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*News*

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**Gwendolyn Williams Koldofsky**, Emeritus, Director of Vocal Accompanying  
(November 1, 1906 – November 12, 1998)

Gwendolyn Williams Koldofsky, eminent vocal accompanist, died November 12, 1998 in Santa Barbara, California, her home for the past decade. She had a long and distinguished career as an accompanist and as a teacher of accompaniment, song literature, and chamber music. In 1947 she established the Department of Accompanying at the University of Southern California. This program was the first of its kind anywhere in the world, and its establishment raised accompanying to the level of performance. Mrs. Koldofsky brought musicians from around the world to lecture and perform for her students. This program continues to be one of the finest programs in the world, due largely to her vision, influence, and leadership. She remained on the faculty of USC's School of Music until 1990, chairing the Department of Accompanying, and retiring as professor Emeritus. One of her most distinguished students at USC is the esteemed accompanist Martin Katz.

Mrs. Koldofsky received five of the highest honors given at USC School of Music for excellence in performance and teaching, and also received a certificate of honor from the International Congress of Women in Music.

Born November 1, 1906 in Bowmanville, Ontario, she received her early training at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto as a student of Viggo Kihl. She studied for three years in London with the great piano pedagogue, Tobias Matthay. She pursued special studies in ensemble playing with Harold Craxton, the eminent English accompanist and teacher, and with Marguerite Hasselmans, the disciple of Gabriel Fauré, in Paris.

Among the artists whom she accompanied on tours in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia, are Lotte Lehmann (for eight years), Suzanne Danco, Herta Glaz, Mack Harrell, Hermann Prey, Martial Singher, Peter Schreier, Marilyn Horne (her former student), Eleanor Steber, Jan Peerce, and her husband Adolph Koldofsky, the Russian-Canadian violinist, a student of Ysaye and Sevcik.

Gwendolyn Koldofsky taught at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara for three decades (1956-1989) as Director of Vocal Accompanying. While there, she taught with Lotte Lehmann for ten years, and with the famous French baritone, Martial Singher, for 20 years. She also served as a judge for competitions, lectured and taught masterclasses for accompanists, singers, and ensembles.

Mrs. Koldofsky was one of the first women to succeed as a vocal accompanist. Her grace, humor, intelligence, and, above all, her passion for music will be missed. She is survived by her nephew, Dane Williams. There will be no funeral. Contributions can be made to the Gwendolyn and Adolph Koldofsky Memorial Scholarship Fund at USC or to the Music Academy of the West.