

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT: Department of Voice

ACTION REQUEST: Rename as the Department of Voice & Opera

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2024

The dean and the Executive Committee of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance (SMTD), request approval to rename the Department of Voice as the Department of Voice & Opera, effective January 1, 2024.

This request stems from a series of departmental conversations, meetings, surveys, and thoughtful deliberations that have transpired over a three-year period during which the following rationale for the change emerged: 1) faculty believe this name change better aligns with the department's identity and their strategic vision for a vibrant future that includes opera, a discipline of study and performance that encompasses a broader swath of skills and greater degree of interdisciplinary collaboration than is suggested by the term "Voice" alone. Including "Opera" in the name of the department more inclusively acknowledges the faculty's diverse expertise, including stage directors and coaches/conductors, as well as the breadth of the faculty's various teaching disciplines, and; 2) faculty report that a significant majority of prospective students routinely inquire about opera opportunities at SMTD, suggesting that opera is a strong driver of recruitment, and an important component of the career aspirations for many young singers. This proposed name change, along with a significant revamping of content on the department web page (currently in-progress), will enhance the department's recruitment efforts and highlight SMTD's long-standing reputation as an institution that is known for excellence in opera. The proposed change was supported unanimously by department faculty.

We recommend approval of the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance that the Department of Voice be renamed as the Department of Voice & Opera, effective January 1, 2024.

Recommended By:



David Gier
Paul Boylan Collegiate Professor of Music
and Dean, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Recommendation Endorsed By:



Laurie K. McCauley
Provost and Executive Vice
President for Academic Affairs