

«IN MEMORIAM».

KARL-WERNER GÜMPEL (1930-2015)¹

Dr. Karl-Werner Gümpel, Professor Emeritus at the University of Louisville, passed away peacefully on May 23, 2015 following a long struggle with Lewy body dementia. He was 85 years old.

A world renowned scholar and university professor of both Music History and Music Theory, he dedicated the majority of his life to the research of music of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, in particular the history of Spanish medieval music.

Dr. Gümpel was born and raised in Germany, where he began his academic training in 1949, studying historical musicology and church history at the universities of Göttingen and Freiburg. In 1955 he received his Ph.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Freiburg and remained at his Alma Mater as an assistant professor until being invited in 1969 to become an Associate Professor of music history at the University of Louisville. He was made full professor in 1974, served continuously on numerous university committees and was also an adjunct professor at the University of Kentucky.

Throughout his career spanning four decades, Dr. Gümpel was the recipient of numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and several European organizations to pursue his research on the history of Latin, Spanish and Catalan music theory. More than one hundred scholarly articles are the result of a quarter century of meticulous exploration and often groundbreaking work.

In recognition of his life's extensive and far-reaching research efforts, Dr. Gümpel was the recipient of a number of honors, including

1. Nota de l'editor: contingut de la necrològica publicada al periòdic *The Courier-Journal* de Louisville, 2 de juny de 2015.

full membership in three honorary Catalonian societies in the fields of musicology, fine arts and liturgical studies, an unprecedented honor for any scholar. He also served as a member of editorial boards of some of the most prestigious journals of musicology and in 1989/1990 was a guest professor at the Universitat Autònoma in Barcelona, where he taught courses on Medieval and Renaissance music.

Dr. Gümpel was described by many of his students as a demanding but caring professor who inspired them through his passion for learning and sustained enthusiasm. By his genuine love of teaching and belief in his students' abilities, he quietly brought out the best in everyone. He devoted much time and effort to mentoring, often attending student concerts as a testimony of his support, in addition to challenging his students to strive for excellence in all of their endeavors.

In 1997 Dr. Gümpel was named a Distinguished University Professor and retired one year later. Although 1998 marked the end of teaching, he continued his scholarly and research endeavors with undiminished fervor for as long as his illness allowed him to do so. In 2009 Dr. Gümpel and his wife moved to Oregon to be closer to their children.

When not engaged in academic pursuits he enjoyed photography, hiking, reading and relaxing with his dogs. Architecture and Art History were also of significant interest to him.

Underlying the often stern exterior was a gentle and humble man with a wonderful sense of humor. His attribute of being a "solidly fair" person was valued by all who knew him. As a father, he instilled in his children many of the same values by which he himself lived.

Even into his final years, Dr. Gümpel's gift of reaching others through his piano playing persevered, despite the increasing limitations of his illness. His love of music will live on through the hearts and memories of all those whose lives he touched.

He will be greatly missed.

Dr. Gümpel is survived by his wife Isolde, daughter Dr. Ulrike Gümpel-Atik (and husband Ron), daughter Christiane Gümpel (and husband Tarek), son Christopher Gümpel, sister Dr. Maria Gümpel and grandchildren Maryam, Khadiga, Yaseen, and Jannah.