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## 02/02/1988 - June Johnson

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June Johnson



**FILE COPY**

DR. JOHNSON TO RETIRE

A musical career which included 28 years at Eastern Illinois University, will end in July when Dr. June Johnson retires.

Well known for her singing roles and direction of various operas and musicals, she currently serves as Professor of Voice and Opera and Coordinator of Graduate Studies & the Vocal Area for the Department of Music.

Johnson received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Juilliard School of Music in 1949 and her Masters of Music on a graduate fellowship from the University of Kansas the following year.

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JOHNSON RETIRES

As a Fulbright Scholar, she studied at the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin from 1958-59 and in 1967 earned her Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Illinois. She also held a scholarship for two summers at the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies and was honored with a National Endowment for the Arts Grant at the University of Virginia. Other honors have included a Distinguished Faculty Award, by selection of the EIU Faculty in 1978; a Certificate for Distinguished Teaching in 1986; and selection as Faculty Marshall for the recent Fall Commencement ceremony at EIU.

She considers her performances on campus as Ruth in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance" and Golde in "Fiddler on the Roof" highlights of her career. However, she's equally proud of starting the Metropolitan Opera District Auditions nineteen years ago. In recognition of this effort the MET had her as a guest for a week of Opera and the Final Auditions in New York City a few years ago. "It was a great week," she recalls.

In her EIU office, she proudly displays a gallery of some of her students who have gone on to success in the musical world.

She says today's aspiring musicians, because of the tremendous competition out there, need to "really" prepare themselves and concentrate on discipline, languages, have an understanding of what they're singing about and practice, practice, practice! She also urges them to attend as many professional performances as possible.

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JOHNSON RETIRES

Having put herself through six years of college, she says there's no secret to success. Students must be determined, disciplined, and above all talented!

Although she feels the elimination of music in the high schools has hurt students going into the musical profession, she feels music is making a comeback.

So what's next? Although music will always be a keystone of her life, Johnson is looking forward to some overseas travel and visiting "two beautiful grandchildren" in Nevada.

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Note to Editor: (Danbury, Ct.) Dr. June (Durkin) Johnson, formerly of Danbury, is the sister of Rita Ginty of Danbury.