

# IN MEMORIAM

## VIRGINIA BABIKIAN

September 20, 1924 - March 22, 1997

March 26, 1997

11:30 a.m.

Stude Concert Hall

The Shepherd School of Music

Rice University

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*Seating of the Family*

**Concerto for Violin in E minor**

Felix Mendelssohn

II. *Andante*

Kenneth Goldsmith, violin

Thomas Jaber, piano

**Praise to the Lord \***

arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Tribute

Reverend Ronny W. Barner

**The Church's One Foundation** (Aurelia) †

1. *The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; she is his new creation by water and the word. From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her and for her life he died.*
2. *Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth; her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth; one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*
3. *Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?" And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*
4. *'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore; till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.*
5. *Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won. O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.*

**Beautiful Savior \***

arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Tribute

Dr. Michael Hammond

**The Swan** (from *Carnival of the Animals*)

Camille Saint-Saëns

Norman Fischer, cello

Thomas Jaber, piano

**How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place \***  
from *Ein Deutsches Requiem*

Johannes Brahms

Tribute

Dr. Gerald B. Ray

**Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart (Marion) †**

1. Rejoice, ye pure in heart; rejoice, give thanks and sing; your glorious banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

2. Your clear hosannas raise, and alleluias loud; whilst answering echoes upward float, like wreaths of incense cloud. Refrain

3. Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go; from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe. Refrain

4. At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest; the pilgrims find their heavenly home, Jerusalem the blest. Refrain

5. Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God forevermore. Refrain

Selections from **Carmina Burana** (1958 recording)

Carl Orff

Virginia Babikian, soprano

Houston Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

Leopold Stokowski, conductor

Scripture and Benediction

Dr. Barry Landrum

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross \***

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

\* To be sung by the choir only.

† To be sung by everyone.



Reverend Ronny W. Barner

Minister of Music, West University Baptist Church

Norman Fischer

Professor of Cello, The Shepherd School of Music

Kenneth Goldsmith

Professor of Violin, The Shepherd School of Music

Dr. Michael Hammond

Dean, The Shepherd School of Music

Thomas Jaber

Pianist, Associate Professor of Choral Music and Vocal Coaching,  
The Shepherd School of Music

Dr. Barry Landrum

Pastor, West University Baptist Church

Dr. Gerald B. Ray

Minister of Music, Houston's First Baptist Church

Dr. David A. Wehr

Professor and Director of Choral Music, Houston Baptist University

## VIRGINIA BABIKIAN

(1924-1997)

Virginia Babikian was born September 20, 1924, in Everett, Massachusetts, to Ella Clark Babikian and Aaron Babikian. She graduated from Everett High School in 1941 and attended Westminster Choir College where she earned both her Bachelor's degree in Voice (*summa cum laude*) and her Master's degree in Choral Conducting in 1951 and 1952, respectively. Upon graduation, she was called to be the first Minister of Music at River Oaks Baptist Church, Houston, Texas (1952-56). Miss Babikian was then awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Teatro del Opera a Roma (1956-57). While in Italy she debuted at Teatro Sperimentale in Spoleto. Upon returning to New York City, she had an extensive career singing as soprano soloist throughout the world, including the United States, Europe, South America, Central America, and the Orient, singing with world renowned orchestras, opera companies, and conductors such as Stokowski, Bernstein, Scherchen, and Jenkins. Her career spanned over forty years and included fourteen recordings, three of which are with the Houston Symphony, the most memorable being the 1958 recording of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* with Leopold Stokowski conducting. Miss Babikian was Artist-in-Residence and Professor of Voice at Houston Baptist University (1965-82), Vocal Coach and Conductor of the Houston Symphony Chorale (1969-86), and Professor of Music and Chairman of the Voice Department at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music (1982-97).

Virginia was a member of River Oaks Baptist Church (1952-87), a member of West University Baptist Church (1987-97) and active in the Adult Choir and Prime Time Singers, an honorary member of Houston's First Baptist Church Choir, and Faculty Sponsor for the Rice Baptist Student Union. Virginia was an avid bridge player, a devout football fan with season tickets to all Oilers, Rice, and University of Houston games, and she loved to travel. She went on over forty-two cruises, the first twenty as an entertainer for the American Export Lines, the U.S.S. Constitution, and the U.S.S. Independence. She visited every state except Idaho and Montana and every continent except Antarctica.

Virginia married George R. Stein from Seguin, Texas, in 1964. After a year in Seguin, they made their home in Houston for twenty-seven years. George preceded her in death in 1991. Her survivors include her sister Eleanor Babikian of Cambridge, Massachusetts, step-daughters and sons-in-law Barbara Elise and Vincent Burlaos of Hawaii and Virginia and Tom Bromley of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, granddaughter and husband Charlotte and Pat Stallings of Sarasota, Florida, granddaughter and grandson Lindsay and Reynolds Bromley of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, granddaughter Megan Fadden of Knoxville, Tennessee, great-grandson Hunter Stallings of Sarasota, Florida, "adopted daughter" and caretaker Rita R. La Rue of Houston, Texas, and her beautiful Irish setter, Shannon, from the "MyTymes" Kennel.