

# Memorial Resolution

Dr. Werner Manheim

Emeritus Professor of French and German

Dr. Werner Manheim, D.F.A., Dr. hc. lit. (Taiwan), 90, Emeritus Professor of French and German at IPFW, died at his home in Fort Wayne on April 21, 2005. Born February 17, 1915 in Lissa, Posen (today Poland), the son of pharmacist Martin Manheim and his wife Else (née Schneider), Werner Manheim grew up in Berlin, Germany, studied at the Jewish Teachers' Seminar and received the elementary school teaching certificate from the University of Berlin. In Berlin he taught sports and physical education at the Mädchen Gymnasium. He was able to immigrate to the United States in 1937, as did his sister, Hilde, but their parents died in the Holocaust.

Throughout his life he studied music, first in Berlin, then at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, where he received the Bachelor of Music in 1940 and the Master of Music in 1941. Serving for over four years in military intelligence with the U. S. Army during World War II, he was stationed in Belgium, where he met his beloved wife, Mie, Emilienne (née Housiaux) who preceded him in death in 1994. Upon his return to the United States, Dr. Manheim completed the Doctor of Fine Arts degree at Roosevelt University in Chicago in 1950, where he studied under Dr. Rudolph Ganz. His dissertation discussed the songs of Gustav Mahler. After serving as Teaching Assistant in German at the University of California, Berkeley and at the University of Illinois in Urbana, he became Assistant Professor of German and Music at Indiana University in East Chicago.

From 1958 until his retirement in 1983 he was Assistant Professor, then Associate Professor, and finally Professor of French and German at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne. He also taught piano and music courses at the University of Saint Francis, and gave piano recitals and served as accompanist for song recitals by his wife, an operatic soprano. An accomplished poet and author and translator, he wrote a monograph on Martin Buber for the

Twayne's Series, and published 26 books of poetry in both German and English, most written in sonnet form, as well as haiku, senryu, and tanka. For his poetic work and his dedication to lyrical poetry and to literature, he received six national and international awards, including the United Poets Laureate International Award (Madras, India), the Golden Poet Award (USA), and an honorary doctorate in literature from the University of Taiwan. Upon his retirement, the then Department of Modern Foreign Languages named their laboratory the "Werner Manheim Laboratory of Language and Culture Studies" celebrating his many years of teaching about the art, music, and literature of France and Germany. On his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, while suffering his final illness, he wrote and read aloud to his gathered friends and associates, his last poem of thankfulness for friendship and love.

In his will he bequeathed his treasured Bechstein grand piano to the IPFW Music Department for an award to their most outstanding student under the age of twenty-five years who would win a piano competition, "The Bechstein Contest," playing works that Dr. Manheim stipulated. Much of his vast book and record collection was donated to the Helmke Library at IPFW. The bulk of his estate is to be used to establish two competitive scholarships in music at IPFW, one in his wife's name "The Emilienne H. Manheim Scholarship for Lyric Soprano" and the other in his name "The Werner Manheim Scholarship in Piano." He also bequeathed two significant art works to the Fort Wayne Art Museum.

We thank him for his generosity to the university and for his many years of witty, urbane teaching in the humanities and fine arts. Shalom, lieber Freund.