

January 31, 2002

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Cappelluti:

I am very grateful to receive the prize named in memory of your son, Christian. I am a tenor currently in my second year of study at Wake Forest. I live in the mountains of North Carolina, and often am asked to perform at local restaurants, parties, and churches. This semester I am enrolled in several music classes including Music History II, Music Theory IV, Concert Choir, and Individual Voice Lessons. I am also continuing my studies of Italian with Corrado Corradini, a native of Torino. Next spring I plan to study abroad in Venice with the Wake Forest Politics Department.

My musical experiences at the University have been terrific thus far. The curriculum is challenging and the performances are satisfying. I appreciate being challenged in the classroom and in performance venues. I just finished auditioning for a musical theatre production being performed in April. Also, I will be singing Beethoven's "Adelaide" in a school-wide competition February 23rd, and on March 5th I will be performing "O Sole Mio" with the Wake Forest Orchestra. I am very pleased with my private voice instructor, tenor Richard Heard. Last summer we were able to study voice for many hours a day without the pressure of classes. Such a healthy working environment made for a fulfilling summer of exploration and learning, and I hope to repeat that experience this summer or the next.

After I obtain an undergraduate degree from Wake Forest, I plan to enter a graduate program for vocal performance. Then I want to begin auditioning for regional opera companies and teaching students of my own. Ultimately, I would like to hold a job in a large opera company, either in the United States or in Europe. Continuing my study of music at Wake Forest is just the first of many steps ahead. You have been a wonderful help in giving me the chance to further my study of music. I am very thankful for this prize and hope that I will be able to show my gratitude in person in the future.

Sincerely,

Joseph Hipps

Joseph Hipps

Thank you!!