



Alfred Reed

January 25, 1921 - September 17, 2005

Miami, Florida

Alfred Reed, American composer and conductor whose concert-band scores became core repertoire for school and university ensembles across the country, died in Miami, Florida, on September 17, 2005. He was eighty-four. Born January 25, 1921, in New York City, he wrote for orchestra, chorus, and chamber groups, but it was the wind band - Armenian Dances, Russian Christmas Music, and dozens of other works - that made his name synonymous with serious music for student musicians.

He taught at the University of Miami School of Music and traveled widely as a guest conductor, treating bandrooms as concert halls rather than marching afterthoughts. Directors still program Reed when they want lyricism and craft that challenge without sneering at the medium. More than two hundred published works left a shelf that outlived fashion cycles in American music education.

Festival circuits and all-state bands kept his pages in folders long after premiere applause faded. Colleagues remembered a practical craftsman who knew how young players breathe and what a clarinet section can carry at sight. Publishers kept reprinting because the music worked in real rooms with real kids - the hardest review of all.

He died in Miami on September 17, 2005. Festival stages and spring concerts keep the memorial louder than any single biography.

Reed's gift was dignity for the band - melodies and forms that told young players their instrument mattered. That practical streak - melody first, playability always - is why so many American band programs still open spring

concerts with his pages.

Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 17 remembers the composer who filled American band folders with lasting scores.

Services

Died in Miami, Florida, September 17, 2005. Composer and conductor; University of Miami faculty; major concert-band works include Armenian Dances and Russian Christmas Music.

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