

About the Joshua Ray Hudson Scholarship

The Joshua Ray Hudson Memorial Scholarship provides scholarship money to students participating in the Music Ministry at Centenary UMC. It serves as outreach to unusually talented music students and aims to give professional development opportunities to young musicians whose careers may involve sacred music performance. The objective of the scholarship is to encourage young singers to pursue development in choral singing and to build a sacred music choral repertoire.

It was established to honor the memory of voice student Joshua Hudson, who was killed in an automobile accident May 9, 2006 at the age of 22.

A student of Dr. Marilyn Taylor, Mr. Hudson, a tenor and college senior at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, was in the midst of a starring role in the production of Offenbach's "Orpheus in the Underworld" at the time of the accident that took his life. He also was a section leader, soloist and member of the Sanctuary and Chancel Choirs at Centenary United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem and made his professional debut with Piedmont Opera Company as the Messenger in Verdi's Un Ballo in Maschera in the fall of 2005. Mr. Hudson was the 2006 recipient of the Ruth Myers Pleasants Endowed Scholarship in Opera and in previous years had been awarded the Bill and Judy Watson Endowed Scholarship in Music, the Gianna Rolandi Scholarship in Voice, the Diana Dyer Wilson Endowed Scholarship in Voice, the Ira and Ruth Julian Scholarship, the Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina Scholarship and the Music Dean's Grant. "Joshua's entire artistic life as an adult was at the North Carolina School of the Arts and we want to make sure his life is remembered in perpetuity. His bright light was taken too soon and by establishing this endowed scholarship, we hope to inspire other young artists," said Steven LaCosse, Managing Director of the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute.