On March 20, I was invited to give a presentation to the University of Michigan Board of Regents. During my preparation, I was struck once again at what a truly remarkable place Michigan is. Here are some highlights of what I discussed:

- **February 28:** With the last chord of Mahler’s 5th Symphony reverberating in the Carnegie Hall acoustic, the audience—Michigan alumni, Regents, friends, donors, parents—rose to our feet in spontaneous celebration of these wonderful students, their School and University. That a student orchestra can have this kind of experience, in this kind of setting, with this kind of enthusiastic support—says much about what makes the University of Michigan extraordinary. (See p. 2)

- **Our uniqueness comes from our grounding as a great performing arts program at a great public university. There are no other cases.** This double-barreled strength is our defining characteristic, and brings to us enormously talented, intellectually curious and fully engaged students from around the world.

- **We are the most selective undergraduate unit on campus.** Of the students who audition, on average only 20% are admitted.

- **We are proud of our students’ diversity:** over 10% of our undergraduate population is underrepresented. We have the best diversity profile of faculty & students among our peer music schools.

- **Our faculty includes legendary figures who continue to be professionally active in their disciplines.** This last year we successfully recruited from two of the world’s great symphony orchestras—Cleveland and Philadelphia (see p. 7)—and the Metropolitan Opera. Our Theory Department is considered one of the finest in the country. We have historians and ethnomusicologists making major contributions in their research. Our music education faculty train teachers for our state’s public schools. In sum, our faculty are fully, deeply invested in the excellence of the institution and to their teaching mission.

- **We contribute an amazing wealth of performing arts events, over 400 annually, to the University and the region, and most are free.** Also, our school offers more class credits for non-majors than any other unit at U-M except LS&A. We consider these central to our mission of service to the University and community.

- **Students at Michigan have an incredible drive to give back to the world.** This month, Arts Enterprise, a collaboration between Ross School of Business and Music, Theatre & Dance students, will undertake a service-learning project to support New Orleans education and revitalization efforts post-Hurricane Katrina. (See p. 12)

As we wrap up another exciting academic year, it’s gratifying to take measure of our accomplishments and to share news of the School’s ongoing successes.

Bravo Blue,

Christopher Kendall, Dean