

George DeVine, retired UT music professor, dies

Whether solving the New York Times crossword puzzle or drafting program notes for the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, George Francis DeVine delighted in words.

"He loved words and was excellent at using them," said Helen Johnston, a former student and longtime friend.

Mr. DeVine died Friday at the Shannondale Health Care Center. He was 84.

Mr. DeVine, a professor emeritus of music at the University of Tennessee, helped David Van Vactor in 1947 found what would become the university's School of Music.

A Chicago native, Mr. DeVine played bassoon with the Chicago Civic Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Ravinia Festival in his early adulthood. He was also bassoonist with the Kansas City Philharmonic, the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra and the Knoxville Symphony.

Mr. DeVine's wife, the late June Nowack DeVine, also was an accomplished bassoonist.

While at UT, Mr. DeVine was an instructor in instrumentation and orchestration and a professor of music history for 38 years.

He also spent 40 years writing program notes for the Knoxville Symphony's concerts. When he retired in 1985, the university's music library was named in his honor.

DeVINE, GEORGE FRANCIS - Professor Emeritus of Music at the University of Tennessee, died Friday, August 13, 1999,

at Shannondale Health Care Center in Knoxville. Member of Holy Ghost Catholic Church and former member of St. John's Cathedral Episcopal Church. Born in Chicago, Ill. on May 4, 1915, he was a graduate of Carl Schurz High School and



served as bassoonist with the Chicago Civic Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra Ravinia Festival, Kansas City Philharmonic, Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra, and Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. Professor DeVine came to the New Department of Fine Arts (now School of Music) at the University of Tennessee along with its founding department head, David Van Vactor, in 1947. He served as administrative assistant for the department, then instructor in instrumentation and orchestration, and professor of music history for a total of 38 years. At the time of his retirement in 1985, The George F. DeVine Music Library was named to honor him and his long-standing commitment to building the library collection and fostering its use among students. For 40 years, he wrote the program notes for concerts of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. As lifelong friend of David Van Vactor, he was copyist for most of Van Vactor's compositions and indexed his manuscripts for the university libraries. He was preceded in death by parents, sister and wife, June Nomack DeVine. Most of all, DeVine will be remembered by thousands of former students who were inspired and enriched by his humor, intellectual curiosity, deep knowledge, religious faith and sincere caring for his students and friends. Special caregiver, Brenda Kilby. Funeral Mass 10 a.m. Monday at Holy Ghost Catholic Church with Father Vann Johnson and Father Chrysogonus officiating. Interment to follow at Highland Memorial Cemetery. Pallbearers: Stanley Briggs, Ken Brown, Everett Carter, Geoffrey Greene, Larry Long, Jim Lotz, Keith McClelland, Vance Reese, John Snyder, William Starr, and Stephen Young. In lieu of flowers, please send memorial contributions for the George F. DeVine Music Library to University of Tennessee Development Office, 1609 Melrose Ave., Knoxville, Tn 37996-3550. Visitation 7-8 p.m. Sunday with a Christian wake service at 8 p.m. at *Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel.*