



## **Memorial to Jane Ann Pearce**

*Delivered 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 and Information Science, earning her Master of Library Science degree.

Jane was a 'triple threat,' excelling as flutist, librarian, and scholar. As a mentor, she influenced several generations of librarians: at one notable Music Library Association 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. While a Library Science student herself, Jane successfully lobbied the University of Toronto's library school administration to offer a summer course in music librarianship, one which was taught by the late James B. Coover and the late Carol June Bradley.

Joining The University of Western Ontario's Music Library in 1978 as a music cataloguer, later becoming the Music Reference Librarian, Jane was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship in 1983. She and her husband Barrow spent a memorable year in the UK, as Jane pursued research studies at King's College, University of London, where she revelled in exploring the collections of the British Library and attended more than 100 concerts.

As is frequently the case with highly-capable Music Librarians, Jane's talents took her away from our branch Music Library to serve as Acting Systems Librarian, and then Head of Collections Management for Western Libraries. During this time 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 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 that time she received the Canadian Association of Music Libraries' inaugural Helmut Kallman Prize recognizing her contributions to Canadian music librarianship, witnessed her daughter's marriage, and rejoiced in the birth of her granddaughter.

Noting her scholarly achievements, 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 my first IAML paper was given). A concert in celebration of her life was held September 20, 2015 in London, Ontario. She 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.