

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROBERT CRANE**

Robert Crane, professor of composition and music theory in the School of Music from 1950-1990, died on Sunday, December 21, 2003, in Seattle at the age of 83.

Born on December 24, 1919 in Winchester, Massachusetts, Professor Crane earned his undergraduate degree in composition at Oberlin College Conservatory. Following his study with Nadia Boulanger as a scholarship student at the Longy School in Boston, Bob served in the US Army in World War II as a radio repairman in the 350th Infantry Regiment. He subsequently earned his Ph.D. in composition from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester where he studied with Howard Hanson. Professor Crane taught classes in composition, theory, and music history/literature during his long tenure on the faculty of the School of Music. As a composer, he was widely performed across the United States including performances by the Eastman Wind Ensemble and the Seattle Symphony, which premiered his *Sinfonietta* in 2001.

Bob had a prodigious memory and a deadly accurate musician's ear. A colleague recalled sitting next to Bob during a University Symphony Orchestra rehearsal of one of his works. The second trumpet player was late to the rehearsal, so Bob filled in the missing trumpet part from memory, singing perfectly in time and in balance with the rest of the ensemble without batting an eyelash.

Professor Crane was a member of many professional music organizations and societies including the American Musicology Society, Music Library Association, University Composers Exchange, Wisconsin Music Educators Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, national music fraternity.

Robert's beloved wife of nearly 60 years, Jessie Crane, passed away in 2001. They are survived by three daughters, Susan Crane, Pamela Williams, and Penelope Crane; and by two sons, Peter and Andrew Crane. The memory of his kindness, generosity, and gentle good humor will be cherished by all who knew him.

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