

~ in memoriam ~

Irene Alm

March 4, 1956–October 25, 2000

I write with infinite sadness about the death of a wonderful scholar and dear friend, Irene Alm, who battled with cancer for seven months with great determination, grace, and patience. Irene was Associate Professor of Music History at Rutgers University. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in musicology from UCLA. She was always interested in the relationship of music and dance. Her first major work was “Stravinsky, Balanchine and Agon: An Analysis Based on the Collaborative Process” published in *Journal of Musicology* (17, no. 2, 1989). The *Catalog of Venetian Librettos at the University of California, Los Angeles* (University of California, 1993) followed next, replete with references to choreographers and dancers and numerous articles on dance in seventeenth-century Venetian opera—the subject of her dissertation, “Winged Feet and Mute Eloquence: Dance in Seventeenth-Century Venetian Opera.”

Irene was an active contributor to dance history organizations and conferences in the United States (SDHS and CORD) and in Europe (London, Turin, Venice, Chambery, Ghent), where she brought to the attention of dance scholars many facets of her unique and seminal research on dance and theatrical music in seventeenth-century Venetian opera. In musicology conferences (such as the American Musicology Society, International Musicology Society, and Società Italiana di Musicologia), she helped to organize and participated in sessions dedicated to dance. Irene also wrote several reviews of conferences for *Dance Research Journal*. She will be sorely missed by friends, students, colleagues, and the dance history world.

The new Italian Association for Research in Dance (AIRDanza) intends to publish, in Italian, a number of Irene’s articles related to dance. As a means of honoring her dedication to teaching and her active fostering of graduate students, the Society for Seventeenth-Century Music has named its annual award (for a scholarly presentation given by a student) the Irene Alm Memorial Prize.

Tax-deductible contributions to the Irene Alm Memorial Prize Fund may be sent to Robert Shay, Treasurer; Society for Seventeenth Century Music, Longy School of Music, 1 Follen Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA. Checks should be made payable to the Society for Seventeenth-Century Music.

Barbara Spati
Rome, Italy