

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



SILVER, Martin Arnold

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1933-2009

Martin Silver passed away February 17, in his Goleta, California home. Born in the Bronx on June 12, 1933, he attended Evander Childs High School and later received a BA in Music from the City College of New York. In 1959, he set off for Europe, where he studied flute under Jean-Pierre Rampal at the Conservatoire de Paris. On his return he earned an MLS in Library Science from Columbia University, eventually landing at the New York Library for the Performing at Arts. He married Barbara Jean Ceizler and together they moved to Santa Barbara where Martin headed up the UC Santa Barbara Music Library for 25 years.



Martin ran the Music Library as both a first-class research laboratory and as a public service to the graduate and undergraduate student body, and brought it quickly to a position of high eminence. For a time he played DJ, hosting his own radio show "New Releases From the Arts Library" on KCSB-FM. He spent years on the board of Local 2141, American Federation of Teachers, struggling to get fair benefits, working conditions and representation for UCSB faculty (including Lecturers) and librarians, and helping to achieve the partial victory of contractual union representation which is now universal in the UC system. He also served a term as president of his national organization, the Association for Recorded Sound Collections, and was instrumental in bringing the film scores of his cousin, composer Bernard Herrmann, to UCSB Special Collections.

In his retirement he remained an accomplished flutist and carried on his specialized book business, Martin A. Silver Musical Literature.

For Martin's 75th birthday in June, vintner friend Stephan Bedford treated guests to a feast in Los Olivos. Friends Sir James Galway and Adrian Spence played impromptu flute duets in the summer heat for Martin's guests, who had traveled from around the world to attend.

Martin will be best remembered for his warmth and his sense of humor (and probably his taste for fine wine). He was a man of many talents who was never afraid to stand up for what he believed in - whether it was excellence in music performance or social justice for working people.

He is survived by his children, William Silver and fiancée Jennifer Ciraldo of Santa Barbara, Jessica Silver-Sharp and son-in-law Dennis Sharp of Redwood City, grandson Joshua Sharp, and sister Carole Silver and brother-in-law Norman Levy of New York and South Africa. Memorial donations may be made to the Ashland Chamber Music Workshop, 1250 Siskiyou, Ashland, OR, 97520. Memorial party at

Skofield Park, April 11, 2pm-6pm. Kindly RSVP to jesssilver@gmail.com, (650) 240-6560, or William,silverserv@gmail.com, by March 30.