Music Professor Glenn Glasow Dies

By CSUH News Services

Glenn Glasow, professor emeritus of music and Asian studies at Cal State Hayward, died Sunday, July 28, after suffering a heart attack.

Professor Glasow retired in 1995 after 34 years of teaching music and Asian studies at CSUH. His passing came three days after his 78th birthday.

According to a university spokesman, Professor Glasow was known for his dedication to his students and for having a wry sense of humor.

Born in Minnesota, he first played trumpet in dance bands in small towns in the Midwest. When he settled on making music his career, he sought out distinguished composers with whom to study and became a student of Ernst Krenek at Hamline University.

It was at Hamline that he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music. In 1954 Professor Glasow received a Fulbright grant and studied in Germany with composer Wolfgang Fortner. He subsequently earned a Ph.D. in music at the University of Illinois.

In 1959, composer Robert Erickson, a fellow Hamline alumnus, invited Professor Glasow to succeed him as music director of Pacifica radio station KPEA in Berkeley.

While there, Professor Glasow interviewed such noted contemporary composers as John Cage, Roger Sessions and Terry Riley. Two years later he began his Cal State Hayward teaching career while continuing to work part time at KPEA.

He developed innovative courses in Asian and world music for CSUH by collecting materials through his frequent travels to Asia, especially Japan.

His students, who came from as far away as Brazil, Italy and Asia, found him welcoming and encouraging, and he maintained his friendships with many of them for the rest of his life, according to faculty colleagues Frank LaRocca and Ray Reeder and friend Ann Basart.


Among his many honors were the Elizabeth J. Freund Chamber Music Prize, an Institute of International Education Award, and a Danforth Scholarship for study in India.

Professor Glasow is survived by his daughters, Catherine Glasow of Albany, and Patricia Glasow of El Cerrito; a sister, Lucille Gulbrandson of Waco, Texas; and longtime companion Yoshiko Kakudo of Oakland.

Plans for a memorial service will be announced at a later date.