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Glenn Glasow

(1924-2002)

Dr. Glasow was born in 1924 in Pine City, Minnesota. As a young man, he played trumpet in dance bands in small towns in the Midwest. Becoming seriously interested in music as a career, he sought out distinguished composers to study with. He was a student of Ernst Krenek at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in music. In 1954, on a Fulbright grant to Detmold, Germany, he studied with Wolfgang Fortner and subsequently earned his PhD in music at the University of Illinois. His compositions include music for chorus, orchestra, electronics, chamber ensemble, and other media. Bay Area violinist Daniel Kobialka has recorded his composition, "Rakka."

Composer Robert Erickson, a fellow Hamline student, invited Glasow to Berkeley in 1959, to succeed him as Music Director of Pacifica radio station KPFA. Dr. Glasow remained in that position officially until 1961, afterwards continuing to assist the station. As Music Director, Glasow interviewed John Cage, Roger Sessions, Terry Riley, and other noted contemporary composers, and introduced listeners to new music that was then relatively unknown in the Bay Area.

Dr. Glasow was Professor Emeritus of Music and Asian Studies at California State University, East Bay, where he taught from 1961 to 1995. On his travels to Asia, particularly his frequent trips to Japan, he gathered material that enabled him to establish innovative courses in Asian and World Music at his university. His students, who came from as far away as Brazil, Italy, and Asia, found him welcoming and encouraging, and he maintained his friendship with many of them for years.

With Yoshiko Kakudo, Dr. Glasow translated a collection of essays by the Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu, "Confronting Silence," and a book of poetry by Shozo Kajima, "Evening Clearing."

Among his honors were an Elizabeth J. Freund Chamber Music Prize, an Institute of International Education Award, and a Danforth Scholarship for study in India. "He was a funny man with lots of depth. Or maybe one should say he was a man of great depth who wasn't afraid to be funny about it," said Ray Reeder, a colleague at Cal State. Fellow composer Charles Shere commented, "His intelligence, knowledge, and sympathies were demonstrable and entire. I hope this new loss to the community will alert us to the immediate need to interview -- and enjoy! -- such men and women. . . . But there are no more like Glenn."

Dr. Glasow is survived by his daughters, Catherine Glasow, of Albany, and Patricia Glasow, of El Cerrito; a sister, Lucille Gulbrandson, of Waco, Texas; and his long-time companion Yoshiko Kakudo, of Oakland.

Glenn Glasow, a music educator and composer known for his wry sense of humor and his dedication to his students, died July 28, 2002. He was 78.

Gifts can be made to the "CSUEB Music Trust Fund" marked for the "GG Alumni Concert Series."

In his memory, the Glenn Glasow Memorial Concert Series presents an Annual Alumni/Faculty Composers
Concert
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