



John L. Flyer

1937-2018

John came to Tampa as Executive Director of The Florida Orchestra following a long career of orchestra management in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and California. During his tenure with the New Jersey Symphony, he appealed to then-Governor Kean to build a suitable concert hall for his world-class orchestra. The result was the opening in 1998 of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. John was honored with the New Jersey Art Pride award and served as President of the Art Pride New Jersey Foundation.

A graduate of Wilkes University and The Juilliard School of Music, John served in the U. S. Army Signal Corps. Throughout his life, he performed as a bass soloist. When he came to Tampa, he joined the Hyde Park United Methodist Church choir and met Nancy Callahan, its music director. She in turn persuaded him to join Tampa Oratorio Singers, where he not only anchored the bass section, but also served as bass soloist for some ten years. They married in 1996.

John was a genuine intellectual who taught humanities courses at St. Petersburg College for 20 years. His students and colleagues adored him. He was listed in four volumes of *Who's Who in America* as a notable orchestra administrator. He loved to cook and was a master wood-worker. His favorite composer was Brahms. He had a biting sense of humor and enjoyed genealogy, history and intelligent conversation.