
A Dedication to William Kearns and American Music

As the American Music Research Center prepares to celebrate its tenth-year anniversary in Colorado in the year 2000, it is appropriate that we look back at one of the key individuals instrumental in its establishment here, William K. Kearns. His friend, John Graziano, recently observed, "William Kearns is a

of, and involvement with, the multi-faceted nature of American music." Even in retirement Kearns's musical work continues. The editors of this special double volume of the journal that he founded are extremely pleased to dedicate it to him.

William Kearns was born on 17 January 1928 in Wilmington, Ohio. He graduated from Wilmington High School in 1945 and served in the United States Army from 1946 to 1949. Staff Editor, *American Music Research Journal*, 1991-1999.

tionally well-trained and highly qualified professors for important positions at universities across the nation.

William Kearns was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and professor in 1970. He chaired the College's Music History Division from 1966-1976 and the Academic Area from 1979-1981. In 1981 I appointed him Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in Music; he was enormously effective in this position. Under his guidance the graduate program flourished, reaching a total enrollment of more than 200. During his tenure as dean, countless graduate students related to me his selfless devotion to their education as administrator, teacher, advisor,

colleague and friend. His normal workday was frequently stretched to meet the needs of students, and Bill's genuine interest in students and support of their work has become a legend within the College. The respect and admiration that students and colleagues had for his work as an administrator was nothing short of spectacular and quite unusual in these days when it is more fashionable to revile administrators than to praise them.

In 1985, Bill decided it was time to devote all his energies to his first loves, teaching and research. His many contributions as a distinguished scholar in

where publication demands often cause scholars to become self-involved, he distinguishes himself by treating my writing, whether well-developed or in its embryonic state, as important. His approach to students is a unique blend of professional integrity and sincere interest in the individual.

[Kay Norton]

When post-tenure reviews were instituted at the University of Colorado in 1984, Bill's faculty colleagues summarized his accomplishments in the following statement:

For the entire time of his tenure, Professor Kearns has been remarkably productive in scholarship, teaching and in service. He presently holds the

his leadership during the past three years, a higher degree of communication among graduate students through the Graduate Student Council, newsletters, symposia and colloquia has become evident. He has moved toward establishing a great uniformity of standards and achievements among the

health made it impossible for her to continue to bear its responsibilities. The Center had been awarded a special citation at a recent national meeting of the Sonneck Society for American Music and had a sterling reputation. Bill informed me that AMRC encompassed books and music from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries with extraordinary strength in eighteenth- and

me that we should obtain the AMRC, and we proceeded to negotiate with Dominican College for ownership of the Center. The Music Library had been building collections in American music over the years and they fit very well

