



CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Joe Cressy

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Layton

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Michael Colgrass on July 2, 2019.

Michael was a highly accomplished composer, musician and teacher, and a strong advocate for Toronto's waterfront. He will be dearly missed.

Born in Brookfield, Illinois, Michael fell in love with Jazz and formed his own band at age 11. After graduating, Michael moved to New York to become a freelance composer, and supported himself through performance in venues that included the New York Philharmonic, American Ballet Theater, Dizzy Gillespie, the original West Side Story orchestra on Broadway and numerous ballet, opera and jazz ensembles.

Michael composed orchestral and chamber works, operas and other works for chorus and solo vocalists. His style and creative approach was whimsical and boundary-defying, and always seeking ways to draw in new audiences.

Michael won the 1978 Pulitzer Prize for Music for *Déjà vu*, which was commissioned and premiered by the New York Philharmonic. In addition, Michael received an Emmy Award in 1982 for a PBS documentary "Soundings: The Music of Michael Colgrass." He was awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships, A Rockefeller Grant, First Prize in the Barlow and Sudler International Wind Ensemble Competitions, and the 1988 Jules Leger Prize for Chamber Music.

Michael's love of creating music led him to devise a new notation system that was easy to learn and allowed children to quickly begin to compose their own musical works. He spent hours teaching young students, regardless of their ability to play.

In the 1970s, Michael and his wife Ulla chose to make Toronto their home. Michael became a strong advocate for his new community and a spirited friend of the waterfront. Through many campaigns, Michael stood up for a vision of a waterfront filled with vitality and spaces for creative expression. His twinkling eyes and spirit were always present to support his community.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Michael's family and friends.

July 16, 2019