



George Constantin Blytas

December 20, 1930 - June 14, 2023

George C. Blytas passed away on June 14, 2023. He was 92 years old.

Born in Cairo, Egypt to Greek parents, Constantinos and Evanthia Blytas, he was the youngest of five children. He enjoyed being in the Scouts as a boy, and studied his first love, Music.

In 1956, George moved from the desert of Egypt to the frigid Midwest to study Physical Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he met his future wife and received his Doctorate.

George spent thirty years working for Shell Oil, first in California and then in Houston, Texas. Through his work at Shell, he refined processes and earned many patents. He also joined with several friends and founded the Hellenic Professional Society of Texas, an organization that links Greek professionals and provides scholarships to students.

Despite his dedication to his career, George never let his first love fade, and he created a small chamber group of musicians in 1973, the Houston Sinfonietta, which has grown into a full orchestra and is still active today.

After his retirement, George continued to spend his time wisely, working on his interests in music and history. He created compositions for piano and

orchestra, conducting the Sinfonietta until his health made it too difficult. He also spent years researching the role that Greece played in the Second World War and wrote an in-depth account called *The First Victory*.

George is survived by his loving wife, Cora Ann; his son Constantine and family, wife Carolyn and daughters Zoe and Georgia; and his daughter, Christina; as well as his nephew, John (Akis) Vlahos.

The service will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to:

The Houston Sinfonietta (<https://www.houstonsinfonietta.org/>)

or to the Hellenic Professional Society of Texas (<https://www.hpst.org/>)

Cemetery Details

Forest Park Westheimer Cemetery

12800 Westheimer Road
Houston, TX 77077

Tribute Wall



“ George Constantin Blytas

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ George Constantin Blytas

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ George Constantin Blytas

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ George Constantin Blytas

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM

JG

“ I am sad to learn of George's passing. I was so grateful to have a position in the Houston Sinfonietta in years past. Under George's baton, I had the opportunity to play piccolo on Holst's *The Planets*, and flute on all four Brahms symphonies, as well as many other great works in the repertoire. These are experiences I hold very close to my heart. I was also honored to play flute on his composition. And I read his WWII book from cover to cover!

I wish Cora Ann, Taki, and Tina the very best as you all celebrate his life. His life touched so many others in a very profound way. George was always kind and gracious to me. I am fortunate that my path crossed his. Today I will play a tribute song for him on my flute and hope that he hears it up there where he now resides.

Janet Greenberg - September 17, 2023 at 03:29 PM

DG

“ I am sorry to hear about George's passing. My great condolences to George's family. I worked at Shell and knew George there for his scientific work. I played string bass in his orchestra, the Houston Sinfonietta, in its early days. I was so impressed with his scientific capabilities. His talent in playing AND composing music was amazing. He was very kind and encouraging to me as a young musician. God bless.

Dan Goodwin - August 20, 2023 at 08:13 AM

CE

“ I'm so sorry to hear of George's passing. He was a great man. Not only was he immensely talented but equally humble and kind. He was always so good to Ron and me. I'm so sorry CoraAnn.

Chris Embry - July 21, 2023 at 03:31 PM

JC

“ George was an engaging personality with a bright mind full of original ideas about chemistry. He had many notable talents, including music; also a clever sense of humor and a modest demeanor. I enjoyed working with him at Shell during 30+ years, and playing in his orchestra for 10-15. A unique, bright light has left us. Jim Colthart

Jim Colthart - June 19, 2023 at 10:27 PM

RS

“ I am saddened to hear of George's passing. I worked with George both at work and with his orchestra starting in 1978 until he retired from work and then from directing the Houston Sinfonietta. I respected George for both his genius as a scientist and as a musician. I still cannot comprehend how one person could be so good at both science, music, and history at the same time. He was also very sincere and compassionate about his friends and the organizations with which he worked. Not just the people who knew him, but the "world" will miss him. He was a great human being who found many ways to contribute to life, and to us all. Bob Szentirmay

Robert Szentirmay - June 19, 2023 at 09:46 AM

CB

“ Dear Cora Ann, I just read that George died this past week. Please accept my sincere sadness over this news. I will remember you and your family in my prayers. Sincerely,
Carol Bayens



Carol L Bayens - June 18, 2023 at 08:27 PM

BM

“ *Cora Ann and family of George . I send you sincere condolences and will have lovely memories of George conducting Sinfonietta. My husband Joe Munisteri died last night at 92 and he is probably playing today in Georges heavenly orchestra..Rest in Peace kind and gentle men...*

Barbra Munisteri - June 18, 2023 at 08:57 AM

GR

*Dear Blytas family,
Our sincerest condolences for the loss of your husband, father, friend and mentor to many. May his memory be Eternal. We think of him often as we play in the Sinfonietta.*

George Robinson - June 19, 2023 at 09:11 AM

GR

Barbra, condolences for Joe also.

George Robinson - June 19, 2023 at 09:14 AM



“ *Ghirardelli Galore Gift Tin was purchased for the family of George Constantin Blytas.*



June 17, 2023 at 11:32 PM

MK

“ Couple of days ago, the Greek community in Houston bid farewell to one of their most valuable members, Dr. George Blytas. George was an amazing person and we consider ourselves lucky to have been close to him and his family. He excelled in different areas such as physical chemistry and music. He leaves a legacy of two worthy projects that he spearheaded: the Hellenic Professional Society and the Sinfonietta. His quest for knowledge and his love for his Greek heritage prompted him to write a well researched book about WWII. We will miss you George! We extend our sincere condolences to Cora Ann, Tina and Taki. May his memory be eternal!

Margo Kalfoglou - June 17, 2023 at 11:22 PM

AP

“As a friend and student of Dr. Blytas “George”, I bid a fond farewell with much affection and admiration. I was always amazed at the productivity of this fine man but know, this could never have been accomplished without the love, patience, and fortitude of Cora Ann, who assisted and managed many of these incredible projects. I will only mention a few that I was able to participate in.

He was one of the founders of the Hellenic Professional Society of Houston which exists today as a proponent of Greek culture and many other humanitarian activities. It is approaching its fiftieth anniversary.

I did not play in his “Sinfonietta”, but I attended many beautiful concerts whose sound measured up to any professional orchestra by today’s standards.

I was honored to sing in his musical rendering of the words of the Nobel Peace Prize winner Elytis’ “Axion Esti” at Rice University many years ago. We practiced weekly at his home and his determination was endless. It was a great success of his composition, and the choir of amateurs that he was able to bring together.

My sincere condolences to Cora Ann, Taki, and Christina. Your husband and father will remain one of the most important “influencers” in my life. May his memory be eternal and his ethos one to emulate.

Argo Georgandis Pyle - June 17, 2023 at 11:18 AM