

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

HARVEY PHILLIPS

(December 2, 1929 – October 20, 2010)

Indiana University Distinguished Professor Emeritus Harvey Phillips was born on December 2, 1929, in Aurora, Missouri, and died at his home in Bloomington, Indiana on October 20, 2010. IU President Michael A. McRobbie awarded him the President's Medal for Excellence in 2008. Perhaps no individual better represents "the freedom of thought and spirit that is a hallmark of IU's community of scholars," McRobbie said. Phillips was a member of the IU Jacobs School of Music from 1971 to 1994 and lived on the Tuba Ranch in Monroe County.

Phillips performed as tuba soloist throughout the world. His music career began as a teenager with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Band. He attended the Juilliard School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music, and he was a member of the United States Army Field Band. From 1950-71 he maintained an enviable freelance career in New York City, performing, recording and broadcasting with famous artists, conductors, bands and orchestras. In 1954, he was a founding member of the New York Brass Quintet. He served as personnel manager for Symphony of the Air, and for Leopold Stokowski, Igor Stravinsky, and Gunther Schuller. He was the New England Conservatory Vice President for Financial Affairs (1967-71). In 1971, he was appointed to the Indiana University faculty.

His honors include Principal Tuba, Circus Hall of Fame Band (selected by Merle Evans); Kappa Kappa Psi Distinguished Service to Music Medal (1979); Association of Concert Bands "first" Mentor Ideal Award (1994); Sousa Foundation Sudler Medal of the Order of Merit award (1995); National Band Association Academy of Wind and Percussion Arts Award (1995); United Musical Instruments Lifetime Achievement Award (1996); American Bandmasters Association Edwin Franco Goldman Award (1996); Rafael Mendez Brass Institute Lifetime Achievement Award (1997); Colonial Euphonium-Tuba Institute Development of Musical Artistry &

Opportunities Award (1997); Phi Mu Alpha Orpheus Award (1997); and others. Harvey Phillips Day has been celebrated by the New England Conservatory (1971) and by his home town in a Bi-Centennial Celebration, Marionville, Missouri (1976). In 1985 the Governor of Missouri declared a Harvey Phillips Weekend. He received an Honorary Doctor of Music (1971) from the New England Conservatory, and an Honorary Doctor of Humanities (1987) from the University of Missouri. In 2008, he became the first brass player ever inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame.

Phillips was the founder and president of the Harvey Phillips Foundation, Inc. which administers OCTUBAFEST, TUBACHRISTMAS, TUBASANTAS, TUBACOMPANY, TUBAJAZZ, etc. For ten years (1986-96) he served as Executive Editor of *The Instrumentalist* magazine. He transformed the repertoire for the instrument by commissioning more than 200 works for tuba and inspiring composers to write serious music for solo tuba. A biography of Harvey Phillips is to be published by the Indiana University Press in the very near future. In May, 1994 he retired from Indiana University with the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus.

On October 21, 2010, NPR's Robert Siegel and Melissa Block had this remembrance of Harvey Phillips:

Siegel: "The man known as the "Paganini of the Tuba" has died. Harvey Phillips was eighty years old. You're hearing Phillips with a small ensemble playing the Hoagy Carmichael classic 'Georgia on My Mind.'"

Block: "Harvey Phillips tuba virtuoso started his career somewhere you might not expect - with the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus Band. Then he ran away from the circus to study at the Juilliard School of Music."

Siegel: "In 2008, Harvey Phillips became the first wind instrument player inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame. Phillips became a tuba ambassador, performing classical jazz and pop tunes. He created tuba concerts, one called Octubafest."

Block: "In 1975, a *New Yorker* profile said of him: 'The ongoing elevation of the tuba, from the laughingstock of musical instruments to one of its kings, is mainly the doing of Harvey Phillips.'

"Harvey Phillips had Parkinson's disease. He died yesterday at his home in Bloomington, Indiana."

(Soundbite of song, "Georgia on My Mind")

Charles Webb, dean emeritus of the Jacobs School of Music stated in the *Bloomington Herald-Times*, "He was one of the greatest living players of the instrument and one of the greatest teachers of the instrument as well. His students went on to occupy major positions in symphony orchestras and bands across the world. Wherever the tuba was played, you'd find students of Harvey's." Phillips is survived by his wife, Carol, sons Jessie, Harvey Jr., and Thomas.

This resolution will be a part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council.

M. Dee Stewart

Chair, Department of Brass

Jacobs School of Music