

Friday, April 21, 2017

TO: UNT OPERA  
FROM: UNT OPERA  
RE: UNT OPERA

Dear All,

If you were in any way connected to our opera program during the 2016-2017 school year, THANK YOU for all you did to make it a successful season. We accomplished a great deal! Our productions of *Le nozze di Figaro*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Dialogues des Carmélites* represented a huge step forward on so many levels. Our concert performances of *La traviata* and *Madama Butterfly*, along with our massive scenes program, our concert in honor of Paula Homer, our acting boot camps, and our various other public appearances, rounded out a remarkably busy and diverse season. You rose to every challenge with great patience, discipline, and enthusiasm—and the results, vocally, musically, dramatically, organizationally, and personally, were stunning. Special thanks to our amazing administrative TA, Hilary Taylor; our gifted TA pianists, Emily Baltzer and Ah Young Kim, along with our resident genius, Dr. David Cloutier; our world-class technical and production team; our incredible stage management personnel; our tireless and creative publicity experts, including the brilliant poster-and-website designer Eliza Smith; and the many wonderful crew members who gave so generously of their time and sweat. It's truly been a team effort!

And THANK YOU is not nearly enough to express our deep gratitude to—profound admiration of—sheer delight in—and genuine love for—the stellar **David Ward!** What he has given to our program over the last two years is absolutely invaluable. His leadership and vision, his kindness and courage and patience and skill and humor and quirkiness and unflappability and strength and consummate cuddly cuteness, his contagious enthusiasm and astounding ability to bring us together, have made an indelible imprint on each of our lives and on our identity as a cohesive group of artists, workers, and colleagues. We will miss him dearly and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

Please join us next **Friday, April 28**, in the Lyric Theater, for **DAVID WARD DAY**. The schedule is as follows:

2:15-3:45	Master Class with David Ward
3:45-4:45	Farewell party for/wicked roast of David Ward
5:00-6:15	Wrap-up of 2016-2017 season

If you want to sing in the master class, please let Stephen know.

For the party/roast, please bring: 1) a paragraph or so (or song or interpretive dance or floral tribute or animal sacrifice) containing your own message for David; 2) something edible [if you can!]; and 3) lots of humor, goodwill, and affection.

See you next Friday!