



April 25, 2015

Dear Future Hero,

Are you an opera fan? Do you enjoy church choir? Are you a supporter of higher education and pursuing a dream? If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, read on!

This is Richard Hodges writing to you. You may know me from my time as a high school chorus teacher, community singer (church choir, opera, and theater), volunteer and graduate student. It's been my dream to sing since attending the Greensboro Opera Camp at the age of 14. I have never stopped pursuing my dream and will complete my Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from UNCG in May.

Now, I have an opportunity to springboard my career. The American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria has invited me to participate in their prestigious, intensive summer opera program. It includes doing top rate performances and exposure to opera scouts from around the world. This is my big chance! As you can imagine, though, my work as a public school teacher and studies in graduate school have left my (coffers/bank account) bare.

If 100 supporters will each contribute \$100, I can accept an offer to the AIMS program and cover tuition, air fare, costuming, and the prospect of visiting professional performers in Europe. I'm calling this group "Hodges Heroes," because they are truly my heroes. They are providing an opportunity I could never imagine otherwise, and will jump start my entrance into the world of opera as I've always dreamed. Please become a Hodges Hero and make a tax-deductible \$100 contribution to my AIMS account by the tuition deadline of May 16! You can do this online or by check (details are attached to this letter).

As a Hodges Hero, you'll be invited to a garden party at the home of Pam Murphy on May 16. You and fellow Heroes will enjoy light refreshments while I serenade your generosity, friendship, and faith in me. To see what other Heroes are saying, look on the card labeled Hodges Heroes.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about me, my dream, and how you can help. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (336) 508-2378 or send an email to hodgesheroes@gmail.com. You can also go to the AIMS website at www.aimsgraz.com. Attached you will find a card labeled "4 Ways to Give" which will aid in the giving process. I hope you'll see my photo on their website after this summer!

With grateful appreciation,

Richard L. Hodges