

TRIBUTE

Paul Freeman '56E, '63E (PhD): 'A Class Act on and off the Podium'

When I was first invited to join the Chicago Sinfonietta Orchestra in 1991, I felt much pride and excitement in belonging to the nation's most diverse orchestra. I felt a little trepidation, though, playing for a maestro I did not know. Who was this Paul Freeman? What was he like?

As it developed, I couldn't have landed in a nicer place. Maestro Freeman turned out to be the most wonderful gentleman I have ever performed with; a true class act on and off the podium. He viewed the musicians in his orchestra as valued colleagues. Indeed, we functioned as one big happy family and were treated as such.

Maestro Freeman was a tireless promoter of his orchestra, which he founded in 1987. Legend has it that he once walked into a bank and emerged a short while later with a \$10,000 donation. I believe that legend; with his energy and positive spirit, he could talk just about anybody into just about anything.

Maestro brought us on many tours all over Western Europe and the United States; we played in some of the finest concert halls in the world. He also championed new music and young talent. Our soloists came from all over the world and included names such as Sharon Isbin and Chick



MAESTRO: Freeman founded the Chicago Sinfonietta, a world-class orchestra noted for its racial and gender diversity.

Corea, but more often we'd host a young soloist just making a name for him or herself.

Our recordings were full of premieres. I will never forget sight-reading a *really* difficult piece one morning, then recording it in the afternoon. Whatever the circumstances,

though, the Maestro always approached the project with a positive attitude. This earned him a 200 percent effort from his orchestra. If he asked for it, we gave it.

The Maestro conducted like he did everything else in life: with infectious, bubbling, positive elan. His cues were sometimes bigger than life (I will never forget the famous "gong cue," a pirouette of balletic proportions) and always propelled us forward with his signature unstoppable energy. On the rare occasions when our ensemble's speed flagged, a simple "come along now" would restore the momentum and we'd be on track again.

Maestro died in July at age 79. Although he passed his baton on to new leadership four years ago, we maintain his signature stamp on almost everything we do, most importantly, the presentation of rising young artists from diverse cultures. I look forward to carrying on his legacy for years to come. Au revoir, Maestro Freeman. I will be forever grateful for the time we spent together changing the world through beautiful music. **R**

—CAROL LAHTI DYLAN '87E (MM)

Dylan is assistant concertmaster of the Chicago Sinfonietta.

School of Nursing

1965 Phyllis Godette sends news of the 50th reunion of the Class of 1965 of the Highland Hospital School of Nursing. The school, affiliated with the University, opened in 1891 and closed in 1979. This past June, Phyllis writes, "18 of our 41 graduates reminisced about the many changes in the profession over these last 50 years. This nursing class boasts being one of the first to attend the new Monroe Community College then held at the old East High School building on Alexander Street. At graduation, we marched to 'Pomp and Circumstance' at the Eastman School of Music, wearing the newest and final rendition of the school's official nurses cap. The previous black-banned wing cap then became the student cap. My, how times have changed." Pictured on page 58 are (back row, left to right) **Carlise Bossard, Carol**

Hasler, Donna English, Phyllis; (middle row, left to right) **Cheryl Keegan, Bonnie Howard, Nicki Knott, Jean Bartholomew, Patricia Edmonds, Marjorie Switzer, Nancy Miller;** (first row, left to right) **Lola Rejman, Susan El-Shafie, Laura Sick, Carole Bogle, Susan Kingsbury, and Judith Cross.**

1970 Nancy Heller Cohen (see '70 College).

Simon Business School

1974 David Honig (MS) was honored by the National Urban League in April. Cofounder and immediate past president of the Multicultural Media, Telecom, and Internet Council, or MMTC, David received the Civil Rights Partner Organization Champion Award. An attorney, David founded MMTC

in 1986, and since then, MMTC has represented more than 70 minority, civil rights, and religious organizations before the FCC.

1982 Thomas Lys (PhD) has coauthored a book, *Getting (More of) What You Want: How the Secrets of Economics and Psychology Can Help You Negotiate Anything, in Business and in Life* (Basic Books). Thomas is the Eric L. Kohler Chair in Accounting at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management.

1984 Evans Lam (MBA) (see '83 College).

1994 Lawrence Creatura (MBA) (see '87 College).

1996 Bryan Bond (MBA) (see '91 College).

2002 Roderik van der Touw (MBA) writes that he and Yuli

Agustini welcomed twins, Alexander and Stephanie, last January.

2015 Chris Skipper (MBA) has been named director of new business development at Cerion, a Rochester developer and manufacturer of high-performance nanomaterials.

Warner School of Education

1980 Barbara Regenspan (Mas) (see '73 College).

1982 Liz Quinn Nally (MS) (see '77 College). . . . Judy-Ann West (MS) (see '77 College).

1984 Nancy Hoehl Shapiro (MS) has published a book, *We Had a Ball: The Indelible Influence of Youth Sports on the Game of Life* (Mill City Press).