

# IN MEMORIAM: HARRY DUNSCOMBE

We were saddened to hear that Harry Dunscombe died unexpectedly at his home in Georgia last January. Harry was a long-time cello professor and director of orchestras at Minnesota State University–Mankato. He directed MNSOTA's Upper Midwest String and Chamber Music Conference at MSU for decades until his retirement last year and served as President of MN ASTA (now MNSOTA) from 1992-94.

After graduating from the University of Florida, Harry studied for a year at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels under a Fulbright Award where he was awarded the Premier Prix de Violoncelle. He then earned a DMA at the University of Michigan. During his post-graduate studies he participated in two influential master classes—as conductor with Pierre Monteux, and as cellist with Pablo Casals. Harry's performance was recorded as part of the legendary Casals Master Class Series.

We remember Harry for his consummate artistry, breadth of knowledge, and gentle manner. He will be missed by all who knew him.

I had the great privilege of knowing Harry as a colleague, a friend and the cello teacher of both of my sons. Not only was he a brilliant musician, but a most kind and gentle person. He was the very definition of a "good man."

*Phil Burkhardt*

I have a fond memory of Harry conducting a group of MSU faculty and Mankato Symphony players in a performance of Prokofiev's *Classical Symphony*. I had never heard the work before and had never played



for a conductor who was so musically demanding. It was a thrilling experience and I have never forgotten it! Harry also was very helpful to me when I was working on a chamber music project for my high school orchestra. He pulled out lists of graded chamber music from his String Conference files and shared them with me. I enjoyed watching and listening to him perform, because he always put 110% into it! We will miss Harry in Mankato.

*Steve Dunn*

I will always remember Harry sitting at my living room table in my very small bungalow where we usually had our MN ASTA meetings. He was such a gentleman, so kind, thoughtful, and understanding. He would sit back in his chair, cross his legs with his ever-present elegance and ponder his responses. He treated everyone with great respect at all times. He was accepting of other's ideas, and wanted what was best for *all* students. He was generous and always gracious. He was a lovely man and I

have nothing but kind and loving memories of him.

*Pat Kelly*

Harry Dunscombe was a dear friend and colleague. He was a wonderful cellist, and had a beautiful singing sound. St. Exupery would call it "unique au monde." It was an honor to share a stage with him.

Harry was the total artist—a scholar and a philosopher. He was truly dedicated to the cello. Every year on the first Wednesday of the Upper Midwest String and Chamber Music Conference we would read the *Cello Quintet* by Schubert. The group was the same—Dr. Sarah Hersh violin, Katie Wolfe viola, Faith Farr cello 2, Harry Dunscombe cello 1, and myself on violin. This annual event was more than a musical experience, it was a profound artistic moment—or even religious moment in life—when beauty totally captured the present and we could feel the infinite. It was what Harry was all about. Capturing beauty through music.

Another vignette of this distinguished colleague that I carry in my heart is the morning I walked into the antechamber to the women's restroom during the Upper Midwest Conference. There was Harry coaching his chamber group. There was a large group of campers that year—and they had run out of coaching space—so they claimed this one. They were young students, complete with flip-flops, baseball hats and feet that did not touch the ground. Harry was crouching over them pointing at the music saying, "Do you see that? That dot over the music? What does that mean?"

Harry, you will be missed.

*Mary Horozaniecki*