PASSING OF PIERRE AZOURI
November 19, 2014

Dear Friends:

It saddens me to inform you that Professor Pierre Azoury passed away this day, the 19 of November 2014 at the age of 84.

Pierre Azoury was born in Port Said, Egypt on the 15th of March 1930. After graduating from Victoria College in Alexandria, he went to England where he earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from London University. He continued his studies at the Imperial College where he received his doctorate in Mechanical Engineering in 1961.

That same year, Dr. Azoury joined AUB as an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. He was later promoted to Professor and he served as Chairman of the Mechanical Engineering Department from 1987 to 1995. His field of research was in compressible fluid flow where he published several technical papers. In 1992 he also published a textbook entitled “Engineering Applications of Unsteady Flow”.

Pierre Azoury’s second true passion was in classical music where he professed an indirect relationship between music and engineering. In an interview with Gareth Smith of the Daily Star, Dr. Azoury stated, “They can share the inspiration to invent. In all arts and sciences, there’s an emotional ecstasy in invention.”

Pierre Azoury was always deeply moved by the music of the great polish composer, Chopin, who had already impressed him as a teenager. He made his own contributions to the 150th anniversary of Chopin by authoring a book “Chopin Through His Contemporaries,”(1999). He was a member of the Friends of the Al Bustan Festival and assisted them in writing the articles and notes for the 1999 program, and in mounting the Chopin exhibition in their Cedar Room 1. Choosing Poland as the theme for the Festival was actually his idea. His book and the exhibition earned him a decoration from the Polish Embassy.

The first music event at the Goethe Institute after the civil war was his unforgettable eight weekly lectures in commemoration of the bicentaniel of the passing of Mozart under the title” Mozart, an Illustrated Profile of the Man and his Music”. 
He made three piano recordings in Berlin in 1991, 1992 and 1993. Most were improvisations. His 1993 pieces, inspired by Gibran’s “The Prophet,” were written in the Romantic style but the seventh and last, “Death” was improvised. The Beirut Suite “with some melodies dating back to the 50th was composed during the Civil War and portrays life during this period.

At the time of his passing, he held a double appointment as professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and as professor in the Department of Fine Arts and History. Music lovers and friends will miss him.

Makram Suidan
Dean
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