

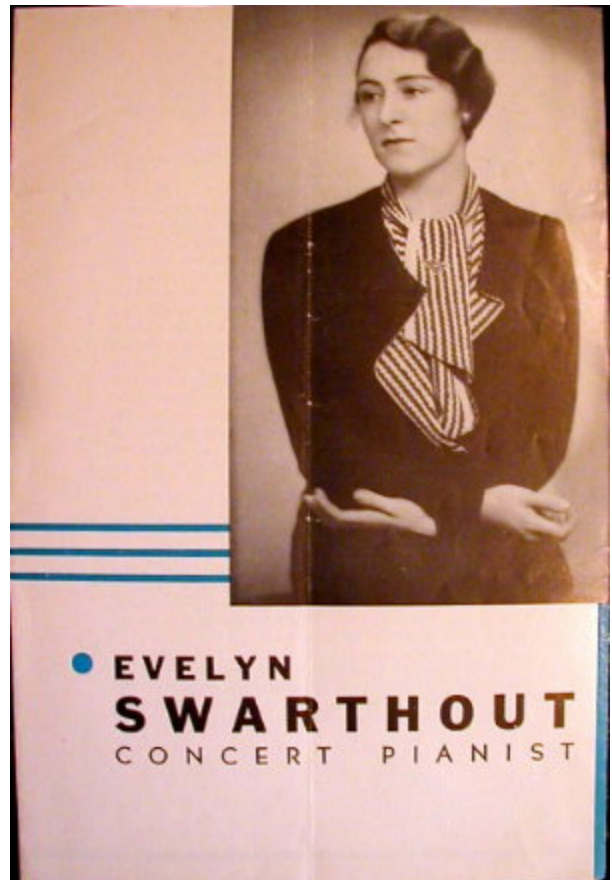
Evelyn Swarthout

1913 - March 24, 2000

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A native of Kansas, Ms. Swarthout-Hayes was a professor of music at American University from 1961-1976. Noted for her talent as a concert pianist, Ms. Swarthout-Hayes championed the cause of inter-disciplinarity in teaching music at a time when such a practice was regarded radical. She was an active musician, giving recitals at the National Gallery and Phillips Collection in Washington D.C. She also created and hosted, "Music in the Schools," a radio program that featured recorded music, pieces played by Ms. Swarthout-Hayes, and the voices of imaginary characters. In 1997, along with her husband, Ms. Swarthout-Hayes was awarded the Levine School of Music's Paul Hume Award for contributions to Washington D.C.'s cultural history.



EVELYN SWARTHOUT . . .

● "A young American pianist of real distinction, with an innate musicianship and sincerity in her work given to few public performers today."

Such seems to be the consensus of opinion of those who have heard Evelyn Swarthout in her recent recitals.

Coming from a family, prominent in the field of musical education, she began her study at a very early age, appearing before the Illinois State Music Teachers' Association in a group of piano numbers when but three years of age. Continuing her study under the guidance of her father, Donald M. Swarthout, she graduated with high honors with a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Kansas in 1932. Two summers of advanced work under Guy Maier preceded her enrolling under Tobias Matthay in London, where for three years she made remarkable progress and appeared frequently in public recital. In 1933 she won the coveted Jeffrey Reynolds Three-Year scholarship in competition with some of the foremost pianists of London. Her London recital in 1934 in Wigmore Hall won for her high praise from the music critics of this great musical center. In the same year she was accepted on the musical staff of the British Broadcasting Company and appeared in radio recital under its auspices.

In the summer of 1934 Miss Swarthout returned to America for certain recital engagements and was successful in winning, in a field of twenty-six applicants, the Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship Prize of \$1,000.00 for travel and advanced study awarded by the University of Illinois. Returning to London, she continued her study under Matthay and appeared in recital in certain continental cities as well as accompanying the English singer, Flora Collins on a tour thru seven countries of Europe before returning again to her home land.

Her programs are formed always with a fine regard for the best in musical literature and her artistry and sound musicianship, coupled with a delightful and gracious personality, make her playing a memorable and satisfying experience.

In 1947 the Fine Arts dean Donald Swarthout creates Chamber Music Series. First year includes John Jacob Niles, ballad singer and dulcimer; Walden String Quartet; Roth String Quartet; and the Albeneri Trio

1980 Swarthout Society established

The New York Times, April 4, 2000
Evelyn S. Hayes, 87; Pianist and Educator.

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Evelyn Swarthout Hayes, a former concert pianist, educator and arts patron, died on March 24 at George Washington University Hospital. She was 87 and lived in Washington.

Mrs. Hayes, who was born Evelyn Swarthout in Jacksonville, Ill., began her music career in the 1930's, appearing several times in recitals at Town Hall in New York. In 1939 she married Patrick Hayes, a music administrator. The couple moved to Washington when he was appointed manager of the National Symphony Orchestra.

Mrs. Hayes joined the piano faculty at American University in 1951 and taught there until retiring in 1976. She also continued to perform, giving recitals at the National Gallery and elsewhere, and she created "Music in Schools," an educational radio program for young listeners.

She served as a judge in many piano competitions as well as giving lectures and master classes around the country.

Her husband, who founded the Hayes Concert Bureau -- later renamed the Washington Performing Arts Society -- died in 1998. She is survived by a son, Bryant, of New York; a daughter, Elisabeth Hayes of Chicago; a grandchild; two step-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren.



**This page was created by Mark Swarthout.
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