

Obituary Published in Ithaca Journal on Mar. 12, 2005

LENORE CORAL

(1939-2005) ITHACA - Lenore Frances Coral died of cancer on Tuesday evening, March 8, 2005, at Hospicare in Ithaca, NY. In her declining weeks, she was surrounded by loving family, friends, colleagues, and students. Lenore was raised in Detroit and attended Cass Technical High School, where she was active playing the flute and piccolo. She went on to study at the University of Chicago earning a B.A. degree in music (1961) and a Masters in Library Science (1965). She continued her studies on a Fulbright Fellowship at King's College, University of London (1965-67), receiving a Ph.D. in Musicology in 1974. Her career began at the University of California, Irvine in 1967, where she was the founding librarian of the Fine Arts collection. She then served as Music Librarian at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and, from 1982, as Music Librarian and Adjunct Professor of Music at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, until her untimely death. Her Ph.D. dissertation, under the direction of Thurston Dart, began her life-long study of British auction and sales catalogues containing musical materials, a field in which she was considered a pre-eminent expert. In addition to an earlier series of publications on that subject, at her death she left the nearly completed manuscript of a book, which in her last days she arranged to have finished, edited and published. Lenore will also be remembered around the world for her notable contributions to scholarship in the fields of library science and musicology. She was influentially active on an extraordinary number of national and international committees in the library world - committees that decided on new rules for cataloguing, copyright laws, and other important technical matters in the worlds of librarianship and scholarship. She also served a term as president of the Music Library Association, and on the Boards of Directors of the International Association of Music Libraries, and of the American Musicological Society. For her many contributions the library world rewarded her with numerous awards, prizes, and citations. At Cornell she presided over one of the finest music libraries in North America, taught a famous seminar introducing students to the arcane skills required to do original research in music, mentored generations of students, attended hundreds of concerts, and was active in nearly every aspect of the Department of Music's many activities. She was instrumental in designing the beautiful new space for the music library when Lincoln Hall was renovated in 2000. Lenore is survived by her sister, Suzanne Allender of Prescott, AZ; her nieces, Laura Ferguson of Atlanta, GA, and Jessica Allender of Chicago, IL. She is also survived by her companion of many years, Anders Lönn of Stockholm, Sweden; and by cousins, Annette Fern of Boston, MA, Maxine Gann of New York, and Andrea Graham of Edinburgh, Scotland; and many other loving cousins and friends. A memorial service will be held in Ithaca on the Cornell Campus at Barnes Hall Auditorium on April 9 at 2:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lenore Coral Endowment for the Cornell Music Library.