

# Composer Milhaud Dies

Darius Milhaud, the renowned French composer who taught at Mills College for three decades, died in Geneva Saturday at the age of 81, friends of the family said yesterday.



DARIUS MILHAUD AT MILLS COLLEGE  
He taught there for three decades

Since his retirement from Mills three years ago he had lived in a villa in the Geneva suburb of Chêne-Bourg, where he could be near treatment for a heart ailment that had worsened in recent months.

Milhaud, a titan of modern music and unquestionably the era's most prolific composer with more than 450 works in an amazingly wide variety, came to Mills in 1940.

He was the scion of an ancient Jewish family that had lived in Aix-en-Provence, his birthplace, since pre-Christian times, and was forced to flee France when the Nazis moved in.

Milhaud taught composition and orchestration at Mills and during World War II composed the opera "Boulevard."

After the war he returned to France to become a professor at the Paris Conservatory. Thereafter, until his retirement in 1971, he alternated between Paris and Oakland during his long teaching career.

His own output spanned more than a half century. During World War I, while in Brazil, he composed the ballet "L'Homme et son Désir" for the great Nijinsky, but the dancer went mad before he could premiere it. Last year, after he had turned 81, Milhaud added "Ami Maamin" (premiered in Carnegie Hall to his incredible catalogue.

Rheumatoid arthritis crippled him a quarter century ago but could not cripple his will or his genius. He went on with his multiple activities with undiminished vigor—hosting the great at his woody cottage on the Mills campus, teaching (among others, the Brubaker brothers, David and Howard), composing, conducting (San Francisco and other orchestras) in a wheelchair.

He was an avant gardist from the first note he set down, the "enfant terrible" of music in the '20s. But, reflecting the composer's own gentle personality, scattered through much of his music is a quality known as Milhaudness, a tender sentiment, notably in "Cantata of the Child and the Mother."

Developments in music have been fast - moving in recent decades, and Milhaud was fascinated by them all, even electronic and computer music, but scoffed at the idea they represented a revolution.

"Take the 'R' away," he told an interviewer several years ago. "It becomes Evo-

## Ex-Submarine Force Chief Dies in Bay

Coronado  
A one-time commander of the U.S. Submarine Force in the Pacific fell into San Diego Bay and died while trying to board a small boat, the coroner's office said yesterday.

Retired Rear Admiral Leon J. Huffman, 75, was going to a reunion of former submarine commanders when the accident took place Saturday.

The coroner's office said the cause of death was still being determined but that the launch apparently moved as Huffman stepped from the pier.

Associated Press

## Sue Kaiser Dies on Russia Trip

Sue Mead Kaiser, wife of the chairman of the board of Kaiser Industries, died yesterday while visiting Moscow.

Mrs. Kaiser died of a heart attack while attending the five-day conference of Western business executives and Soviet trade and industry officials, which started Sunday in the Soviet Union.

Her husband, Edgar, is co-chairman of the conference, which is sponsored jointly by the Stanford Research Institute and the Soviet Union's Committee for Science and Technology.

A native of Australia, Mrs. Kaiser married her husband 42 years ago. She is the daughter of Elwood Mead, the first commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Mrs. Kaiser and her husband lived in Emeryville. She is also survived by her

## 2 Brothers Die

Blythe, Riverside county  
Robert Ross, 40, and his brother, Charles, 22, of Ripley, were killed Sunday when their car rammed into the rear of a slow-moving truck.

United Press



SUE MEAD KAISER  
Industrialist's wife

children, Mrs. Andrew Saxton, Mrs. Martin Drobac, Mrs. Wallace Grudgell Jr., Edgar F. Kaiser Jr., Henry Mead Kaiser and Captain Kim J. Kaiser and 17 grandchildren, two brothers and a sister.

Funeral services are pending.

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## Alice F. Sturgis

A memorial service will be conducted at Piedmont Community Church at 2 p.m. on Friday for Alice F. Sturgis, one of the nation's foremost parliamentarians.

Mrs. Sturgis died last Tuesday at Merritt Hospital in Oakland after suffering a heart attack. She was 79. Private funeral services were held Thursday.

Mrs. Sturgis wrote five books on parliamentary procedure, including her "Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure," the guide followed by many organizations during their meetings.

"Writing on the principles of organization is my way of working for democracy," she said in an interview last year.

Mrs. Sturgis was a found-

er and, in 1929, the first president of the Women's Athletic Club of Oakland.

Born in Ukiah in 1895, she family moved to the East Bay at the turn of the century.

She earned degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University.

In 1919 she married Eugene K. Sturgis, a prominent bond attorney in France. He is chief of the law firm of Sturgis, Den-Dulk, Douglass & Anderson, in Oakland.

In addition to her husband, of the family home in Piedmont, Mrs. Sturgis is survived by a daughter, Rosemary S. Henes, of Mendocino; two sons, Wayne F. Sturgis, of Piedmont, and Kenwood Sturgis, of Mon-

tagne in Siskiyou county, and five grandchildren. Piedmont Community Church is at 400 Highland avenue, Piedmont.

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lution and it remains just that."

Milhaud himself had once been known as the father of a revolutionary technique, polytonality (simultaneous use of two keys).

As for electronic music, he might enjoy but not write it: "You have to be an electronic engineer."

Milhaud wrote many operas and ballets, including the famed "Creation of the World" (1923); a dozen symphonies, concertos and sonatas (more than 50) for almost every instrument; 18 string quartets, four quintets.

He composed music for the poetry of Paul Claudel, the French poet-diplomat, and to the writings of Jean Cocteau.

There seemed to be nothing that Milhaud could not set to music. With the Vatican's permission he wrote a musical setting for Pope John's encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*, in 1963. His *Cocktail* for four clarinets and singer was composed for a cocktail recipe, part of a cook book.

His most novel concerto—commissioned for the San Francisco Symphony's 1972 Summer Youth Workshop—was then, and probably still is, the literature's only concerto for audience and orchestra. The young audience clapped, whistled, stamped, hummed at appropriate moments.

His 14th and 15th string quartets were written on the

same pages (four staves to each), so that they could be played separately or together as an octet. And it, or they, worked.

His range in the same genre was also unique. He composed miniature symphonies and among his operas three were the shortest ever written, nine minutes each.

He also wrote on the grand scale—operas like "David" and "Christophe Colomb," the Oresteian trilogy, and the monumental oratorio, "Saint Louis," premiered in Buenos Aires four years ago. He did the musical score for some 25 films, including "The Beloved Vagabond."

In 1953 he published an autobiography, "Notes Without Music," a record of 60 years and 320 scores.

He is survived by his wife and former collaborator, Madeleine, and a son, Daniel, a painter.

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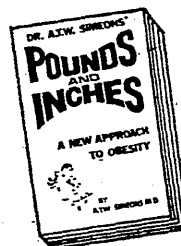
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