

Guiding CFA to New Heights

Norman Dello Joio hailed as prolific composer, talented leader

BY NATALIE JACOBSON MCCrackEN

College of Fine Arts and University Professor Emeritus Norman Dello Joio, a widely honored and prolific composer and dean of the College of Fine Arts from 1972 to 1978, died on July 24. He was 95.

Taught by his father, an organist, singer, and vocal coach, Dello Joio became an organist and choir director at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church on City Island, New York, when he was fourteen.

He graduated from City University of New York and turned to composing as a graduate student at Juilliard. In 1937 he won the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Award for his piano trio, the first of a succession of honors, among them two Music Critics' Circle Awards, an Emmy, and in 1957 a Pulitzer Prize for *Meditations on Ecclesiastes*. Religion was a dominant theme of his work, particularly the life of Joan of Arc, the subject of three operas and a symphonic piece.

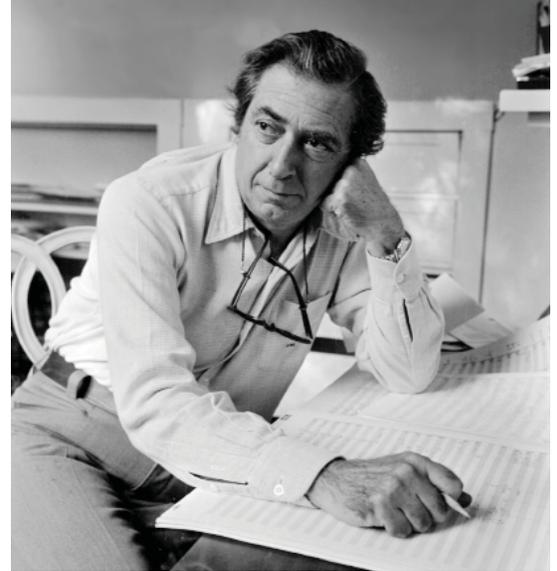
His massive oeuvre also includes more than forty-five choral works, nearly thirty pieces for orchestra, ten for band, twenty-five for solo voice, ballets (two commissioned by Martha Graham), nine

television scores, and other works for piano (some for children), flute, clarinet, harmonica, and organ.

He taught composition and choir at Sarah Lawrence College from 1945 to 1950 and composition at the Mannes College of Music from 1960 to 1972, when he was appointed dean of CFA by President Emeritus John Silber (HON.'95). He also was executive director of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, which offers music programs during the summer for high school and college students in association with Boston Symphony Orchestra's Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, Massachusetts.

Silber says Dello Joio transformed the college and "brought it to its highest mettle of artistic achievement in the recruitment of many outstanding artists to the faculty: the sculptors Harold Tovish and Isabel McIlvain, the painter Philip Guston, the theater director Alan Schneider, the pianist Anthony di Bonaventura, the composer David Del Tredici, for master classes at Tanglewood the soprano Phyllis Curtin, and many others."

Under Dello Joio's deanship, Silber



adds, the BU Orchestra, conducted by Joseph Silverstein, won the silver medal at the Herbert von Karajan Festival of Student Orchestras in Berlin.

"A dedicated artist himself, he devoted mornings to composition and spent the afternoons and evenings overseeing the work of the college and its various programs," Silber says.

Dello Joio's works continued to be performed throughout the United States during his deanship; Silber and his wife, Kathryn, attended premiere performances of his compositions by the Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted by Eugene Ormandy, and at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

"His presence and that of his wife, Barbara, added new dimensions to our lives," Silber says.

graduate degree from BU, Towle joined the U.S. Navy. He served as a lieutenant aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific during World War II and was awarded nine battle stars and a Purple Heart.

He joined the School of Management faculty in 1945 as an instructor and retired as a professor of accounting in 1987. He was a member of the American Institute of

Certified Public Accountants.

Towle is survived by his nine children, five of whom attended BU: Richard, Jr. (CAS'66, SED'70), Doretha (SMG'66), Douglas (COM'69;73), Thomas (SMG'78), and Steven (SMG'79). *Katie Koch*

ROBERT L. TREESE (STH'53, GRS'58), 88, School of Theology professor emeritus of practical theology, on January 1.

TREESE, A BU faculty member from 1956 to 1983, also was associate director of field education for STH students. A passionate crusader for social justice, he espoused the role Christianity could play in foster-

ing equality for minorities, women, gays, and underpaid workers.

After working as a machinist in Chicago, Treese moved to Boston in the early 1950s to pursue a career in the ministry. He earned an STH degree in 1953 and joined the faculty while earning a doctorate in biblical studies. He taught courses on parish administration, pastoral leadership, evangelism, and other practical ministerial matters.

He was known for taking brave stands on controversial issues. He marched for civil rights in Selma in the early 1960s and was jailed in California for striking with grape pickers. He hired the first female faculty member

at the School of Theology and fought for inclusiveness in the workplace.

In 1965, Treese helped found the Council on Religion and Homosexuality, an interdenominational coalition of liberal church leaders and gay rights groups. The council's conference in San Francisco led to Treese's 1966 paper "Homosexuality: A Contemporary View of the Biblical Perspective," which is still cited in defense of the Bible's tolerance of homosexuality.

While at BU, Treese also served as minister of the Allston and Quincy Methodist churches and as an elder in the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church. *KK*

