



A Notable Woman - Marjorie Phelps Gerson Kampenga

During her 18-year career on UWSP's music faculty, Marjorie Phelps Gerson Kampenga's reputation spread widely. A graduate student in music at University of Eau Claire described her as "the finest vocal teacher in the state."

"Mrs. Gerson," as she was known while on the faculty between 1966 and 1984, was a seasoned educator and performer by the time she came to Stevens Point.

Her professional training was received at Oberlin Conservatory, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and the Eastman School of Music.

In 1941 she was a finalist at the Metropolitan Opera in competition sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs. A year later, she won the \$1,000 Luccioni Opera Award.

She sang professionally for quite a few years, and her voice was heard across the country, from some of the most powerful radio stations in operation. With the advent of television, she received invitations for a new round of shows, mostly from New York stations.

As a teacher, she served on the faculties at Drake University in Iowa, Mac Murray College in Illinois and the Cleveland Institute of Music before coming to Stevens Point.

Her career did not end at her retirement. She continued to coach local vocalists, give some private lessons and do some part-time teaching at the Wausau Conservatory.

She and retired UWSP librarian/ archivist Nelis Kampenga married and lived on Sunset Boulevard. They were active travelers and frequent concertgoers.