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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS BRUCE BENWARD

Dr. Bruce Benward, an influential pedagogue and eminent scholar, served as professor of music theory for 30 years at the University of Wisconsin’s School of Music. He also served as director of the school from 1968-1974 and as director of graduate studies from 1978-1982. He was also a member of the school’s personnel committee and served two terms on the Humanities Divisional Executive Committee. Prior to that, he spent two decades as a professor of music and chair of the music department at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He began his career as an assistant professor of Music at the University of Idaho in Moscow in 1945. Benward also served as Florida State University’s distinguished visiting professor of music theory in 1992. He earned his master’s degree in music from Indiana University in 1943 and his PhD in music from the Eastman School of Music in 1950.

Dr. Benward taught a broad range of courses, including all levels of undergraduate theory, Species Counterpoint, and Arranging. At the graduate level, he taught forums in Perception of Music, Macro Analysis, graduate level Species Counterpoint, and Computers and Music, as well as Theory for Performers. He advised countless numbers of master’s and doctoral students and served on an average of twenty masters or PhD committees every year.

As an examiner for the National Association of Schools of Music, Benward visited and reviewed more than 50 accredited universities in the United States. He also served as a member of the Graduate Commission, which is an arm of the Committee on Post-secondary Accreditation. He was a member of the Music Testing Committee for Educational Testing and served as chairman of the committee from 1958-1964.

During his career, Benward published numerous books on music theory, ear training and sight singing. These include *Music in Theory and Practice, volumes I and II*, *Ear Training: A Technique for Listening, Sight Singing Complete*, *Practical Beginning Theory* and *Jazz Improvisation in Theory and Practice*. Professor Benward read numerous papers on a wide range of topics such as *Why Can’t we Keep Up with the Computer*, *Unsuspected Determinants in the Perception of Chord Inversions*, *Trying to Imbue a Computer with Musicianship*, *Analysis of Bartok’s Mikrokosmos*, *Diagnostic Strategies in Music Perception*, and *CAI in Non-cognitive Aural Perception*. Dr. Benward presented numerous workshops across the country involving macro analysis, perception and computers. Moreover, he is credited for being on the forefront of computer-assisted music instruction, having authored or co-authored several pieces of computer software to accompany his textbooks.

Dr. Benward served on the editorial boards of several scholarly journals, including *Computers in Music Research, College Music Symposium*, and *Music Theory Pedagogy*. He also served as an advisor to the music editor of Schirmer Books and for the computer symposium *Computers in Learning*, which was held in Bristol, England in 1983.

Among his many honors, Benward received the Trochos research grant from the IBM corporation in 1985 for the development of instructional programs for micro-computers. He was awarded the Joe Wyatt Challenge Award in 1991. This award honored the top 100 technology successes in all disciplines of higher education in the United States. He received the Emil Steiger Teaching Award in 1986, and he was voted among the top 100 educators at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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