

Percy Faith Dead at 67; Conductor and Arranger

By ROBERT MCG. THOMAS Jr.

Percy Faith, the orchestra conductor whose arrangements charmed a generation of radio listeners and record buyers, died in Los Angeles Monday at the age of 67.

He had been undergoing treatment for cancer at the Valley Presbyterian Hospital there for the last two weeks.

A composer who specialized in turning the simple melodic line supplied by other composers into full-scale orchestrations, Mr. Faith succeeded in leaving the imprint of his own easy-listening style on dozens of popular favorites.

At the height of his popularity in 1950, Mr. Faith described his goal as "satisfying the millions of devotees of that pleasant American institution known as the quiet evening at home, whose idea of perfect relaxation is the easy chair, slippers and good music."



Percy Faith in 1964

For more than a decade, as arranger and conductor on a succession of popular radio shows, Mr. Faith succeeded. And when, with the advent of television, live music virtually faded from the airways, he turned out more than 45 albums for Columbia Records, which he joined as musical director in 1950.

Joseph Pasternack, whose sudden death had left NBC's *Carnation Contented Hour* without a conductor.

Later, he conducted for Coca-Cola and provided musical scores for Hollywood movies, winning an Academy Award nomination for "Love Me or Leave Me," in 1955.

With a personality as easy-going as his music, he kept the members of his 45-man orchestra on a gentle rein and was an accommodating host to the dozens of music students who invariably came backstage for advice and encouragement following his radio broadcasts.

His survivors include his wife, Mary; a daughter, Marilyn Leonard, and four grandchildren.

A native of Toronto, Mr. Faith achieved his initial success with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, arranging and conducting some of Canada's most popular music programs during the 1930's. Though some of his weekly shows from Canada were picked up by the Mutual radio network here, it was not until 1940 that he was lured to the United States to replace

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