Memorial Resolution

Associate Professor Thomas Trobaugh (1941-1979)

Thomas Trobaugh died of a brain tumor on November 15, 1979. He is survived by
his wife Patricia, his son Garrett, and his daughter Anna Christina.

His education took him far from his native Tennessee, including degrees in music
from the Eastman School, Indiana and Florida State Universities and a year of harpsi-
chord study in Vienna. The interest in performance of older music that this special
study implies was, however, frequently overshadowed by Trobaugh as composer of
twentieth-century music.

Tom joined the UWM Music Department in 1970 as lecturer in music theory and
composition, advancing to the rank of Associate Professor in 1976. Students have
consistently praised his dedication and unending patience. He always found time to
give special help outside of his busy classroom schedule. During the early 1970's
Trobaugh helped formulate the successful Spectrum in Music series developed through
the UW Extension program. It is characteristic of his wide-ranging interests that
one of his own lectures dealt with "Humor in Music."

In more recent years untold hours were given to the arduous task of constantly
updating the theory program to keep in step with the most recent developments. Some
of this work arose from deliberations in the various departmental and School of Fine
Arts committees where Trobaugh excelled in reliability and seriousness, with selfless
long-range goals and the students' benefit always uppermost in his mind.

The span of his interests was evident in his keyboard performances, too. He was
ever willing to take on a demanding part in a contemporary ensemble work; however,
more recently he turned increasingly to music for the harpsichord. The beautiful
instrument he had built to his specifications became a cherished member of the family.
The last two years included solo recitals in a widening range around the state. Two
well-received recordings on the prestigious Musical Heritage label list Trobaugh as a
harpsichordist, performing his own realizations of the accompanying line in Baroque
woodwind sonatas.

As a composer, Trobaugh favored instrumental music with the Passacaglia for Chamber
Orchestra among his first and the Canzonet and Dance for two flutes among his last works.
Indeed, the latter work celebrated his musical presence at the memorial service in his
honor. Two string quartets, a number of keyboard works, such as the Variations for
Harpsichord on a Theme by Byrd, a Sextet for Brass and Four Songs are among his com-
positions. A Graduate School grant awarded just at the time of his sudden death has
been converted to a posthumous award to support publication and recording of his works.

Tom's special human qualities, so much appreciated by his colleagues and his
students, made for a most happy family life. His wife took pride in his skills as a
carpenter, gardener and general handyman. His children, aged 4 and 2, found him a
joyful companion and most patient guide. He loved nature and the outdoors, enjoyed
fishing weekends with some friends, sightseeing with others, ever alert to see and
learn new things.

We who knew Thomas Trobaugh grieve that this life was ended before its fullest
flowering. The quality of his dedication to his art, to family and friends, but above
all to a moral order of selflessness and absolute integrity remains as an enduring
inspiration.

For the Department of Music,

Hilde H. Junkermann

HHJ/db
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