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February 23, 2010

Professor James A Winn
Foundation Director
Boston University Humanities Foundation
725 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

Dear Professor Winn,

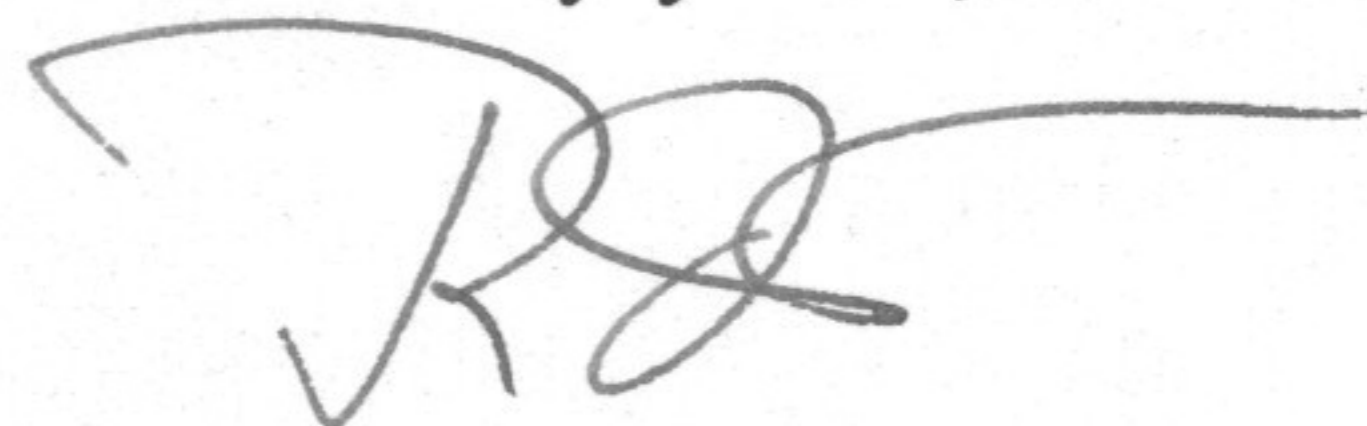
Opera, a truly interdisciplinary art form, encompasses a broad range of humanities disciplines, as well as the visual and performing arts. Deborah Burton's fascinating project, *Fanciulla 100*, its creation, development, and focus on Giacomo Puccini's "American" opera, *The Girl of the Golden West (La Fanciulla del West)*, including a symposium of invited participants to be held at Boston University, is made possible by Dr. Burton's vision, energy and exceptional knowledge in the field.

This highly innovative project has the potential to leave a large and important legacy for artists, scholars and members of the public interested in understanding this work, and opera in general, within a larger reality. I also imagine that BU, as a university with an expressed interest in maintaining a global perspective, should happily endorse an endeavor that will bring to Boston international scholars focusing their attention on a subject of such wide potential interest.

A significant scholar with a strong theoretical foundation, Deborah Burton is the ideal person to lead this project. In addition, I understand that she is a close friend of Simonetta Puccini (Puccini's granddaughter), whom she has already brought to BU several years ago. I am hopeful that this can happen again as part of the proposed symposium. In any case, the instructional program of the BU School of Music can only benefit greatly through the presentation of *Fanciulla 100*.

I urge the Humanities Foundation to consider Dr. Burton's proposal favorably. In so doing, it will support interdisciplinary research at a very high level.

Sincerely yours,



Robert K. Dodson
Director, School of Music