

THE H. EDISON ANDERSON, SR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

8010 Atherton Street
Oakland, California 94605
415/562-3291

1826 Sutter Street
Dallas, Texas 75216
214/376-3859



Dr. H. Edison Anderson, Sr.
1916-1976

Dr. H. Edison Anderson, Sr., born in Terrell, Texas; graduated from Burnett High School, was a lyric tenor, conductor, teacher, clinician adjudicator who at the time of his death, January 7, 1976, had taught almost eighteen years at Prairie View A&M University of Texas. He was Director of Vocal-Choral Music and Director of the renown Prairie View A Cappella Concert Choir, a group he founded and which toured annually, performing in many major cities throughout the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada.

From 1945 to 1958, the late Dr. Anderson was Head of the Music Department at Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma where he founded and conducted the Langston University A Cappella Singers, also nationally known.

He received the B.A. degree from Prairie View A&M College, M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Iowa, the Specialist degree from Columbia University, New York. While at Columbia, he performed as soloist with the Columbia University Choir and was selected to sing with Carol Brice in two performances of Brahms's alto Rhapsodie under the direction of Serge Koussevitzky. For four consecutive nights in the 1955 Summer Fine Arts Festival, Dr. Anderson performed as Don Curzio in the opera "The Marriage of Figaro" under the direction of Professor Herald I. Stark at the University of Iowa.

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Military service in World War II provided Dr. Anderson the opportunity of many heralded appearances in European capitals. When time permitted, he conducted volunteer choral groups composed of military men. Quoted from his "A Panorama On The Rhine:"

"I raised the index finger which I used as a baton, and could see in their faces, that something which exemplified sincerity and temerity...The men sang well. Not full of the super harmonies of the seventh, ninth, even thirteenth chords that I like to hear and work with...but simple, sincere and meaningful. That's what made it good."

In 1963 the Prairie View A Cappella Choir "Telstar of Song" album was recorded. Numerous radio, television and recital performances were sung and conducted by this musician. In 1968 his choir, when lodging at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, was requested by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to sing at his citation there. It is believed they were the last college choir to have had that honor before Dr. King was assassinated.

A philosophy of this singer-conductor was to "maintain a repertoire of a variety of well-performed music which may be enjoyed by any audience--anyplace, at any time." This philosophy resulted in overwhelming audience appeal. During his career, Dr. Anderson was the recipient of many awards and citations, and his choirs were always regarded as "Ambassadors of Song" as they performed throughout the nation.

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THE SCHOLARSHIP

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