“She was absolutely driven to help young singers become great performers,” says former managing director for Opera Columbus. “She was remarkably outgoing and would take command with great style.”

Professor Cooper was one of the first women to become a member of the NATS Foundation Board.

During her long career Irma Cooper taught at The Ohio State University School of Music, was a founder of the Institute of Musical Studies in Austria and was co-founder of Opera Columbus. In addition to being a co-founder of Opera Columbus, Ms. Cooper was Director of the Opera Columbus Vocal Competition and served on the Opera Columbus Board of Trustees, where she was honored as a Life Trustee. Professor Cooper was head of the AIMS voice faculty and Chairman of the AIMS Board of Directors from its inception until her death in 2002.

The Irma Cooper Endowment Fund for International Studies in Music was established April 5, 2002, by the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University with gifts from Professor Cooper, who was at that time Professor Emeritus in the School of Music.

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