Life.

Dr. DiChiera as a person is one of intelligence, integrity, and super character. He possesses the attributes which makes him an outstanding personality. We love him here in Detroit, Michigan, and the United States.

With thanks for your affirmative consideration to my request. I am with warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Frank D. Stella
Chairman

MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

David DiChiera
General Director

DR. DAVID DiCHIERA

Biography

Dr. David DiChiera is the founding general director of Michigan Opera Theatre in Detroit, Michigan, and the founding general director (1986-1996) Opera Pacific in Orange County, California. Both are among the top professional opera companies in the United States. He is the only general director in the nation to have founded and led two important companies in what is a unique and precedent-setting arts collaboration.

David DiChiera, son of Italian immigrants, was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania and subsequently moved to Los Angeles with his family when he was ten years old. He graduated from UCLA in 1956 with highest honors and election to Phi Beta Kappa. His activities as a pianist and composer garnered him the Atwater Kent and Gershwin Awards and upon receiving a Master's Degree in Composition at UCLA, he was selected to be a Fulbright Scholar for studies in Italy in 1958. Commissioned by the United States Information Service to compose a sonata for the Naples Festival of Contemporary Music, while in Italy, he conducted extensive research on the unpublished manuscripts of eighteenth century opera. This culminated in a series of articles for the world's leading music encyclopedias including Ricordi's *Enciclopedia della Musica*, Groves *Dictionary of Music* and Barenreiter's *Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart*.

Returning to UCLA in 1960, Dr. DiChiera served on the music staff as an instructor and consequently received his Ph.D. in Musicology. In 1962, Dr. DiChiera came to Michigan to join the faculty of music of the newly established Oakland University. From 1963 to 1965, he also held the post of Assistant Dean for Continuing Education in the Arts at Oakland University and was thereafter elected Chairman of the Department of Music. During his ten year stay at Oakland University, he took an active role in the establishment of the Meadowbrook Music Festival and served as artistic advisor to the University's President.

In 1963, Dr. DiChiera introduced a new civic enterprise in Detroit, the popular Overture to Opera series, a program of staged opera scenes and one-act operas he narrated and toured to hundreds of schools and community centers throughout the state. The success of the series over a period of years laid the groundwork for creating Michigan's own professional opera Company in 1971, with Dr. DiChiera as General Director.

At the same time, he spearheaded the establishment of the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, which under Dr. DiChiera's artistic leadership as founding director, began a tradition of providing theater, music and dance for Michigan. DiChiera's dual role as general director of Michigan Opera Theatre and artistic director for the center, with its multi-purpose 1,800 seat theater, was noted in the national press. *The Christian Science Monitor* stated "DiChiera overcame Detroit's inferiority complex about the arts by mounting events of national interest" while *The New York Daily News* proclaimed "Michigan Opera Theatre has become the focal point of a cultural renaissance in Detroit."

-more-

Since its inception in 1971, Michigan Opera Theatre has been nationally recognized for presenting a wide variety of repertory reflecting international grand opera, revivals of important and neglected American opera/musical theater works and operatic treasures from the national schools of opera.

Dr. DiChiera's commitment to American opera is reflected in the recognition Michigan Opera Theatre has achieved for mounting major revivals of American works including the Gershwins' *Porgy and Bess*, Blitzstein's *Regina*, Gruenberg's *The Emperor Jones* and the world premiere of Pasatieri's *Washington Square*. Two American works produced by Michigan Opera Theatre have been televised nationally: *The Tender Land*, by Aaron Copland with the composer conducting, and Frank Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella*, which then went on to Broadway.

In 1981, Michigan Opera Theatre launched a series of operas, which garnered international attention and stimulated the support and participation of several large ethnic groups, both in Detroit and throughout the country. This series included the North American premiere of the Armenian national opera *Anoush* by Tigranian and the American premiere of the Polish operas *The Haunted Castle* and *King Roger*.

Establishment of an apprentice program has successfully served to train many talented young artists from Michigan and across the nation who now have achieved established careers in the world of opera and music theater. Dr. DiChiera has been instrumental in launching the careers of such artists as Leona Mitchell, Kathleen Battle, Wilhelmenia Fernandez, Carmen Balthrop, Catherine Malfitano, Victoria Vergara, Maria Ewing, Rockwell Black, Richard Cowan and Ron Raines. In addition, many renowned luminaries such as Ghena Dimitrova, Dame Joan Sutherland, Cleo Lane, Luciano Pavarotti and Jose Carreras have appeared with Michigan Opera Theatre.

From 1979 to 1983, Dr. DiChiera served as president of OPERA America. Under his leadership, the national organization established a major initiative in opera education programs throughout the country. In the area of public information, he encouraged OPERA America to focus on strategies to help generate a positive image and interest in opera for a greater portion of the population.

In 1981, Dr. DiChiera was appointed Artistic Director of the financially troubled Dayton Opera Association. The success of his first season was evident in a 25% increase in season ticket sales, multiple performances for the first time in the Company's 20-year history and a dramatic turnaround in critical response to new artistic standards. Under his artistic stewardship, Dayton Opera developed the distinction of having the largest subscriber base of any opera company in Ohio. In 1993, DiChiera retired from his association with the Company in order to concentrate his efforts on Michigan Opera Theatre and Opera Pacific.

In 1986, when Orange County, California launched Opera Pacific, Dr. DiChiera was asked to provide artistic and administrative leadership as general director. This opportunity allowed him to pursue a vision of arts management that provided opportunities for collaborative efforts, enhancing artistic quality and fiscal stability. In October of 1996, DiChiera announced his resignation as general director, citing the need to devote more time to the rapidly growing Michigan Opera Theatre.

Dr. DiChiera served as a trustee for the National Institute of Music Theatre and as a board member of the American Arts Alliance. He has been a panel member for the National Endowment for the Arts and Chairman for the Opera/Musical Theater Panel. He has also chaired several national music conferences. Dr. DiChiera chaired the second annual conference of the International Association of Lyric Theatre, convened in Verona, Italy, and was twice elected vice president of the organization.

As a composer, David DiChiera's music continues to receive critical acclaim. His *Four Sonnets*, with verses by Edna St. Vincent Millay arranged for soprano and piano, premiered at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Theodore W. Libby Jr. of the *Washington Star* called the work "beautifully crafted and warmly expressive of the poetry." Paul Hume of *The Washington Post* called DiChiera "a composer with great sensitivity and keen awareness of the beauties for the voice." A children's opera, *Rumpelstiltskin*, written in collaboration with Karen VanderKloot DiChiera, has been performed nationally. David DiChiera has been commissioned to compose an opera for L'Opéra de Montréal which will premiere during the 2003 season.

In April of 1996, Dr. DiChiera realized a dream. On the Company's twenty-fifth anniversary, he cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the Detroit Opera House. Under his leadership, Michigan Opera Theatre joined the ranks of major opera companies world wide with the multi-million renovation of a 1922 movie palace. Michigan Opera Theatre is one of only a few opera companies in the United States to own its own opera house. The product of Dr. DiChiera's dream, the Detroit Opera House, is comparable to the world's greatest houses in visual and acoustical beauty.

In July 1999, Michigan Opera Theatre became the first opera company to present the Three Tenors in concert. The concert took place at Detroit's historic Tiger Stadium for an audience of 35,000 and successfully launched a \$25 million campaign – The New Century Fund. The purpose of the fund is to complete construction of the Detroit Opera House, develop a new Educational Resource Center in the Broadway tower of the opera house, and build an endowment for the Company. As of January 2000, the campaign has raised \$16 million.

In 1999, Dr. DiChiera brought world-famous tenor Andrea Bocelli to Detroit for his North American Opera debut. The performances attracted fans, critics, and media from all over the world. A relationship was created with Global Music Network (GMN.com) who worked with Michigan Opera Theatre to produce the first-ever, North American opera webcast. The final performance of the opera was viewed live, by audiences all over the world. The initial webcast was so overwhelmingly successful that it was rebroadcast on the internet seven more times before the end of 1999. *Opera News* magazine called the event, "the biggest music news story of 1999."

Dr. DiChiera has garnered honor and recognition abroad and at home by the Detroit City Council, the Michigan State Legislature, the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, the University of Detroit and the Governor of Michigan. *The Detroit News* elected Dr. DiChiera *Michiganiaan of the Year* in 1979 and stated that "Dr. DiChiera has done more than any single person in the city or state to bring opera to the people." He expanded upon this concept by creating a permanent home for opera in Michigan with the 1996 opening of the Detroit Opera House.

David DiChiera delivered the commencement address at the University of Michigan's graduation ceremony in 1998 and was awarded an honorary doctor of music degree. In recognition of his contribution to the musical world, he has been honored by the mayors of New York, San Francisco, New Orleans, and Detroit as well as the governments of France and Italy.

Dr. David DiChiera

(vita)

Dr. David DiChiera is the founding general director of Michigan Opera Theatre in Detroit, Michigan, and the founding general director of Opera Pacific in Orange County, California. Both are among the top 15 professional opera companies in the United States.

Career Highlights

- Fulbright Scholar for studies in Italy. Commissioned by the United States Information Service to compose a sonata for the Naples Festival of Contemporary Music.
- Ph.D. in Musicology (1960)
- As Chairman of the Department of Music for Oakland University, (Rochester, MI) helped to establish Meadowbrook Music Festival, an outdoor arts facility (1960).
- Introduced a new civic enterprise in Detroit, the popular Overture to Opera series, a program he narrated and toured to hundreds of schools and community centers throughout the state (1963).
- Founded Michigan Opera Theatre, Michigan's first professional opera company (1971).
- Established the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Detroit, an endeavor that was the catalyst for the revitalization of what was to become one of the largest theater districts in the nation.
- Elected *Michigania* of the Year by *The Detroit News*, who proclaimed, "Dr. DiChiera has done more than any single person in the City or State to bring opera to the people."
- Established an apprentice program which has served to train young artists from Michigan, and throughout the United States.
- Launched the careers of such artists as Leona Mitchell, Kathleen Battle, Wihelmenia Fernandez, Carmen Balthrop, Maria Ewing and Ron Raines, among many others.
- Mounted major revivals of American works including Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, Blitzstein's *Regina*, Gruenberg's *The Emperor Jones* and the world premiere of Pasatiere's *Washington Square*.
- President of Opera America 1979-1983
- Spearheaded *Opera for the '80's and Beyond*, an aggressive initiative which developed bold, innovative methods of encouraging and funding new American musical theater works. The project was supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Nearly \$2 million was granted for exploration, fellowships, development, commission and production.
- Produced operas which stimulated the support and participation of several large ethnic groups in Detroit and throughout the country. The series included the North American Premiere of the Armenian national opera *Anoush* and the American premiere of Polish operas *The Haunted Castle* and *King Roger*.
- Past chairman of The Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund/*Opera for a New America* program.
- Artistic Director of the Dayton Opera Association (1981-1993), generating a 25% increase in subscription ticket sales, multiple performances for the first time in the Company's twenty year history, and a dramatic turnaround in critical response to new artistic standards. Under his artistic stewardship, Dayton Opera developed the distinction of having the largest subscriber base of an opera company in Ohio.
- General Director of Opera Pacific, Orange County, California (1986-1996).
- The first and only individual to lead three major American opera companies simultaneously.
- A noted composer, DiChiera's *Four Sonnets* premiered at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.
- Established a world-class home for Michigan Opera Theatre by initiating a \$44 million capital campaign for the restoration, renovation and adaptation of the Grand Circus Theater, a 1922 movie palace, severely neglected and damaged structure, located in downtown Detroit. On April 21, 1996, a date that coincided with Michigan Opera Theatre's twenty-fifth anniversary, the Detroit Opera House opened with a gala concert, featuring Luciano Pavarotti.

Dr. David DiChiera
(vita continued)

- Michigan Opera Theatre became the first opera company to present the Three Tenors in concert (July 1999). The concert took place at Detroit's historic Tiger Stadium for an audience of 35,000 and successfully launched a \$25 million campaign to complete construction of the Detroit Opera House, develop a new Educational Resource Center in the Broadway tower of the opera house, and build an endowment for the Company.
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Honors

- Dr. DiChiera has been honored by several national and local authorities including:
- The governments of France and Italy.
- Two Governors of the State of Michigan
- The Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs
- The mayors of New York, San Francisco, New Orleans and Detroit
- National Association of Travel Writers
- The National Theater Historical Society

An Unrelenting Drive, and a Harvard Degree

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By JACQUES STEINBERG

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 15 — The honors thesis that Brooke Ellison presented earlier this spring at Harvard University, "The Element of Hope in Resilient Adolescents," was a scientific analysis steeped in data.

But her own story would have made a good case study.

Struck by a car on her first day in the seventh grade and given little chance of survival, Ms. Ellison awoke, after 36 hours in a coma, as a quadriplegic, one whose first words included the questions, "When can I get back to school?" and "Will I be left back?"

Though she would regain no sensation below her neck, Ms. Ellison never missed a grade, and early next month she will cap her improbable educational odyssey by graduating from Harvard with an A- average and a bachelor's degree in psychology and biology.

A smiling 21-year-old woman with a strong, sometimes scratchy voice, Ms. Ellison said there is nothing extraordinary about her accomplishments, whether it is piloting her wheelchair (as well as the cursor on her computer screen) by touching her tongue to a keypad in a retainer on the roof of her mouth, or being selected by her peers to address them on senior class day on June 7.

And do not even try to tell her that she is, as near as university officials can tell, the first quadriplegic to graduate from Harvard.

"This is just the way my life is," Ms. Ellison said over the clicking of a ventilator that forces air through her trachea and into her lungs 13 times a minute. "I've always felt that whatever circumstances I confront, it's just a question of continuing to live and not letting what I can't do define what I can."

Those looking for a hero in this story, Ms. Ellison suggested, should focus on her mother, Jean Marie, 48, who has sat at her daughter's side in every class since the eighth grade.

After Ms. Ellison was admitted to Harvard, the family decided, reluctantly, that Mrs. Ellison would temporarily leave her husband and teenage son in Stony Brook, N.Y., and move into a dormitory suite with her daughter. The two have hardly been out of earshot, for even a moment, since.

"If I'm with friends or want to be alone," Ms. Ellison said, "she knows when to give me my space."

Mrs. Ellison, whose first and last — day as a special education teacher was the day of her daughter's accident, has been much more than a 24-hour nurse. Though Ms. Ellison dictated her term papers into a voice-activated computer and did

whatever research she could on the Internet, her mother turned the pages of books like "Heart of Darkness" ("I don't have a particular signal," Ms. Ellison said, "I just say, 'Mom, turn the page now.'"), and served as her daughter's surrogate right hand, raising hers high when Ms. Ellison had something to say in class.

As a tribute, the mother received a mock degree in "virtual studies" from the seniors in her daughter's house.

"I'm the brawn," Mrs. Ellison said. "She's the brains."

The mother added that her daughter "can't understand what all the hoopla is about, which is refreshing."

Though she has never known the freedom of tossing a Frisbee across the Yard, Ms. Ellison insisted that

hers had been a fairly typical Harvard existence. She has, for example, occasionally sipped a beer at Brew Moon in Harvard Square, though she has hardly made a habit of it.

"I'd be drinking and operating my wheelchair at the same time," she said. "That would classify me as a d.w.i."

Ms. Ellison lived on campus all four years (the last three in the boxy, 30-year-old Currier House), studied with renowned professors such as Alan Dershowitz and Stephen Jay Gould, founded a student advocacy group on behalf of the disabled and attended her house's senior formal.

But she is the first to say that her mother — as well as her father, younger brother and older sister —

were only the starting lineup on a team deep in talent that made her graduation possible.

Her dormitory room was custom-fitted by Harvard technicians with a hospital bed, small hydraulic lift, panic button and electronic door opener. When she signed up for a class on the history of opera, it had to be moved because the building was

inaccessible with a wheelchair.

And though she and her date stayed at the senior formal well past midnight, they had to be chaperoned by her mother (Ms. Ellison's brother, Reed, was his mother's escort) and were ferried from the party not in a white limousine but a white van with an open cargo bay.

Kevin Davis, a retired Cambridge police detective who would often drive Ms. Ellison to class, said: "Brooke's captured my heart. It's inspiring to know a person of her character."

Like one of her idols, the actor Christopher Reeve, Ms. Ellison conceded that she does have moments of sadness, particularly when her sleep is interrupted by dreams of the

dance classes that were her childhood passion. (A poster in her dorm room, brought from home, showed five pint-size ballerinas at a dance bar, the middle girl desperately trying to stretch to reach as high as the other four.)

She said she has never wanted to meet the man whose car hit her as she walked home from school, an accident that fractured her skull, her spine and almost every major bone in her body. But she said she holds no grudge.

"If I were to harbor anger for 10 years," she said, "it'd be too exhausting."

Even though she was a formidable student in high school who scored 1510 out of a possible 1600 on her College Board exams (she filled in the bubbles by dictating to a teacher), Ms. Ellison never expected to get into Harvard, which was the only college to which she applied other

than the State University of New York at Stony Brook. "I thought if I got accepted, I would put the letter in a frame," she said.

But once she was admitted, she said, Harvard, which costs more than \$30,000 a year, made herculean efforts to ensure that she would attend. The university provided her with scholarships not only to supplement her father's salary as an administrator in a Social Security office but also to pay for her costly medical needs.

Ms. Ellison is keeping the text of her class day address a secret, but does allow that it will touch on the many friendships she forged in Cambridge. Among the first to approach her, on the way to an early morning language class, was Neil Holzapfer, 22, then a freshman from Kingston, N.H., who majored in government and Russian studies.

"I was struck by the courage that it would take for her to be in this kind of atmosphere, which is stressful and intense under the best conditions," Mr. Holzapfer recalled.

Four years later, Mr. Holzapfer said that his friend had become his role model, her love of the bubble gum rocker Bryan Adams notwithstanding. "Brooke is living a life that is out there," he said, "instead of closing up and looking inward."

After spending the summer getting to know her family again, Ms. Ellison intends to write her autobiography (she already has an agent, at William Morris) and hopes to travel as a motivational speaker.

"Anytime people feel they need encouragement," she said, "that's where I hope to be."

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