

## In Memoriam - Elvira Gonnella

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on behalf of

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### **In Memoriam - Elvira Gonnella**

It is with great sadness that the Fountain School of Performing Arts shares news that our former colleague, Elvira Gonnella, has died.

Retired Associate Professor of Voice at Dalhousie and well known in the Atlantic Region for her many recitals, broadcasts in both music and drama, and oratorio performances, Elvira suffered a stroke in 2016 and has now passed peacefully away at the age of 90. Born in Dundee, Scotland to Eliza Watson (Yeaman) and Joseph Francis Gonnella, "Vira" was immensely proud of her Italian heritage, with paternal ties to Barga, Italy. She studied voice in Edinburgh and London, culminating in a first prize in the Kathleen Ferrier Scottish Area Finals, two Sir James Caird grants for study, and Edinburgh Competitive Rosebowl.

From 1974 to 1995, she was inaugural professor of Voice at Dalhousie, teaching many beloved voice students who went on to become successful singers in their own right. In 2002, she also created and funded the Elvira Gonnella Scholarship in Voice at Dalhousie University. She will be remembered for her great intellect, creative talent, and beautiful voice, along with her absolute integrity, quiet wit, and consummate graciousness.

Details for a full service in celebration of her life will be announced when congregation protocols open up later in the year. Friends can share memories and messages to the family at <https://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/coleharbour/obituaries/h-elvira-gonnella-welch-lram-dip/60565/Guestbook>. On behalf of the Dalhousie community, we offer our sincere condolences.