



February 10, 2023

To the family, friends, and colleagues of Peter Lisius:

It is my privilege to present the late Peter Lisius, with the approval of the Music OCLC Users Group Executive Board and on behalf of the membership, this Distinguished Service Award.

Peter is a graduate of Luther College, having studied both music and history. He continued his studies, receiving a Master of Library Science degree from Indiana University Bloomington as well as a Master of Arts in Music Theory from Kent State University. Following his MLS, he took up a position as Music Cataloger for the New York Public Library. Later, he became the Music and Media Catalog Librarian for Kent State University. There he remained until his death.

All of us have been positively affected by his dedication to the craft of music and audiovisual cataloging. Whether that is a result of benefiting from the knowledge he shared to improve our work and help us with a complex description, or from assisting our users by using the data he provided, Peter has been part of all of our lives. Jacob Schaub of Vanderbilt University was initially trained by Peter when he was a student at Kent State. Jacob notes that Peter was a “fount of information, advice, and experience” and went “well above and beyond” in furthering his education.

Peter was an active member of the Music OCLC Users Group, the Music Library Association, and the Online Audiovisual Catalogers. He was also active in the Program for Cooperative Cataloging’s BIBCO project, the NACO Music Project, and the NACO AV Funnel project, of which he was the coordinator.

Just as much as we recognize and honor his importance to our field today, Peter was always one to focus instead on the “importance of the role of the larger music cataloging community,” as Jacob reminds us, in the work we do. He was truly a man for others, evidenced by his editorship with Richard Griscom of the book, *Directions in Music Cataloging*, a memorial volume dedicated to the influence of Arsen Ralph Papakhian on music cataloging.

Beyond that, Peter was nominated for the MOUG Distinguished Service Award by Lynne Jaffe in conjunction with his co-editor, Ralph Hartsock, for their work on *Cataloging Beyond the Notes: Annotating Bibliographic Records for Music Effectively in RDA*, which furthers our cooperative understanding of this area of descriptive cataloging. Later in his life, when Peter was facing physical limitations that prevented him from continuing to

attend our meetings in person, he became a staunch advocate for making the organization and its activities more accessible for all of us. He often expressed his gratitude for the switch to virtual events, saying, “these virtual platforms are again making it easier to focus on re-engagement with colleagues both professionally and socially.

This sentiment shared by Beth Iseminger is one on which we can all agree: “As a professional and personal friend, Peter is missed by so many of us, who are grateful to have known him.”

May the memory of Peter and his dedication to all of us remain in our hearts.

Sincerely,

Mary Huisman, Chair, Music OCLC Users Group