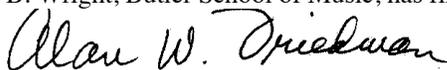


DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
DONALD B. WRIGHT**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Associate Professor Donald B. Wright, Butler School of Music, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**IN MEMORIAM
DONALD B. WRIGHT**

Associate Professor Donald B. Wright died just a few days before his eighty-ninth birthday. He was born on December 2, 1927, to Donald and Laura Wright in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He attended Harrisburg schools where he found his calling as a professional violist. Don also had a passion for collecting antiques, focusing on collecting decoys, quilts, Indian silver, art, and rugs. He received his degrees and the Performer's Diploma from the Eastman School of Music.

A first-rate viola artist, Don received acclaim from composer Samuel Adler as well as conductors he performed under. These included Eric Leinsdorf, Leopold Stokowski, Sir Thomas Beecham, and Pierre Monteux. In 1963, he was invited to perform in chamber music concerts at the renowned Marlboro Music Festival, where he also fulfilled recording engagements under the direction of Pablo Casals. He has three YouTube postings of his performance, including the Hindemith Viola Sonata, the Brahms Viola Sonata, and the Michael Colgrass "Variations for Four Drums and Viola." The postings are available for listening and study by audiences worldwide. His obituary quotes from several reviews of his performances which demonstrate that his talent was admired in both the United States and Europe. From *The London Times*: "Donald Wright, American violist, demonstrated a substantial and well varied programme that he commands with a capable technique and a resonant, clear, and flexible tone." From *The London Daily Telegraph*: "Mr. Wright produced the penetrating quality of tone which can speak straight to the heart."

Don performed as principal viola with the Austin Symphony Orchestra for approximately forty years. During most of those years he also served as head of the viola program in the Department of Music at The University of Texas at Austin. He had a dry sense of humor, which often caused others not to know if he was being serious or jesting. For example, at a rehearsal of the Austin Symphony, the orchestra was in the pit, accompanying a film. Don became frustrated, stood up during the rehearsal, and announced, "My light is dimmer than everyone else's." At that the orchestra laughed for several minutes.

Donald had many successes in life, but also faced tragedy in his personal and family affairs. He was married and had two sons, both of whom preceded him in death. His wife, Paula, died approximately a year after Don. There is a Fellowship in the Department of Anthropology in honor of Peyton and Douglas, their two sons.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors George Frock (Chair, Professor Emeritus), and Martha Hilley, both in the Butler School of Music at The University of Texas at Austin.

Distributed to the Dean of the College of Fine Arts on September 4, 2018, and posted under "Memorial Resolutions" at <https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home>.