

TORICK, Emil Louis



Emil died unexpectedly in his home on June 19, 2010. He was born near Pittsburgh, PA on December 6, 1931. As a youth, Emil Torick's major interests were music and science. When it came time for college and career planning he initially chose music and earned a BM degree in Violin and Organ Performance at Duquesne University. Following military service as an Air force officer in Korea, he worked as a freelance violinist and organist-choir director. During this time he played with the Pittsburgh Symphony and directed the first televised concert of the Pittsburgh Symphony for the local public television station. Returning to his interest in science, he earned a BS degree in Physics from the University of Pittsburgh. He then moved to Connecticut with his new wife Joyce to begin a family, a career in Audio Engineering, and a 28 year association with CBS Laboratories (later renamed CBS Technology Center). During this period he also earned a Masters of Business Administration degree at the University of Connecticut. While at CBS, he authored more than sixty technical publications and was awarded sixteen U.S. patents, a number of which were given for his inventions of audio signal processing devices for broadcast and recording applications. After holding various engineering and marketing positions, he was named CBS Vice President - Audio Technology. In this position he was responsible for leading all advanced audio and acoustics research for the CBS Radio and Television Divisions and Columbia Records. He also served as Director of Research and Development for the CBS Musical Instruments Division which included such companies as Steinway Pianos, Fender Guitars, Rodgers and Gulbransen Organs, Lyon and Healy Harps, and Gemeinhardt Flutes. When CBS Technology Center was closed as a casualty of a hostile corporate takeover, he became President of Broadcast Technology Partners, an organization established by CBS and the National Association of Broadcasters to license technical improvements in FM radio to the consumer electronics and broadcast industries. He served in numerous industry standardization activities of the National Radio Systems Committee. Under State Department auspices, he was a member of the U.S. delegation to the International Radio Consultative Committee in Geneva and for twelve years was the U.S. Chairman of one of its technical groups. A long time member of and past president of the Audio Engineering Society, he has been recipient of many of its honors, most recently the Distinguished Service Medal, one of its highest accolades. From 1984 until recently he served as President of the AES Educational Foundation which has awarded nearly 200 grants for graduate study in the field of Audio Engineering. As busy as he was professionally in Connecticut, Emil found time to stay involved with music. He was Assistant Concertmaster of the Norwalk Symphony for over 25 years and was a noted organist and choir director.

Upon moving to Santa Barbara in 1997, he continued limited consulting work and expanded his musical activities. He continued to perform on violin and organ and was a board member of several non-profit organizations. He served on the board of and chaired the Workshop-Grants Committee of the AMCP-The Chamber Music Network, an international association of five thousand chamber music playing enthusiasts. In Santa Barbara he served with the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the Chamber Music Society of Santa Barbara (organizing workshops for adult enthusiasts), and the Santa Barbara Music Club. In 2004 the Music Club named him Distinguished Member for his efforts in leading its sixteen concert series involving solo and chamber music performances of more than sixty musicians each season. Continuing his commitment to education, he was also active with their scholarship program.

Emil loved gathering with friends to make music, attend concerts, to share a fine glass of wine, or to try out a new recipe. He created many new family relationships as a result of his interest in genealogy. He will be remembered for his warm way with people, and for how he brought together his love of music, organizational skills, and commitment to learning to strengthen the bonds of and enhance the cultural life of the community he loved. Emil is survived by his son Louis Torick of Chicago, IL, and daughter Lisa Torick, of Longmont, CO. He will be interred at the Santa Barbara Cemetery in a private service. The Music Club has scheduled a concert on October 23 to commemorate Emil. Please visit their website at www.sbmusicclub.org in the coming months for more information.