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**For Immediate Release**

## **LILY DUMONT CIRCLE FUND ESTABLISHED AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

The Lily Dumont Circle has been established as a fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts to preserve the musical legacy of Lily Dumont, a renowned German Jewish concert pianist who fled Nazi Germany in 1937 and built a new life in New Bedford.

For over 60 years, Miss Dumont (Mrs. Walter V. Mindus) contributed to the cultural life of Southeastern Massachusetts as a performing artist, teacher and president of the Greater New Bedford Concert Series. She died in March 2006, but her sons, Paul and Lester Mindus, have ensured her legacy will live on by establishing the Lily Dumont Circle as a fund of the Community Foundation. Pamela Thompson, a former student of Miss. Dumont, is chair of the Circle.

The fund, established with the proceeds from the sale of Miss Dumont's practice piano, will finance the preparation of her recordings, musical scores, programs and other documents for inclusion at the International Piano Archives in Maryland. It will also recognize outstanding performances by young musicians in Massachusetts through awards given in her name.

Tax deductible contributions to support these activities can be made to the Lily Dumont Circle in care of the Community Foundation, 227 Union St., Suite 609, New Bedford, MA, 02740.

Miss Dumont's musical legacy dates back to her teen years, when she was an artist so precocious that she had performed as a soloist with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra by the time she was 15. After settling in New Bedford, she balanced her music with her role as wife of Dr. Walter V. Mindus, a surgeon at St. Luke's Hospital, and mother of two sons. She continued to perform as Lily Dumont with concert tours in Europe, Latin America and throughout the United States.

Raphael Hillyer, a lifelong friend of Miss Dumont and founding member of the Julliard String Quartet, said of her musicianship, "With the greatest refinement and with great intensity she performed with a radiance that lighted every work. Her range of expression was astonishing. She retained the poetry and her drive till the very end. The

clarity of her Bach, the grace of Mozart, the power of Beethoven were all there, all the time."

Lily Dumont taught piano in her Hawthorn Street home and was a faculty member at Longy School in Cambridge for 40 years. Over that period she also led summer seminars on different composers at her home or at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. She performed on Sunday radio recitals broadcast over local radio station WNBH, and assumed a leadership role in building a local audience for classical music. Miss Dumont led the Greater New Bedford Concert Series for 30-plus years, bringing first-rate artists such as Murray Perahia, Yo Yo Ma, the Pittsburgh Symphony and the Cincinnati Orchestra to the region.

"New Bedford's kind welcome and affection for our parents extended over six decades," said the younger son, Paul. "While Mom concertized in many parts of the world, her life was here, and she enjoyed making and bringing music to her home and this region. My brother Les and I are grateful to her students and friends, who through the Lily Dumont Circle, will be able to sustain her love and devotion to the beauty of music for others to enjoy."

#### **About the Community Foundation**

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. CFSEMA is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts.

To date, the Community Foundation has assets of more than \$15 million and has distributed over \$3.8 million from 63 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. To learn more about the Foundation, visit [www.cfsema.org](http://www.cfsema.org).