

Joyce Altman Stepping Down as President of Conservatory

Decade of Leadership Resulted in Financial Stability, Renovated Facility

The Wisconsin Conservatory of Music has announced that, after ten years of energetic leadership, Joyce Altman is resigning as President and CEO of the century-old music school.

“I feel that I have accomplished all that I set out to do in order to restore stability and financial security for the school.” Ms. Altman said. “It is time now for me to move on, but I plan to continue my connection as a ‘cheerleader’ from the sidelines.”

She will be assisting the Board of Trustees as they actively conduct a search for a successor, and will also aid in the transition.

Ms. Altman’s experience with the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music has lasted nearly a lifetime, beginning with her first piano lessons at age five, eventually earning a teaching certificate when she was eighteen. In the 1970s, she taught theory, composition, and ear-training in both the preparatory and college divisions of the school, and continued the tradition by sending her own children to the Conservatory for their studies. In October of 1993, she returned as President/CEO, rallied the support of the community and spearheaded a charge to save the landmark institution, which faced mounting debt and a dark future. As the financial health of the school headed back in the black, her attention turned to the physical health of the Conservatory’s historic home on Prospect Avenue. Under her supervision, the Conservatory conducted a highly successful Capital Campaign which garnered \$5.4 million for restoration and preservation of the McIntosh-Goodrich mansion. The renovation project lasted exactly a year, during which time the school continued to operate from a temporary location, and in June of 2000, the building reopened to rave reviews from students, alumni, and the community.

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Rick Walters (Vice Chair) commented, "This entire community owes Joyce a tremendous debt of gratitude for her accomplishments at the Conservatory. In a very real sense, the school would not be here today without her. She is leaving a wonderful legacy, and she has made a very significant difference in the quality of music education in this city."

Today, the school serves more than 4,700 students of all ages by offering private lessons, classes, Conservatory Connections school music programs, Music Therapy services, performances, master classes, and much more. Its commitment to musicians of today and tomorrow is reflected in its new recording studio and electronic music lab, as well as its thriving annual scholarship programs.

The Wisconsin Conservatory of Music is the oldest and largest non-profit community school of music in Wisconsin and is dedicated to providing the finest music education and performance opportunities to the aspiring professional performer as well as to children and adults who simply want to enjoy making music. Classes and lessons are offered in all instruments and voice in all styles.

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