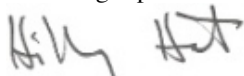


## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR  
RAYMOND D. CRISARA**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Raymond Crisara, professor emeritus, College of Fine Arts, Butler School of Music, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Hillary Hart, Secretary  
General Faculty and Faculty Council

**IN MEMORIAM  
RAYMOND D. CRISARA**

Raymond D. Crisara, one of the great musical artists of the twentieth century, approached music and life with an elegance, refinement, and humility that deeply affected all those who were fortunate enough to know and work closely with him. His distinctive and beautiful trumpet performances spanned the full range of musical genres and the highest realms of the art form, from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, to the NBC Symphony under the baton of Arturo Toscanini, to the house band of the Dick Cavett show, to collaborations with popular artists like Paul McCartney and Alice Cooper.

He joined the faculty of what is now the Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music in 1978, and for twenty-three years, until his retirement at age eighty, was a beloved and respected leader in the institution. The first member of the music faculty to be inducted into UT Austin's Academy of Distinguished Teachers, Professor Crisara cultivated an internationally acclaimed trumpet studio, attracting exceptionally talented students who went on to become teachers and performers of considerable renown.

Born in 1920 in Cortland, New York, the son of a tradesman who conducted the town band, Crisara began trumpet study at the age of ten, learning from a senior member of the band whom he sat beside in the ensemble. Following high school, he began formal study at the Ernest Williams Winter School and Summer Camp, and soon became a soloist with the Seventh Regiment Band at Camp Smith, New York, conducted by a former cornet soloist with the Sousa Band. He later entered the University of Michigan as a trumpet teaching assistant under the famed band conductor, William Revelli.

After touring as a solo cornetist with the Edwin Franko Goldman Band, he was offered the principal trumpet position in New York's Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. He was nineteen years old. Crisara was drafted in 1942 and became part of a United States Army Special Services Orchestra in New York that performed in films, records, VDiscs, and radio broadcasts. After his discharge in 1946, Crisara joined the NBC Symphony Orchestra led by Arturo Toscanini, where he played alongside a trumpeter Crisara described as one of his most influential mentors, Harry Glanz. Crisara said of Glanz, "You would have to be deaf and have the sensitivity of a statue not to learn from him. He was a ... glorious player."

Crisara became one of the most active and sought-after trumpet performers in New York City playing a wide range of engagements. He was a member of the staff orchestras of NBC and ABC, and he played under many of the legendary conductors of the century: Toscanini, Leopold Stokowski, Leonard Bernstein, and Robert Shaw. He performed and recorded Igor Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* in Carnegie Hall with the composer conducting, an engagement he cited as one of the highlights of his career.

Crisara's distinctively clear and seemingly effortless playing can be heard on countless recordings, from Broadway cast albums to Robert Russell Bennett's *Victory at Sea*. In addition to commercial jingles and television series soundtracks, he played in the studio bands of television shows hosted by Jack Parr, Dick Cavett, Perry Como, and Sid Caesar.

His devotion to music and love of people created an indelible influence at The University of Texas at Austin and in the Butler School, a legacy that affects students and faculty to this day. Students in his trumpet studio became part of the Crisara family, and his devotion to them and to their growth and development extended beyond the art of music making. It seems fitting that Billy Hunter, who began studying with Professor Crisara as a high school student in Austin, now holds Crisara's former chair as principal trumpet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

Ray Crisara died on 25 May 2014 at the age of ninety-three. A man of great character and plainspoken integrity, he touched many of our lives, as an inspirational teacher, a wise and caring mentor, and a dear and loving friend.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Robert A. Duke (chair), Jerry F. Junkin, and Jeffrey L. Hellmer.

Distributed to the dean of the College of Fine Arts on September 3, 2015, and posted under "Memorials" at <http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/>.