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John L. Lester named American Institute of Vocal Pedagogy fellow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

John L. Lester, professor of music at Montana State University, has been asked to become a fellow in the American Institute of Vocal Pedagogy established by the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Dean Luther A. Richman of the MSU School of Fine Arts announced.

The association initiated the fellowship program last year to set up a goal of achievement for young teachers and to encourage all teachers to broaden the base of their training, according to John Toms of Northwestern University, recorder. Selection of fellows is based on evaluation of their training and experience and on examinations in a variety of subjects.

According to Toms, qualifications for fellowships include: Academic degrees with additional private study equivalent to a doctorate; background of professional career and teaching that includes several students who have made names in the professional world; publication of articles or books in the field of vocal pedagogy; knowledge of vocal acoustics; speaking, reading and phonetic knowledge of French, German and Italian; knowledge of vocal literature, and satisfaction of certain requirements in music theory and music history.

Toms noted that Lester is co-author of the fellowship requirements and examination in diagnostic and corrective procedures.

Prof. Lester has served on the board of directors of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and as association regional governor for Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming and Montana.

He has been professor of voice at MSU since 1939 and he directs the MSU Opera Workshop. Before joining the MSU faculty, he operated a voice studio in New York City.

(more)

Following his graduation from Southwestern University, Texas, he spent nearly eight years abroad, studying in France with Jean de Reszke, in Italy with Mario Sammarco and Ernestino Carronna and in Germany with Michael Rancheisen. He appeared for several seasons in Italian opera in Milan and other cities.

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