

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
WARREN DWIGHT ALLEN
1885-1964

Warren Dwight Allen was born in San Jose, California, on August 31, 1885. After completing his elementary and high school education there in 1903, he entered the University of California at Berkeley, studied music with Harris Worcester, and taught private piano lessons. In 1909 he joined the American Guild of Organists and after passing the required examinations was awarded the degree of Associate of the American Guild of Organists.

During the next two years he was in Europe studying in Paris and Berlin. While in Paris, Professor Allen was a pupil of Charles Marie Widor, the well-known organist of St. Sulpice. In 1912, after his return to the United States, he married Esther Louise Houk, a reputable singer and musician in the Bay Area.

The next year he joined the faculty of the College of the Pacific, then located in San Jose, and served as the Dean of its conservatory of Music from 1914 to 1919. In 1918 Stanford University appointed Warren Allen its University Organist, and he held that post until 1947. Mr. and Mrs. Allen built a home on the Stanford campus, and in 1921 their daughter, Patricia Louise Allen was born.

Before the establishment of a department of music at Stanford, Warren D. Allen contributed much to the university. The musical life of Stanford Memorial Church centered around him as organist and choirmaster. Frequent recitals and choral performances enriched the student and community life. The best of choral and organ literature was presented in church services, on Founders' Day, and on other university occasions. He also organized a number of festival choral performances among which were a concert production of Gounod's Faust in 1921 and Mendelssohn's Elijah in the new stadium in 1922.

Recognition of his ability as a performing musician soon spread beyond the university, and between the years of 1922 and 1935, he went on numerous organ recital tours throughout the United States and Canada. From 1921 to 1923 he served as Dean of the Northern California Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He was a professional consultant for the construction of many new organs in the area, and under his supervision the Memorial Church organ was modernized and enlarged.

Warren Allen was known for his intellectual curiosity, and although his professional musical training had been of the highest order, he wanted to continue his academic education. While he was teaching and performing at Stanford, he enrolled in courses in philosophy and social institutions and received his A.B. degree in 1934 as a Phi Beta Kappa. He then went to the University of California and completed work toward a Master of Arts degree in 1935. During each Winter Quarter for the next several years, he enrolled in advanced graduate study at Columbia University in the fields of educational sociology and musicology. In 1939 he received the Ph.D. degree from that institution and his dissertation, Philosophies of Music History, was published by the American Book Company. The academic awards continued in 1941 when the College of the Pacific bestowed upon him the honorary degree, Doctor of Music.

During these same years, Professor Allen joined the American Musicological Society, and from 1942 to 1944 he served as the National Vice-President. He was also very active in the Music Teachers' National Association, becoming the National President in 1940. In addition to these offices, the Music Educators' National Conference appointed him Chairman of its National Committee on College and University Music and the Department of State appointed him as a member of the Advisory Committee on Music in the Division of Cultural Relations, Dr. Allen served as a visiting professor at both Cornell and the University of Texas during his active years.

In the meantime, his contribution to Stanford University continued to grow. In 1935 the general music courses and performing organizations were grouped together under his leadership as Chairman of the Division of Music, a position he held until the organization of the present Department of Music, in 1946. During that period, Dr. Allen helped with the supervision of many excellent chamber music concerts sponsored by the Friends of Music and Mrs. Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge. With the addition to the music faculty of Jan Popper, formerly conductor of the State Opera in Prague, the Division of Music in cooperation with the Drama Department began a series of notable opera productions, a tradition still maintained.

In 1941 Dr. Allen was appointed Professor of Music and Education in which capacity he served until his retirement from Stanford in 1950. This appointment confirmed his membership on both the music and education faculties and it was under him that the first music education courses were organized at Stanford.

Dr. Allen was one of the pioneers in musical research in the American University, He was a contributor to a number of music and education periodicals as well as the International Cyclopedia of Music and Musicians, the author of Our Marching Civilization, Chapter XI of The Challenge to Education, and a comprehensive syllabus, Music and Society. His first book, Philosophies of Music History, was made available in a paperback edition in 1963.

After retirement from Stanford, Dr. and Mrs. Allen moved to Florida. He taught at Florida State University for five years, and its music library has been named the Warren D. Allen Library. In 1955 he and Mrs. Allen Moved to Seattle to establish their retirement home near his brother.

His last appearance at Stanford Memorial Church was in 1953 as guest organist for the 50th anniversary of the founding of Memorial Church, at which time a reviewer wrote that superlatives were necessary to describe his performance.

His departure from the Stanford community was a great loss. Dr. Allen's wit and interest in people were always evident. The Allen home on Alvarado Row was known for many years as a gracious place where friends gathered for many an evening of informal concerts, entertainment and discussion. He was a warm, friendly man of deep conviction and high ideals; as a man, a teacher, and friend, he left a strong impression on all who knew him.

After an illness of three years, Warren Dwight Allen died on June 21, 1964 at the age of 78. Funeral services were held in Seattle and an Organ and Choral Concert will be presented in his memory in the Stanford Memorial Church on October 18 of this year.

Professor Allen's wife, Esther, died in Tacoma in 1959, but he is survived by his brother, Ralph, and his daughter, Patricia; and to them, we, the members of the Academic Council, express our deepest sympathy.

Herbert B. Nanney, Chairman
Paul R. Hanna
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