

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
LIBRARIAN ARSEN (RALPH) PAPAKHIAN
(December 28, 1948 - January 14, 2010)**

Born in Detroit on December 28th, 1948, Ralph Papakhian died at his home in Bloomington, on the morning of January 14th, 2010, after a sixteen-year long struggle with colorectal cancer.

Ralph was invited to attend Cass Technical High School in Detroit as a student in the science and arts program and transferred to the music program as soon as possible after enrollment. Cass Tech is one of the few public high schools in the country with a full curriculum in music. Subsequently graduating summa cum laude with a B.A. in Music History from Western Michigan University in 1971, Ralph went on to obtain a Master of Music in musicology and music theory, and a Master of Science in Librarianship with emphasis in cataloging and academic librarianship from the same institution in 1973, both graduate degrees with honors.

From August 1973 to August 1975, Ralph worked as Humanities Cataloger at the University of Florida Libraries in Gainesville. In September 1975, he began his thirty-five year career as a music librarian with the IU Libraries when he accepted the position of Head, Music Library Technical Services Division. He received tenure in 1981, and achieved the rank of Full Librarian in 1985.

Ralph's dedication to serving Indiana University and the profession of music librarianship has been remarkable. He demonstrated a fervent commitment to faculty governance, evidenced by his participation on the IU Faculty Council and its various committees. He helped to organize a chapter of the American Federation of Teachers on the IU Bloomington campus. Through his activities on behalf of all employees of IU, Ralph facilitated the open faculty salary listings to which we have computer access today. For many years prior to that, he copied the data by hand from a listing in the Dean of Faculties office, organized it, and made it available to anyone who wanted it. He was a lifetime member of the American Association of University Professors. Ralph also served as a member of the IU Bloomington Library Faculty Council, and his leadership roles in the Council's various committees throughout his career is a testament to his firm belief in the highest ideals of collegiality in an academic institution.

Ralph's accomplishments in music librarianship and his contributions to the Music Library Association (MLA) and related organizations will serve as an everlasting legacy to his colleagues in the field and to aspiring students of music librarianship. He served on the Board of Directors of MLA as assistant and then fiscal officer, and as executive secretary. He was awarded MLA's Special Achievement Award in 1992 for the co-founding of the Music Library Association's listserv (MLA-L), which has become the conduit for the exchange of information and ideas for music librarians all over the world. In 2008, Ralph was awarded the MLA Citation (the highest honor awarded by the Association) for his dedication and advocacy for the profession of music librarianship in general and music cataloging in particular, and for providing, over the course of

thirty-five years, inspiration, instruction, and mentoring to the next generation of music catalogers.

Ralph received two Richard S. Hill Awards for the best article on music librarianship: In 1983, for "Music in the OCLC Online Union Catalog: A Review" (written with Richard Smiraglia) in the quarterly publication of MLA, *Notes* (Vol. 38, no. 2), and in 2002, for his article "Cataloging," published in the volume of *Notes* (Vol. 56, no. 3) dedicated to "Music Librarianship at the Turn of the Century." In 1992, Ralph established the MLA Clearinghouse at Indiana University for the purpose of collecting and disseminating miscellaneous MLA documents both electronically and in hard copy.

One of the founding members of the Music OCLC Users Group (MOUG) in 1977, Ralph went on to serve as its Vice-Chair, Secretary/Newsletter Editor, and Chair. Ralph was honored in 2002 by the Steering Committee of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging, for coordinating the first NACO funnel project in 1988, known as the NACO Music Project. The Project allows music libraries throughout the country to contribute authority records to the Library of Congress Name Authority File.

As a teacher in the Music Librarianship Specialization program at IU that began in 1978, Ralph is perhaps best known for his work in supervising seventy-four cataloging interns, and very often acting as mentor throughout their careers. The Music OCLC Users Group recognized Ralph's outstanding role in educating and mentoring new music catalogers by presenting him with its Distinguished Service Award in 2005. Acknowledging his hand in sending forth countless people into the profession, the award read, in part: "They [the students] have been conditioned to approach work with rigor, curiosity, and creativity; among them are many recognized leaders in music librarianship and in the larger library world."

To honor Ralph's service, his many contributions to the Music OCLC Users Group, and his mentoring role in music librarianship, the executive board of MOUG has established the "Ralph Papakhian Travel Grant" in order to support attendance at its annual meeting by newer members of the music librarianship profession, students, and paraprofessionals.

Ralph was passionate about his family, his Armenian heritage, music, and, of course, about his job as music librarian. He loved to attend performances of the Jacobs School of Music, often many evenings a week, seldom missing a performance by one of his student employees. He enjoyed the company of his students and library colleagues, and loved lunching with them at Mother Bear's Pizza. Ralph always looked for the best in everyone. He was a man without a trace of pretense or guile. He was friendly, kind and caring, generous, resourceful, persistent, and patient. Ever the teacher and mentor, his door was always open; he always had time to answer a question. Ralph had a wonderful sense of humor. His many friends and colleagues in Bloomington and throughout the country will miss him very much.

In recognition of his devotion to Indiana University and to his profession, be it resolved that this memorial resolution be a part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council and that

copies be sent to his wife, Mary Papakhian and to his children Anahid Papakhian, Vahan Papakhian, Maral Papakhian, and Zaven Papakhian.

Respectfully submitted
Sue Ellen Stancu