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Honoring Christine Jordanoff

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Christine Jordanoff, renowned choral conductor, educator and performer in the Mary Pappert School of Music, was the guest of honor at a special retirement celebration on Sunday, May 5, 2013, in the Power Center Ballroom.

A member of the music faculty for more than 40 years, Jordanoff has dedicated her life to educating the minds, hearts and spirits of the next generation of musicians and music educators. “After 41 years on the faculty, combined with almost six years as a student, I honestly can say that Duquesne University is part of my very being,” said Jordanoff.

The retirement celebration recognized her career, particularly her work as director of choral organizations and professor of music education in the music school and as artistic director and conductor of the Children’s Festival Chorus of Pittsburgh.

“Throughout her career at Duquesne, Professor Christine Jordanoff consistently demanded the highest possible musical standards and demonstrated them in her teaching and performing,” said Dr. Edward Kocher, dean of the Mary Pappert School of Music. “Her unselfish collaboration with Spiritan Campus Ministry and our voice and opera programs established a remarkable standard for teamwork and cooperation.”

As director of choral organizations, Jordanoff conducted the Pappert Women’s Chorale and the Voices of Spirit. Both groups perform extensively throughout the year, and were participants in the PSO’s first Music for the Spirit festival in April 2013.

During her tenure, Jordanoff created a program that seamlessly combined the courses she taught in the music education program with the work she performed with the Children’s Festival Chorus. The Children’s Choir Lab course, the result of this fusion, provides a living laboratory in which music education students can demonstrate and hone their teaching techniques with young musicians in training.

Jordanoff holds a bachelor’s degree in music education and a master’s degree in vocal performance, both from Duquesne. She is also a graduate of the Kodály Musical Training Institute and the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary, where she taught and conducted.

A past recipient of the Outstanding Music Educator award from the Organization of American Kodály Educators, Jordanoff also received the Woman of Distinction In the Arts and Humanities award from the Girl Scouts of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Citation of Excellence in Higher Education from the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. In addition, the Women’s Advisory Board at Duquesne presented Jordanoff with the 2010 Woman of Distinction Award.

“Sitting near the front of the auditorium for performances of the Voices of Spirit and Pappert Chorales has been one of the most predictably joyful listening experiences of my career,” added Kocher. “Professor Jordanoff’s artistic vision and connoisseurship inspired exquisite performances locally including O Come All Ye Faithful and In Memoriam as well as on the choir’s European tour, and at many other venues. The Children’s Festival Chorus is a treasure. Professor Christine Jordanoff, I thank you for being a superb musician, a trusted colleague and a valued friend.”

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Christine Jordanoff, choral conductor, educator and performer