

September 18, 2025

ITEM 220-1003-R0925

**Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of Music on Dr. Stephen Kalm;
University of Montana-Missoula**

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Stephen Kalm from the University of Montana, the School of Music faculty express appreciation for his 31 years of dedicated and valued service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

The School of Music and the College of the Arts and Media proudly commend and thank Dr. Kalm for 31 years of extraordinary teaching, visionary leadership, and artistic excellence at the University of Montana. Throughout his tenure, he distinguished himself as a gifted educator, respected administrator, and celebrated performer.

Dr. Kalm's teaching career spanned both the early and later years of his time at UM, during which his students flourished. Their achievements include Grammy nominations, professional careers in opera and musical theatre, and impactful roles as music educators across the region and around the world. His students earned top honors in state NATS competitions, the UM Concerto/Aria Competition, and prestigious scholarships such as the Presser, Paris, Simmons, Wolfe, and Capps/Rickard awards.

Early in his career, Dr. Kalm transformed the Opera Workshop into the UM Opera Theatre, which now stages full-length productions biennially with orchestra, costumes, and sets. He also established a long-standing partnership with Missoula Children's Theatre. His expertise was recognized internationally, with invitations to lead masterclasses and workshops at institutions including the University of Bern (Switzerland), Fudan University (China), Harvard, Connecticut College, University of Virginia, University of Richmond, Ohio State, Franklin & Marshall College, and University of Nebraska.

Among his many honors, Dr. Kalm received the School of Fine Arts' Most Distinguished Faculty Award in 2001 and was selected as the first faculty member from our college to deliver the Provost's Distinguished Faculty Lecture in 2004: *A Place in the Soul: Charles Ives, An American Original*.

Leadership and Vision

During his 17 years as Director of the School of Music and Dean of the College of the Arts and Media, Dr. Kalm fostered deep collaboration among faculty and staff. Under his leadership, fundraising efforts more than quadrupled, supporting numerous initiatives including:

- Music Facilities Renovation
- Creation of a new student art gallery
- Development of a Fabrication Lab and Renovated Media Arts Lab
- The Masquer Theatre Chair Campaign
- New uniforms and instruments for the Grizzly Marching Band

- Acquisition of two Steinway Grand Pianos

He also championed the expansion of online learning, helping launch UM's first fully online undergraduate degree programs. His advocacy secured funding for three UM Dance performances at The Kennedy Center and led international tours, including *To Kill a Mockingbird* performed by The Montana Repertory Theatre and School of Theatre & Dance in Beijing and Chongqing, China.

In 2015, Dr. Kalm received the Robert L. Pantzer Humanitarian Award for his outstanding contributions as an administrator. Yet, he remains most proud of the exceptional faculty and staff he hired—individuals who continue to elevate UM through their talent and dedication.

Artistry and Impact

Dr. Kalm's artistic contributions are equally remarkable. He recorded five commercial albums, from 17 Lyrics by Li Po (Tzadik Records, 1996) to [Tikkun Olam](#) (Gothic Records, 2023), and performed internationally at festivals in Paris, Avignon, Berlin, Lisbon, London, Bern, and Copenhagen. His appearances at Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center Festival earned acclaim from The New York Times, New York Magazine, The New Yorker, and Opera News.

Regionally, he performed with every symphony orchestra in Montana and took on roles in numerous operas and musicals. For the past 22 years, he has served as cantorial soloist at Temple DeHirsch Sinai in Seattle. His accolades include the New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie) in 1997 for Meredith Monk's *The Politics of Quiet* and Arts Missoula's Best Individual Artist Award in 2015.

Dr. Kalm's generosity and passion for mentorship were evident in his performances alongside UM students, notably as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* (2012) and in Gianni Schicchi with the UM Opera Theatre (2020). His final [Faculty Voice Recital](#) was a heartfelt celebration, drawing a full house of admirers and featuring performances with his colleagues, current, and former students.

The School of Music is proud to nominate Professor Stephen Kalm for emeritus status, celebrating a faculty member who contributed profoundly to teaching and service. His legacy lives on in the accomplishments of his students and the enduring impact he has had on his colleagues and the University of Montana.

ATTACHMENTS

None