

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR VARTAN MANOOGIAN

Vartan Manoogian, 27-year artist-violin faculty member of the UW-Madison School of Music, died unexpectedly of pneumonia and cardiac arrest in Valencia, Spain on July 12, 2007. Professor Manoogian had appeared as soloist, ensemble musician, concertmaster and conductor on five continents and had deeply touched many lives through his rigorous but caring teaching.

Born in 1936 of political-refugee Armenian parents in Baghdad, Iraq, Manoogian began his violin training as a child. At age 16 he studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris, where he attended master classes of the renowned violinist-composer George Enescu and won first prize with distinction. He subsequently earned his master's degree at the Juilliard School in New York City, where he studied violin with famed pedagogue Ivan Galamian and chamber music with members of the Juilliard String Quartet.

Manoogian launched his career in Europe, serving as associate concertmaster of the Lausanne (Switzerland) Chamber Orchestra and concertmaster of L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. In this country, he was a member of the Claremont String Quartet and artist-in-residence at the North Carolina School of the Arts and taught at Indiana University. He performed in Japan, South America and Armenia and at festivals throughout the United States and Europe. He premiered compositions by major contemporary composers and was often the dedicatee of new works. Among Manoogian's many awards recognizing his artistry was a 1976 Emmy for a Mozart violin concerto performance on educational television.

Manoogian was appointed professor of violin at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1980. He performed a wide range of classical and new music, including repertoire for violin alone, solo violin with orchestra and chamber ensembles in which he performed with other esteemed musicians and with students. His intense music making within a poised yet powerful performance style often drew large, highly appreciative audiences. His presentation of demanding works for violin alone, such as those by Béla Bartók, Eugène Ysaÿe and J. S. Bach, displayed his ability to convey convincingly an unusual depth of musical understanding and a highly impressive mastery of his instrument.

Manoogian attracted many outstanding students to his studio, from freshmen through the doctoral level, and they came from Wisconsin, across the U.S. and around the world. His passionate teaching combined many elements of his musicianship and pedagogical perspective: a thorough command of his own training and unique personality; a striving for excellence through disciplined approach to problem solving and technical mastery; an incisive development of the creative imagination; and one-to-one mentoring that extended far beyond the student's degree program. His graduates include many chamber musicians and professional orchestra members and teachers. Manoogian founded, directed and performed with Philomusica, a string orchestra of outstanding undergraduate and graduate students. In addition to his teaching and performing activities on campus, he gave many master classes and performances throughout the world, most especially at Madeline Island Music Camp, where he had been artistic director since 2000, and in Spain, which he visited regularly.

Manoogian's pedagogical and artistic legacy continues through his publications: a video *Guide to Orchestral Bowing through Musical Styles*, on which he collaborated as violinist/conductor; the four-volume *Foundations of Violin Technique*, published in both English and Spanish; a 2004 two-disc recording of J. S. Bach's solo violin sonatas and partitas; and a posthumously released CD of trios for three violins by prominent Netherlandish composer Henk Badings (on which Manoogian plays all parts), representing an unfinished massive recording project of the composer's complete *Trio-Cosmos* of 1980-82.

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Perhaps, the most important part of Vartan's legacy is that which he leaves through the many people whose lives he touched. This was evident by the great outpouring of reactions and testimonials by his students and other admirers, expressing thoughts such as "forever shaped my skills and knowledge of the violin," "my mentor and my idol," "grateful that my life has been touched in such a profound way," "he shared with us humor and joy, and his passion for the music," "a true inspiration in all forms, and his legacy will spread through many," and "he will be most missed."

Vartan Manoogian is survived by his artist-wife of 40 years, Brigitte, and their pianist-son, Avedis, with whom he often performed, and by his older brothers, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem; Hamazasp, of Phoenix, Arizona; Sooren, of La Crescenta, California; and Khachig, of Los Angeles, California; his sister, Zovig Devletian, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and their families. On September 29, 2007, with his wife and son present, Manoogian's ashes were spread on the Mediterranean Sea, and his Spanish students played music in his honor. A public concert in tribute to Professor Manoogian was presented at the UW-Madison School of Music on November 1, 2007, featuring the premiere of a concerto named in memory of Manoogian by prominent Spanish composer Zulema de la Cruz. Manuel Guillén, Vartan's former student, was the soloist with the 25-piece Philomusica under the direction of Professor James Smith. Another highlight of the program was Guillén's and Avedis Manoogian's performance of one of Vartan's favorite works, Claude Debussy's "Sonata for violin and piano."

Vartan Manoogian's life strongly touched many people locally, statewide, nationally and internationally as well as at UW-Madison. He will long be greatly missed by many.

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