



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

ammerman center
[arts & technology]

January 31, 2023

Art Kreiger–In Memoriam

The Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology community is mourning the loss of Art Kreiger. Art was a generous teacher and mentor to generations of arts and technology students, and even participated in the very first Symposium on Arts and Technology in 1986, going on to compose for and help lead seven more in the following years. He advised many Ammerman students and served as the Associate Director for Music for years. Art composed pieces for orchestra, chorus, mixed chamber ensembles, solo instruments and electronics. His professional honors included the Rome Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Brandeis University Creative Arts Medal. Given the breadth and depth of Art's legacy, some of his colleagues and students reached out with messages below. Everyone at the Center sends their condolences to Art's family, especially his wife Diane. We are all grateful for the pleasure of getting to work with him, and know the Ammerman Center would not have grown as strong over the past 20 years without him. Many members of the Center community wished to pay tribute to Art and his legacy:

Bridget Baird, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Computer Science and former Director of the Ammerman Center:

The first image that comes to mind when I think of Art is a smile on that gentle face. He was always ready to talk, to teach, to collaborate, to listen.

Behind the smile was an absolute commitment to his music, to his creativity, to the music of others. In that way he was very focused, very driven. But that never stopped Art from being a good friend, a humorous friend, and a delightful colleague.

I miss him.

Libby Friedman ('80), Assistant Dean of the College and former Assistant Director of the Ammerman Center:

Art and I developed a rich friendship that went well beyond his official role in the center. Working together on 8 or 9 symposia, we had many laughs, many late night and weekend sessions, many Mr. G's lunches, bringing the magic of the symposium performances together. We developed a strong, personal friendship that went well beyond arts and tech.

Art was considered a pioneer, as he was on the "scene" in the 70s and 80s. Believe it or not, Art had his own groupies. When he shared that one of his electro-acoustic pieces was sampled by Nickelback, we knew he personally had crossed musical genres...way before it was cool!



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Art's commitment to his students was immense. He always went above and beyond mentoring young, creative composers and music and technology students. Art's smile, his humor, and his genuineness were contagious. I already miss Art - he was a gentle man who made a difference in my life.

Ozgur Izmirli, Professor of Computer Science and former Director of the Ammerman Center:

Art was a wonderful colleague, a great friend, and a brilliant composer. I had met Art when he started teaching at the college but it wasn't until later when I worked with him at the Ammerman Center during our biennial symposia that I saw his dedication to his profession. We put on some great, memorable concerts that spanned a wide range of media beyond the traditional setting.

I very fondly remember the time during the late 2000s when Art and I co-taught an interdisciplinary course called Music Synthesis and Composition. Although we never got to teach it again, it was one of my favorite collaborations and one from which I learned so much.

Most days, Art would compose in his office with his door slightly cracked open, so it was hard to pass by without saying 'hi'. He would always have a fragment of a new composition to play. Then, one subject would morph into another. I already miss those visits.

I will long remember his never-ending passion for music and his contributions to the college, especially to the Ammerman Center, through his service, teaching, advising, and expertise.

Jim McNeish, Adjunct Associate Professor of Music and Recording Engineer:

When I first met Art Kreiger, he was one of a dozen composers whose works we were presenting in one of the first Arts & Technology Symposia. Right from the start I recognised his music as "different" from most modern composers. Many relied heavily on repetition, reverb & effects, or strict Atonal techniques. Art's music is typically through-composed, with no repetition, and every detail precisely crafted in an ever changing landscape of sound and texture. Later on he was appointed a part-time, and then a full-time position here at Connecticut College and I got to see and hear him crafting these masterpieces. He would arrive early every day and work at his computer all day long, breaking only for lessons and classes and lunch with me at Mr G's. These lunch breaks, usually 3 or 4 times per week, were some of my fondest memories. Art would teach me Yiddish when we were not discussing work, and we would talk about my kids and his pets. I miss our lunches and Yiddish lessons, and I almost never go to Mr G's anymore, but the waitress recognizes me and always asks about Art. We will probably cry when I have to tell her the sad news. She just knew Art as the Mensch he was. I will tell her that Art Kreiger will live on forever through his music, and his influence will be felt for generations.



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Eric Stern ('13), alum and advisee:

Professor Kreiger was such a wonderful person and a truly great advisor and mentor to me during my time at Conn, and he had a huge impact on my post-college studies. He motivated me to continue my music technology education after Conn, and his music was the primary inspiration for my composition that was accepted to a SEAMUS conference while I was in graduate school. I always appreciated the way he encouraged students to think about music from new perspectives and take creative risks when composing, and the way he taught me to work with and think about electronic sound has been a major influence on my career as a sound designer and mixer. Besides having been a master composer and educator, he was so uniquely witty and a genuinely kind and honest guy - a true mensch. It was a privilege to have known and studied with him and I'm grateful that his music and legacy will live on.

Andrea Wollensak, Professor of Art and former Director of the Ammerman Center:

Art Kreiger was a dedicated educator and Faculty Fellow in the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology from 2004 to 2019. He worked closely with Center student scholars in electronic music where he advised senior projects in musical research and performance. Art worked long hours in his office where he composed his music, an opportunity for students to witness his creativity. With Art in earshot, there was always a joyous laugh heard and wondrous experimental sound echoing in Cummings hallways.

Nadav Assor, Associate Professor of Art and Director of the Ammerman Center

It felt like I knew Art all too briefly, but in my mind he is always ready with a knowing smile and a wry comment. Work meetings with him always felt easygoing and natural, though he applied the same rigor to our decision making as he did to his artwork. Speaking of which: I loved the moment, at our Ammerman Symposium performances, when the lights would turn off completely, and Art's music would start playing all around us. His was a unique and influential voice in both his field, and at our Center. He is already missed, and reading the tributes that flowed in over the past week, I can't help but wish to have had more time to spend in his company.