

WEISGARBER — Elliot. Prof. Emeritus of Music, University of B.C.; born December 5, 1919 in Pittsfield, Mass., son of Reuben Miaret and Elizabeth (Hawkins) Weisgarber, died peacefully in his sleep at 7:30 a.m., Dec. 31, 2001 in the palliative care unit of Vancouver General Hospital after a year long battle with congestive heart failure. His 82 years were dedicated to the art of music-making. In his early years his most influential teachers were clarinetists Gustav Langenus and Rosario Mazzeo of the Boston Symphony. He later studied at the Eastman School of Music where he received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees as well as his Performer's Certificate as a clarinetist. His composition teachers included Edward Royce, Bernard Rogers, Howard Hanson, Halsey Stevens and, later in France, the great Nadia Boulanger. After his graduation in 1943 he served for many years on the faculty of the University of North Carolina in Greensboro until being invited to join the faculty of the newly formed music department at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. On the west coast his enormous interest in Asia was well nourished and led him to spend a number of years of partial residence in Japan where he made a profound study of Japanese music and was admitted as a master to the Kinko school of shakuhachi (vertical bamboo flute) playing. His studies resulted in the formation of the ethnomusicology program now offered by the UBC School of Music. Although certain of his compositions were highly influenced by his Asian experience his style was uniquely his own, fueled by an enormous range of interests and a deep love of the musical traditions imparted to him by his teachers. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Bethiah (Setter), daughter Karen Suzanne, son-in-law Ken Smithson and a host of colleagues, former students and loving friends all over the world. A memorial gathering and concert is planned for Sunday, January 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the UBC Recital Hall.

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