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In Memoriam: Joseph Wilcox Jenkins

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In Memoriam

Dr. Joseph Willcox Jenkins

The faculty, staff, and students of the Mary Pappert School of Music mourn the loss of Dr. Joseph Willcox Jenkins, who passed away on January 31, 2014, at the age of 85.

Jenkins was born near Philadelphia, PA on February 15, 1928. He began his musical studies at the age of 6 and began composing music while in elementary school. He completed a degree in pre-law at Saint Joseph's University, bachelor's and master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music (where he studied under Howard Hanson), and a doctorate in music from the Catholic University of America. In addition, he studied composition and counterpoint with Vincent Persichetti at the Philadelphia Conservatory.

During the Korean War era, Jenkins served in the Army, holding positions on the arranging staff of the Army Field Band and as Chief Arranger for the U.S. Army Chorus.

In 1961, he joined the music faculty in the Mary Pappert School of Music where he taught theory, orchestration, and composition. Jenkins remained a full-time faculty member in the music school for 46 years and was ultimately named Professor Emeritus, continuing to teach courses and mentor students through the fall of 2012.

Jenkins was professionally recognized numerous times throughout his career as a musician and educator. He was honored for 2 decades with the ASCAP Serious Music Award and was also presented with the Omicron Delta Kappa Teacher of the Year Award in 2000. In February 2013, the School of Music honored Jenkins with a special birthday luncheon in celebration of his career, accomplishments, and years of service to the school and its students.

In addition to teaching, Jenkins was a noted composer of more than 200 instrumental and vocal works, many of which received their premieres at the School of Music. These include Jenkins' *Requiem Mass, Opus 198*, which received its premiere in April 2001 in blessed memory of (former Duquesne President and Chancellor) Rev. Henry McAnulty, C.S.Sp, and *Nunc Dimittis*, which was premiered in 2004 by the Trombone Ensemble in honor of the late Matty Shiner, Professor Emeritus of the School of Music. In October 2012, Professor Emerita Christine Jordanoff led the Voices of Spirit in the world premiere of one of Jenkins' newest choral works, *An Advent Psalm*.

Jenkins also served as organist and choir director at various local faith communities, including St. Bernard Catholic Church in Mt. Lebanon, PA, the Presbyterian Church of Sewickley, PA, and Rodef Shalom Temple in Shadyside, a neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Jenkins influenced the lives of countless students and faculty colleagues alike. His dedication to those students and colleagues, along with his passion for music has created a legacy that will continue to live on and enrich the lives of future musicians.

Jenkins was a noted composer of more than two hundred instrumental and vocal works, many of which received their premieres at the Mary Pappert School of Music.
