

Tribute: In Memory of Jane Pearce Baldwin

by Lisa Rae Philpott

Jane Ann Pearce was born in Vancouver, British Columbia on April 1, 1952. Her childhood was spent in Deep River, Ontario and later Victoria, British Columbia, where she earned both her Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in Music at the University of Victoria. There she met and married her husband Barrow Baldwin; they moved to Toronto, Ontario in 1975, where Jane attended the Faculty of Library Science (FLS), earning her Master of Library Science degree. While a library science student, Jane successfully lobbied the University of Toronto's library school administration to offer a special three-week summer intersession course in music librarianship, one which was taught by the late Carol June Bradley, followed by a two-day practicum at the Music Library of The University at Buffalo, with additional supervision by the late James B. Coover. During her second year in the FLS program, Jane served as the teaching assistant for their computer programming course. She became a member of both the Canadian Association of Music Libraries (CAML) and the Music Library Association (MLA) while a student and attended meetings of both organizations, eventually serving on the CAML Board as a Member-at-large, serving on the Publications Committee, and assisting with local arrangements for CAML's 1978 meeting in London, Ontario.

Jane was a "triple threat," excelling as flutist, librarian, and scholar. As a mentor, she influenced several generations of librarians: at one notable MLA meeting, four of us at the "First Time Attendees" session realized that Jane was a significant and common influence on our chosen career paths. Doubtless, there were others.

The University of Western Ontario Music Library hired Jane as a music cataloguer on May 16, 1978; within two years, she became the Music Reference Librarian. She taught flute at the Faculty of Music upon the death of faculty member Nicholas Fiori in 1979; prior to her arrival at Western, she taught several Music History courses at Wilfrid Laurier University. In 1983, Jane was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship. She and her husband Barrow spent a memorable year in the UK, where Jane researched eighteenth-century music at King's College, University of London, and

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revelled in exploring the collections of the British Library. Together Jane and Barrow attended more than 100 concerts during their sojourn abroad.

As is frequently the case with highly capable music librarians, Jane's talents took her away from Western's branch Music Library to serve as Acting Systems Librarian, followed by a brief stint as Western Libraries' Acting Head of Collections Management—a position for which she successfully competed. She maintained her formidable flute technique by playing principal flute with the London Community Orchestra; she also played in the pit for numerous productions given by the local Gilbert & Sullivan society, and performed as a guest flutist for chamber music evenings at the home of the late Dr. James L. Whitby and Dr. Margaret Whitby.

Jane was poised to return to Western's Music Library as its Director in 1996, when she was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. She endured surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy treatments. Despite a dismal prognosis Jane survived an astonishing 19 years. During this period, she received the Canadian Association of Music Libraries' inaugural Helmut Kallmann Award (2000) recognizing her contributions to Canadian music librarianship, witnessed her daughter's marriage, and rejoiced in the birth of her granddaughter.

Upon receiving the news of Jane's death, Western's Dr. Richard Semmens offered this tribute: "How well I remember learning of Jane's remarkable academic preparation for the position she held at our Music Library, when I was just a young faculty member. I didn't really understand what an "afterpiece" was in the theatrical life of England in Restoration or Georgian/Augustan times. Jane's study with Curtis Price opened a world to me that I left unexplored, personally, until about 2008. My current (final?) book project, nearing completion, deals with a special variety of English afterpiece entertainment, the pantomime. Your sad message reminds me that my new book was kindled by the spark of inspiration a promising young, and brilliant librarian/scholar presented me with so many years ago. I had almost forgotten. I think my new study will be very good. It will be good, in part, thanks to Jane."

Music was the great passion of her life. With impeccable timing, Jane Ann Pearce Baldwin died on June 25th, 2015, while the joint IAML-IMS Congress was underway in New York City (and mere hours after I delivered my first IAML paper—Lisa). A concert in celebration of her life was given by music alumni, colleagues, and faculty members on September 20, 2015 in London, Ontario. Jane is survived by her brothers Geoffrey (Magda) and David (Vivien) and their children, her husband Barrow, her daughter Julia, son-in-law Andrew, her granddaughter Emily, and a host of friends and colleagues.

[Donations in Jane's memory may be made to The Mount Hope Fund, with cheques payable to St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation, 550 Wellington Rd., London, Ontario N6C 0A7.]