

IN MEMORIAM

Sandy Feldstein

by Dave Black

Former PAS President Sandy Feldstein died on August 30, 2007, following a year-long battle with cancer.

It is with great sadness that the music industry accepts news of the death of Sandy Feldstein. We have lost a great pioneer. Sandy passed away early on the morning of August 30, 2007 at his home in Tarzana, California, ending his year-long battle with cancer.

As a past president of the Percussive Arts Society and a 2005 PAS Hall of Fame inductee, Sandy was a long-time friend, consultant, mentor and selfless team member to many organizations throughout the music industry. His wise council throughout the years benefited all of us. We will miss him as a colleague and a friend, and will be forever grateful for all his contributions.



Sandy was born Saul Feldstein on September 7, 1940. A prolific composer, educator and author, he wrote dozens of books on music instruction, as well as hundreds of stand-alone compositions (receiving the ASCAP Standard Award for Composition every year starting in 1964). He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Potsdam and held a doctorate from Columbia University. In 1963 he started teaching at Potsdam, serving as Professor of Music Education at the Crane School of Music.

From 1968-72 he served as the Percussive Arts Society's third president. Under his term, the PAS Hall of Fame welcomed its first inductees. In the late 1960s, Sandy began his career in music publishing as the Educational Director for Alfred Publishing Company (later becoming Executive Vice President). He went on to serve as president of CPP Belwin, Warner Brothers and Carl Fischer publications. In addition, he served as CEO of PlayinTime Productions, Inc. and Sandy Feldstein Music. He was also active on the boards of NAMM, Bands of America and VH1 Save the Music, and was the chairman of the NARAS (Grammy) Educational Committee.

On a personal note, I have lost a co-author, a wonderful mentor and friend. When I started at Alfred Publishing in 1985, Sandy took me under his wing. He taught me so much about the percussion world, the publishing business, and how to treat people with respect. He was one of the most even-tempered people I've ever known. I always marveled at his ability to remain calm and positive under the most stressful situations.

I was very fortunate to have co-written seven books with Sandy, most notably *Alfred's Drum Method* and *Alfred's Beginning Drumset Method*. I learned so much from him during the writing of those books and his tenure at Alfred. What is most impressive is that Sandy didn't need me to co-write those books. He was already a highly-respected author, perfectly capable of writing those books on his own. He, however, wanted to give me that opportunity, and though I

was almost 20 years his junior, he always treated me with respect and as an equal partner.

With the acquisition of Warner Brothers Publications in 2005, Alfred acquired most of the other percussion catalogs Sandy had written for over the years (Henry Adler, Columbia Pictures Publications, Belwin Music and Warner Brothers). At PASIC 2005, Sandy stopped by the Alfred booth, looked at the tremendous number of percussion books on display and said, "I feel like I'm looking at my whole life's work in front of me." In a way, that statement was right.

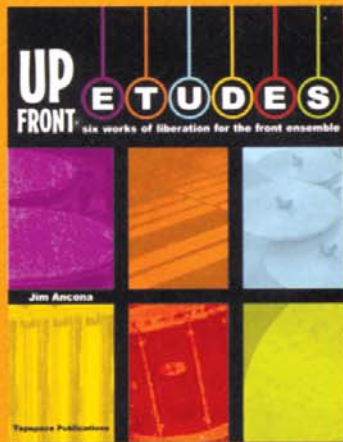
I am honored and grateful that Alfred is now home to most of Sandy's percussion publications. It is comforting to know that these publications will continue to be available to students who will benefit, as we all have, from his knowledge and enthusiasm for the percussive arts. I am truly blessed and grateful for the years we worked together, for the opportunities he gave me, and for the many life lessons I will continue to carry with me as result of having known him.

Sandy devoted his life to music education. The Music for All Foundation recently established the Sandy Feldstein Music Education Fund. For those who wish to make a contribution, the Feldstein family sincerely appreciates your generosity. Contributions can be made payable to "The Music for All Foundation," with "Sandy Feldstein Music Education Fund" written on the comment line of the check. All donations can be sent to 39 West Jackson Place, Suite 150; Indianapolis, IN 46225.

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