Elsie Landon Buck

October 12, 1922 - August 21, 2012

I learned earlier today that Elsie Buck, president of IAMA for seventeen years, died this morning. A memorial service is tentatively planned for September 9 and will be held in the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University. Additional information will be provided as it is available. A floral arrangement from the association will be sent at the time of the memorial service. ds

President Elsie Buck gave IAMA seventeen rewarding years of enthusiastic and effective leadership. In those years she worked tirelessly on behalf of our association, informing church leaders about our work, promoting it at gatherings of musicians and non-musicians alike, and always maintaining close contact with its officers and board.

She and her husband, Edwin, were very generous donors, providing funding for the operation of IAMA when normal sources of income were not adequate. Elsie's concern about all things musical as they related to the church were evident in the over forty President's Messages she penned in IAMA's Notes and in the articles she contributed.

We have lost a person who, with her husband, Edwin, helped make IAMA a continuing reality . . . We are most grateful for her leadership and inspiration. Officers and members of the IAMA Board

In my work as editor of IAMA publications, I had countless encouraging and informative calls from her as I prepared Notes and met with the board when she was unable to attend Annual Meetings. Along the way I grew to know her as a thoughtful and informed person as we talked not only about music, but theology, world events, politics, and personal matters as well.

I have lost a dear and trusted friend . . .
Elsie Landon Buck

1922 - 2012

Elsie Landon Buck, accomplished pianist, teacher, unflagging supporter of and leader in music education and numerous other endeavors, made a significant difference in all that she did. Her enthusiasm, vision, and persistence as a leader inspired and benefited many, two examples being her work on projects related to her alma mater, Andrews University, and her leadership as president of the International Adventist Musicians Association (IAMA) from 1992 to 2009.

Born in Brazil, Elsie started study on piano with her mother at age six. Other teachers would follow, including her aunt, Corina Salse and noted Brazilian composers and orchestra conductors Francisco Mignone, Camargo Guarnieri, and Frutuoso Vianna. She started her music teaching career with giving piano lessons at age seventeen.

Elsie completed a B.A. degree in music at Emmanuel Missionary College, now Andrews University, in 1943. In June of that year, she married Edwin Francis Buck, who completed a B.A. the following year in theology. Both returned to campus in the 1960s, where he completed an M.A. and she an M.Mus.Ed. in 1964. He later completed a Ph.D. at Michigan State University, and Elsie took additional study in music at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and AU. She was chosen as AU Alumna of the Year in 1973 and awarded an honorary doctorate by AU in 1991.

Prior to her retirement in 1984 as an elementary music teacher in the St. Joseph Public Schools, where she taught for twenty years, the Bucks worked at Cedar Lake Academy, were evangelists in India for six years, where they also taught at Vincent Hill School, and taught at Greater Miami Academy. She also served as an adjunct professor of music at AU.

Highlights from an array of committee positions Elsie held over a period of several decades include fifteen years as a member of the Board of Trustees for AU, chairing the Committee for the restoration of the Sutherland House on the AU campus and chairing the AU Inaugural Committee in 1984. She also served as AU Alumni President from 1977-79. These activities, coupled with numerous others in the community and region, led to many honors and recognition for unusual accomplishment.

During her presidency of the Berrien Commission on Beautification and Development, Berrien Springs received a National Clean Up Award, presented to her in Washington, DC, in 1971. Other honors include membership in the National Guild of Piano Teachers Hall of Fame, recognition in 1988...
from Music Educators National Conference (MENC) for her "Contributions to School music Programs," and recognition in 1990 for her music achievements and contributions from the Michigan Music Teachers Association. She was nominated for membership in Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society in 2000.

A frequent adjudicator for the National Guild of Piano Teachers, she served as chairman of its Southwest Michigan Chapter for eight years. She was an active member in other music associations, including Music Educators National Conference and The Hymn Society of the United States and Canada.

A charter member of IAMA, Buck served as its president for seventeen years. In those years she worked tirelessly on behalf of the association, informing church leaders about its work, promoting it at gatherings of musicians and non-musicians alike, and maintaining contact with the board. She and her husband, Edwin, were very generous donors, providing funding for the operation of IAMA when normal sources of income were not adequate.

Buck's concern about all things musical as they relate to the church was evident in the over forty President's Messages she penned in IAMA's magazine, Notes, and in the articles she contributed. She worked closely with its editor, Dan Shultz, making countless encouraging and informative calls as he prepared Notes and met with the board when she was unable to attend Annual Meetings. In those many calls he got to know her as a thoughtful and informed person as they talked not only about music but theology, world events, and politics, as well.

A solo performer in a variety of settings over many years, she worked with Blythe Owen, noted Adventist pianist and composer in presenting numerous duo-piano recitals in the 1970’s and 1980’s. They produced a recording during those years, a second for Buck who had earlier made a solo record.

The Bucks, who resided in Berrien Springs, Michigan, traveled extensively around the world. The parents of three children, Evonne P., Edwin L., and Elizabeth, and grandparents to five grandchildren, they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in 2008.

Dan Shultz/2008/2012