

## TRIBUTES

## Robert Ward '39E: 'Gracious Collaborator'

I first met Robert Ward '39E in the early 1990s, while working on a revision of one of his stage works, *Lady Kate*. This operetta, originally called *The Lady from Colorado*, was being remounted as part of a festival season of the Ohio Light Opera. Knowing him as the composer of one of the greatest American operas of the 20th century in *The Crucible*, which won the Pulitzer Prize in Music in 1962, I was interested in seeing the extent of his commitment to a much lighter work.

What I gained from that first collaboration with Robert was first and foremost a great friendship that lasted until his death in April at age 95. His mentorship, advice, and interest in my personal well-being were special to me, but I know that this act of kindness, generosity, and sincerity was repeated countless times with young



**Ward won the Pulitzer Prize in 1962 for his opera, *The Crucible*.**

musicians and artists. With everyone he met in the music profession (and beyond), he made the conversations lasting, personal, and insightful.

This had a direct relationship to his creativity: there was no stone unturned when it came to exploring the choices of every note he composed (from pitch, to rhythm, to sonority). He was relentless in making sure all the possibilities were explored.

Bob was also a strong-minded, but gracious, collaborator. He expected the artistic team producing and executing any of his works to have the same knowledge and understanding of the work that he did when he was creating it.

In early 2000 the Ohio Light Opera premiered another lyric theater work of his, *A Friend of Napoleon*. The productions of *Lady Kate* and *A Friend of Napoleon*, and Bob's residencies with the Ohio company, changed the lives of many of the 200 artists who worked on both productions. He took every note and word of these comic pieces seriously. We all recognized that this approach would have a lasting effect on our own creativity.

—Steven Daigle

*Daigle is chair of the Eastman voice department and director of Eastman Opera Theatre.*

## John La Montaine '42E: 'Full of Invention'

John La Montaine, who died in April at the age of 93, was five years old when he decided he wanted to be a composer. He became a prolific and much-performed one, as well as a member of an exclusive club among American composers: in 1959 he received the Pulitzer Prize in Music for Piano Concerto No. 1, *In Time of War*, which was premiered by the virtuoso Jorge Bolet.

La Montaine graduated from Eastman in 1942, after study with Howard Hanson and Bernard Rogers, and like many other American composers of the 20th century, with Nadia Boulanger in France. He immediately drew favorable notice for his music; the conductor Dmitri Mitropoulos described his scores as "full of invention, composing talent, and a mature musical mind."



**La Montaine won the Pulitzer Prize in 1959 for Piano Concerto No. 1, *In Time of War*.**

Shortly after receiving the Pulitzer Prize, La Montaine was commissioned to write the first piece of music specifically for a presidential inauguration; his overture *From Sea to Shining Sea* opened John F. Kennedy's inauguration in 1961. His Christmas pageant opera *The Shepherds Play* was televised nationally by ABC on Christmas Eve 1967, and he was commissioned to write an opera, *Be Glad Then*,

for the 1976 Bicentennial. Other works were evocative of nature: his *Wilderness Journal* symphony (1972) used texts from Thoreau, and *The Marshes of Glynn*, premiered by the Rochester Chamber Orchestra in 1984, was inspired by tape-recorded sounds from the Georgia marshes.

"I don't want to be stuck in some hole, expected to do a certain thing," John La Montaine said in a 2003 interview with the *NewMusicBox* website. "There is not one of my pieces that is like another piece. . . I've never spent a lot of time on publicity or anything like that. I just want to write my pieces."

—David Raymond '81 (MA), '87E (MA)

*Raymond is editorial director at the Eastman School.*

## In Memoriam

## ALUMNI

- Charles A. Manuele** '35, March 2013  
**Gustave Strebel** '36, April 2013  
**Emily Clapp Gillispie** '39, April 2013  
**Margaret Waderlow Morton** '39E, April 2013  
**Robert E. Ward** '39E, April 2013  
**Richard W. Gysel** '40, April 2013  
**Ann VanWynen Thomas** '40, March 2013  
**Phyllis Kladky Gershkoff** '41E, April 2013  
**Milton Pearlman** '41, March 2013  
**Jacob D. Avshalomov** '42E, '43E (MA)  
**Elinore Barber** '42E (MA), March 2013  
**John M. La Montaine** '42E, April 2013  
**Caroline Wiener Watkins** '42, May 2013  
**William L. Clark** '44M (MD), July 2011  
**Evelyn Kneeland Schuyler** '44E, March 2013  
**Roslyn Greenberg Kaiser** '45, April 2013  
**Mary Sayles Allison** '46N, May 2013  
**Marion Kridler Edwards** '46N, December 2011  
**Paul R. Foote** '46M (Res), April 2013  
**Arthur J. Gross** '46, '50M (MD), May 2013  
**Robert R. Jones** '46, December 2012  
**Richard C. Dinzler** '47, March 2013  
**Ruth Eleazer Gwilt** '47N, April 2013  
**Roger H. Kenyon** '47, November 2012  
**Iris Bedrick Rogers** '47E, '48, May 2013  
**Sylvester J. Sanfilippo** '47, May 2013  
**Irving Hollander** '48, April 2013  
**Edward J. Krolick** '48E, '51E (MM), March 2013  
**Patricia Perry Mauro** '48, January 2013  
**Patricia Mensel Perkins** '48M (MD), March 2013  
**Robert J. Scott** '48, May 2013  
**Gene L. Young** '48, November 2012