A Program to Honor Professor Harold Protsman

The family and the Department of Music would like to welcome you, and thank you for joining us as we celebrate Harold’s life and legacy.

Please join us in the Atrium for a reception immediately following today’s program.

Acknowledgements:
New Leaf Florists, floral arrangements
Henry Faivre, piano tuning
Harold Jesse Protsman, 84, died peacefully in the presence of loved ones on August 22, 2017. Left to treasure his memory are his brother, Tom (Holly) Protsman, sister-in-law, Jamie Protsman, granddaughter, Dana Erin Protsman, great grandson, Mason H. Sadler, and a host loving relatives. Harold is predeceased by beloved daughter, Michelle Conus Protsman Trower, and brother, Daniel N. Protsman. A native of Lima, Ohio, Harold was born March 30, 1933 to the late Harold J. and Hattie E. (Lanker) Protsman. His love of piano began in the fourth grade and he went on to study with his mentor and friend Mme Olga Conus where his passion for piano and performance flourished. Harold received his Bachelor’s degree from the College of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1954 and moved on to receive the Master of Music degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Ohio, in 1956.

Harold’s lifelong career at Old Dominion University began in 1957 as an adjunct professor of piano and music history. He taught full time from 1970 until his retirement in 1995. He served as Chair of the Department of Music from 1977-1986 and led the department into its first National Association of Schools of Music membership. As Professor Emeritus, Harold continued to teach piano on an adjunct basis after his retirement until 2015. He was once quoted as saying it is the “special relationship that a piano teacher has with a piano student,” that motivated him. His passion for piano, performance, and teaching made a lasting impact on countless lives.

Harold performed many concerts as a chamber musician and an accompanist at ODU. He also performed at various locations around Norfolk and numerous college campuses, and ultimately at Carnegie Recital Hall, New York, NY. He was pianist with the Norfolk Chamber Consort and a frequent guest with the Feldman Quartet. Harold directed the Annual Classical Period Piano Competition for 18 years. In 2007 this competition was renamed in his honor. He stepped down as Director in 2012 but remained active as a judge and consultant.

He served as an officer/ board member for the Council of Arts Administrators in Virginia, the Virginia Opera Association, the Norfolk Civic Ballet, the Norfolk Society of Arts, the William and Mary Concert Series in Norfolk (President), the Norfolk Rotary Club, and Goodwill Industries of Tidewater. He was a founding board member and officer of the Freemason Street Area Association along with the Pagoda and Oriental Garden Foundation.

While much of his life was spent as a notable musician, dedicated teacher, and active member of the community it is also important to note his extreme love and compassion for all animals. It was without fail that he visited the elephants every year when the circus was in town. Harold also avidly donated and volunteered with the Norfolk SPCA and was a regular visitor of the animals there, providing comfort and friendship.

Harold will be greatly missed by all of us who knew, and loved him.