

Richard Freed, 93, died at his home in Rockville, MD, on New Year's Day. Born in Chicago, but grew up in Tulsa, Freed had written and broadcast on music for some sixty years, during which time he served on the music staffs of Saturday Review and The New York Times and reviewed recordings for National Public Radio and radio stations in Chicago and Washington. He had long relationships with Stereo Review (for which, in addition to monthly reviews and feature articles, he wrote a separately published annual rating of recordings of "The Basic Repertory"), The Washington Star, The Washington Post, and other newspapers and magazines in the US and UK. He also programmed and annotated a series of recordings for the Smithsonian Institution. He was assistant to the director of the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music in the 1960s, and for 17 years he was executive director of the Music Critics Association of North America [<http://www.mcana.org/>].

Following a brief stint as public relations director for the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, he created and hosted a 17-year series of broadcasts of that orchestra, and a shorter one for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. He was program annotator for those two orchestras as well as the Philadelphia Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Houston Symphony, and the Flint Symphony Orchestra – his concert notes covered the equivalent of more than 100 seasons. He also annotated about 500 recordings for various labels

In retirement, he wrote an on-line series called "Keepers," [<https://www.soundstagehifi.com/index.php/feature-articles/keepers>] for the SoundStage Network [<https://www.soundstagehifi.com/>], and reviewed recordings and audio gear for TheAudioBeat.com [<http://theaudiobeat.com/>]. He received two ASCAP/Deems Taylor Awards, a Grammy®, and, for work in the service of music, the Medal of Knight, First Class, of the Order of the Lion of Finland.

He is survived by his spouse, Louise, of Kensington, MD, and their daughter, Erica, of Los Angeles, CA. Services will be private. A memorial observation will be scheduled in due course. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the MCANA*, the NSO** [<https://www.kennedy-center.org/Support/memorial-gift/>], NPR*** [<https://www.npr.org/donations/support?donate=npr>], or a symphony orchestra of your choice are welcomed.

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