

In Memoriam

HARRY BERV, 1911-2005

French hornist Harry Berv, who taught during summer sessions for many years at the School of Music, died on October 22, 2005 at his home in suburban New York.

Berv was well known as one of three brothers who played in the NBC Symphony under the legendary Arturo Toscanini. Harry attended the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia where he played in the orchestra under Fritz Reiner and studied horn with Anton Horner. When Harry and his brother Jack graduated from Curtis, they both auditioned for the Philadelphia Orchestra, under Leopold Stokowski, and won positions there. Their older brother Arthur was already Philadelphia's principal horn. When, in 1937, Toscanini was hired by RCA to come to New York to

form the now legendary NBC Symphony Orchestra, he was given *carte blanche* to hire players from major orchestras around the world. During his first year at NBC, he was a guest conductor with the Philadelphia Orchestra and encountered the Berv brothers. Later backstage, the three were presented with contracts to sign—taking their respective annual salaries from less than \$2,000 to \$14,000 with the stroke of a pen. "Money was no object," Berv told *The Ann Arbor News* in 1984. But for the Berv brothers, it was a Faustian deal, and after one rehearsal with the tyrannical conductor all three asked to be relieved of their contracts to return to Philadelphia. The release, however, was not



Harry Berv

granted, and thus began sixteen years with the NBC Symphony. "Every day was a new day," Berv said. "You never

knew what was going to happen when you walked in [to a rehearsal]. You were only as good as your last note." When Toscanini died and the NBC Orchestra was disbanded, Berv played with *The Tonight Show* Orchestra under Skitch Henderson and performed in programs like *The Bell Telephone Hour* and *The Ed Sullivan Show*. He also began to devote more time to teaching, at Juilliard, Columbia, New York University, the Westchester Conservatory of Music, and summer sessions at Michigan. John Strobel, MM '60, DMA '68, attended a recital by Berv as a graduate student at Michigan. "Such a

beautiful, big tone!" he remembers. "And he sounded so secure on every note it seemed like a missed note must be impossible. He didn't try to amaze you with lightning-fast technique, he just played everything the way it should be played; and so musically. At that time I had no idea that within the next few years he was to be my teacher and a lifelong treasured family friend." Berv's recordings include all the NBC Symphony works under Toscanini as well as recordings with Frank Sinatra, Duke Ellington, and Jack and Charlie Teagarden. His book, *A Creative Approach to the French Horn*, was published by Chappell Music. (With many thanks to John Strobel)

FRANCES GREER, 1917-2005

Frances Greer, who made her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1942 in *La Bohème*, as Musetta, her signature role, died at Glacier Hills Retirement Village on June 28, 2005. Greer was born the eldest of seven children in Piggott, Arkansas. Her first voice lessons were with her father. She entered state singing contests and won them all, but was rejected by her home state university. "She bummed a ride to Baton Rouge, LA, where she sang for the dean and won three scholarships to Louisiana State University," wrote Don Faber in *The Ann Arbor News* in a 2000 interview with Greer. At LSU she sang opera and worked with the voice faculty, hon



Frances Greer with voice scholarship recipient Brian Pfaltzgraff

ing her instrument. When Pasquale Amato, a baritone with the Met, came to LSU to start an opera department, Greer had a connection to the big time. By 1940, she was the leading soprano for the Philadelphia Opera Co., singing under Sir Thomas Beecham, Bruno Walter, and Eugene Ormandy. "I made my professional debut under [Ormandy]," she told Faber. "I had won a contest and earned the right to sing with the Philadelphia Orchestra." After two years with the Philadelphia Opera Co., Greer moved on to the Met, where she was a lead soprano from 1942-1950. Greer recorded 13 albums, mostly musical operettas with RCA Victor, and made several appearances at Carnegie Hall. For years she was the featured singer on CBS's Friday evening radio program, *Musicland USA*. "I sang anything they told me to," she told Faber, "including *Begin the Beguine* and *Smoke Gets in Your*

Eyes." In 1954, Earl V. Moore, then Dean of the School of Music, invited her to join the voice faculty. During her tenure, from 1954 to 1962, Greer would often perform recitals, sometimes accompanied by colleague Eugene Bossart, Earl V. Moore Professor [Emeritus] of Chamber Music & Accompaniment. Shortly after arriving in Ann Arbor, Ms. Greer met industrialist Frederick C. Matthaei who was then a Regent for the University; the two later married. In 1997, the Frances Greer Scholarship in Voice was created by Ms. Greer to support outstanding voice performance majors. "I've had such a life," Greer told Faber, "and I'm proud of every year of my age." Donations in support of the Frances Greer Scholarship in Voice (payable to the U of M) may be sent to the School of Music, Office of Development, 2005 Baits Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2075.

ROSEMARY RUSSELL, 1935-2005

Rosemary Russell, long time member of the voice faculty who retired in 2002, died on November 12, 2005 at St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor. She was born in Bauxite, Arkansas, but spent most of her childhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She attended Westminster Choir College where she received a bachelor's and master's in music. She later earned a master's degree from the University of Michigan. Rosemary joined the faculty at the University of Michigan in 1965 as lecturer, and progressed through the ranks as instructor, assistant professor, and associate professor. During her tenure, Professor Russell served as coordinator of the Department of Voice from 1986-1999 and Chair from 2000-2002. She also served as administrator of the All-State Program and as a faculty member and performer at the Interlochen Center for the Arts. She had sung with all of the major choral and instrumental ensembles at the University and had appeared on the University of Michigan television network. Professor Russell frequently served as an adjudicator for various vocal competitions, among them the Metropolitan Opera Regional Competitions and the Leontyne Price Vocal



Rosemary Russell

Competition. Prior to joining the University, she was an instructor at Westminster Choir College, visiting lecturer at Princeton Theological Seminary, and instructor at Eastern Michigan University. In addition to her dedication and superior performance as a teacher of undergraduate and graduate students in voice, she possessed a magnificent mezzo-soprano voice and had a successful career as a professional singer, performing as a soloist in the major symphonic works and oratorios. These performances included appearances with the Detroit Symphony, Mozarteum of Salzburg, Prague Chamber Orchestra, Rhode Island Philharmonic, Scandinavian Symphony, Aspen Festival Orchestra, and numerous other community orchestras throughout Michigan. Ms. Russell sang leading roles in *Madame Butterfly*, *Faust*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Wozzeck*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *La Vida Breve*, *Oedipus Rex*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and the American premiere of *The Bear* by William Walton. She sang recitals at universities around the country and was finalist for the NEA Solo Recitalist Program. She is survived by her nephew

Gilbert Thompson and many adoring friends. Rosemary was an avid sportswoman and held memberships at the Racquet Club of Ann Arbor and Radrick Farms Golf Course. She also was a member of the Women's City Club. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 17 at 1:00 pm in the Britton Recital Hall at the School of Music, 1100

Baits Drive. Contributions to the Rosemary Russell Endowed Scholarship Fund may be made payable to the University of Michigan and mailed to School of Music Development Office, 2005 Baits Drive, Ann Arbor MI 48109-2075 with the designation Rosemary Russell Endowed Scholarship Fund.

LOUIS STOUT, 1924-2005

Louis J. Stout, long-time Ann Arbor resident and Professor of Horn at the School of Music for 28 years, died of complications from diabetes in Omaha, NE, where he and his wife

Glennis had moved in 2004 to be close to their two sons and three grandchildren. Professor Stout joined the School of Music faculty in 1960, after a career as solo hornist with the Chicago Symphony, the Kansas City Philharmonic, the New Orleans Symphony, Radio City Music Hall Symphony, Sigmund Romberg Orchestra, and the North Carolina Sym-



Louis Stout



ing horns made from animal tusks to Alpine horns and onto the evolution of the modern horn.

Stout was the recipient of the Harold Haugh Award for outstanding studio teaching in 1977. Just last spring, Stout was honored in a celebration, Blazin' Brass, featuring Stout and an orchestra of 40 of his current and former students. After the performance, Stout was regaled with tributes that had been sent in by

Widely considered one of the foremost hornists, teachers, and clinicians of French horn in America, Stout's former students can be found performing in symphonies and on the faculty of major universities. Born in Hallspart, New York, he graduated from Wellsville High School in 1940, and earned a bachelor's degree at Ithaca College. His publications include *English Folk Songs* (Southern Music) and *Special Fingering for Horn*. He was also known for his lecture-demonstration, *The Horn: From the Forest to the Concert Hall*, which drew on his historic collection of over 50 horns and in which he would explain the development of the modern horn from its very earliest ancestors, from hunt-

former students and by "Louis Stout stories" told by those in attendance. Former student Willard Zirk, DMA '90, said at the time, "He could always be counted on and would show up at student concerts whenever he knew about them. He is devoted to his students and his students are devoted to him." A memorial service for Stout was held in Omaha on November 6, 2005. The School of Music hosted a memorial for him on December 5 as well.

Donations in his honor may be made to the Louis Stout Scholarship Fund (payable to the University of Michigan), and sent c/o the School of Music, Office of Development, 2005 Baits Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2075.

In Memoriam

1930s

ROBERT L. HUNERJAGER, BM '38 in music education, MM '42 in violin, died February 13, 2005

KENNETH V. KINCHELOE, BM '34, MM '37 in music education, died October 8, 2005

KATHRYN LOOMIS FRENCH died July 14, 2005

HAZEL M. PAALMAN, MM '35, in voice, died October 10, 2005

MARY ALICE POWER, BM '38, MM '43, in music education, died September 14, 2005

MARGARET G. TURNER, MM '33, in piano, died October 5, 2005

1940s

FRANK E. FISHER, BM, '40, MM '41 in violin, died September 10, 2005

CHARLES L. JACOBSON, MMUS, '47, in music education, died June 22, 2005

WILLIS A. JARVIS, MMUS, '47, in music education, died July 18, 2005

LOUIS P. McENDERFER, BM '49 in music education, died August 8, 2005

WILBUR J. PERRY, BM, '49, MM '51 in piano, died July 5, 2005

WILLIAM W. SCHOTTSTAEDT, BM '40, MM '41 in piano, died June 3, 2005

J. BERTRAM STRICKLAND, BM, '49, MM '50, in organ, died July 5, 2005

ELEANOR M. STULL, MM, '46, in music education, died July 23, 2005

1950s

CHARLES R. BALKEMA, died October 14, 2005

ANDREW J. BROEKEMA, BM, '53, MM '54 in voice, died July 30, 2005

MARGARET D. HIBBETT, BMUS, '51, in piano, died August 31, 05

WARREN F. PRINCE, MM, '59, in music theory, died August 19, 2005

DORINE R. REIFLER, BM, '54, in piano, died August 22, 2005

1960s

DR. BETH ANNA MEKOTA, Ph.D. '69, in musicology, died August 8, 2005

DONALD W. WILLIAMS, DMA '69, in organ, died September 22, 2005

1970s

BRIAN K. ETTER, MA '79, in musicology, died August 5, 2005

DR. PERCY G. KALT, DMA '73, in violin, died September 29, 2005

LAURA HOLLAND NADEL, BM '76, MM '77 in voice, died October 17, 2005

JOYCE ELAINE SMAR, MM '75 in flute, died August 21, 2005

1980s

SHARON M. STARLING, MA '81, in theatre, died September 23, 2005

1990s

SHARON J. STEPSON, BM '99, in flute and music history, died August 4, 2005