

Thank you to Faculty Senate for inviting me to speak about Paul Brink, who passed away on January 29, 2020.

Paul Brink came to UofL in the mid-60s and worked at the School of Music as it moved through three campuses: first, Gardencourt near Cherokee Park; then the Shelby Campus; and finally here on Belknap when our building was opened in the early 80s.

Paul was hired for the faculty of music theory and composition. He fully embodied the versatility of a well-trained musician. He had played trombone as a youth and then took degrees in theory and composition. His training and curiosity carried him further into academic topics, and he was the acoustics professor for many years. His scores of students remember Dr. Brink's teaching as comprehensive, friendly, delivered with a dry wit, and always focused on musical features. Paul's practicality, clear thinking, evenhandedness, and organizational skills put him in the crosshairs for administrative duties, and he became the Associate Dean of the School of Music by the mid-70s. As the planning for the new building commenced in that decade, Paul's expertise was called on for such things as sound-proofing the building and ensuring that the acoustics of our concert hall would be suitable for ensembles ranging from intimate string quartets to boisterous brass bands. That effort has turned out exceedingly well: professional ensembles who come to play for the Louisville Chamber Music Society extol the sound of that space.

In the 80s, Paul's calm vision was called on again as Charlie Grawemeyer began planning the distinguished series of awards bearing his name. The Music Award is the first of these, given initially in 1985, and Mr. Grawemeyer invited several people on the music faculty to help him design the award and processes. Paul was proud of his role in establishing these awards. Throughout this time, Paul continued to serve as Associate Dean. In the early 90s, he was acting dean for two years. He became the director of the Grawemeyer Award for Music in the mid-90s and kept that role until he retired in 2004. Paul was admired widely for both his equanimity and for his knowing twinkle. If anyone really understood the workings of the School of Music in those days, I'm sure it was Paul Brink.

Paul composed music throughout his career, some of it for performance at his church, for brass ensembles, and the like. Other larger pieces were performed by the Louisville Orchestra.

When I spoke to his widow Sally in January and commented that Paul's presence is felt throughout the School of Music, she responded, "Of course it is, his signature is on everything!" While my comments have focused on how I knew Paul Brink within our School of Music, I'm sure there are others across the campus who could share memories that reach more broadly.

- Dr. Rebecca Jemian