

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

H. Kim Bottomly

To: The Wellesley College Community  
From: H. Kim Bottomly  
Subject: In Memoriam: Owen Jander  
Date: February 17, 2015

I was saddened to learn that Owen Jander, the Catherine Mills Davis Professor Emeritus of Music, died on January 21 at the age of 84. He taught in the music department at Wellesley from 1960 until his retirement in 1992.

A much-beloved teacher, he was the first to hold the Catherine Mills Davis professorship. He was perhaps best known for the introductory course Music 100, and was famous among his students for his class experiment using dripping molasses to illustrate the rhythmic flows of a musical melisma. He was an exceptional teacher, and won the College's Pinanski Prize for Teaching in 1991. At the time, his award citation read, "He puts so much life and energy into his teaching that his audience is irresistibly drawn into his love for music."

Professor Jander began his career studying 17<sup>th</sup> Century Italian music, although the focus of his research shifted in the mid-1970s to the study of music history and period instruments. He was widely published and received various prestigious academic awards, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

In addition to his teaching and scholarly pursuits, Professor Jander will long be remembered for spearheading the project that brought a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Fisk organ to Houghton Chapel in 1981. In fact, at the time of the organ's inauguration, Professor Jander inscribed our motto, *Non ministrari sed ministrare*, on the hand bar of the manual bellows of the instrument.

Prior to Wellesley, Professor Jander taught at Lake Forest Academy in Lake Forest, Illinois, at the Friends' School in Ramallah, Jordan, and as a teaching fellow in the Harvard Music Department. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, and master's and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University.

A memorial service will be held for Professor Jander at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 15 in Houghton Chapel.

I extend my condolences to Professor Jander's family, friends, and colleagues.

