



2024 Nomination Form

Nomination deadline: Friday, February 23, 2024

Apply Online

www.CityOfWS.org/WalkOfFame

Mailing Address

City of Winston-Salem
Suite 336
P.O. Box 2511
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102

Physical Address

City Hall
101 Main Street
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101
Suite 336

Nominee's Stage Name: Charles Vardell Given Name: Charles Gilderleeve Vardell

Dates of Winston-Salem Residency: from 1923 to 1951 (ex: 2015 to 2020)

Category: Music Visual Arts Dance Motion Pictures
 Theater Television Writing Radio

Criteria:

- The nominee(s) exhibited sustained excellence in his or her field for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made distinguished contributions to the community and civic-oriented participation.
- The nominee(s) is deceased (must provide copy of death certificate or obituary).
- The nominee(s) was a resident of Winston-Salem for at least five years.
- The nominee(s) made a significant contribution to the arts or entertainment industry in one or more of the following areas: music, dance, theater, writing, visual arts, motion pictures, television, or radio.

A "significant" contribution would be iconic in terms of renown and the impact on the artistic disciplines or popular culture.

Nomination To Include:

- Attach nominee's performance/accomplishment biography which must include at least 5 years of accomplishments in the arts, culture, or entertainment field.
- Attach a list of nominee's civic/community involvement.
- Attach a copy of nominee's death certificate or obituary.

Sponsor Name: Annie McLeod Jenkins

Address: 865 Kenwick Drive

City: Winston-Salem State: NC Zip Code: 27106

Email: amjenkins48@gmail.com

Phone: Home: 336/727-0697 Cell: 336/816-4916

Signature: _____ Date: _____



City Council: Mayor Allen Joiner; Denise D. Adams, Mayor Pro Tempore, North Ward; Barbara Hanes Burke, Northeast Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; John C. Larson, South Ward; Jeff Macintosh, Northwest Ward; Kevin Mundy, Southwest Ward; Annette Scippio, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: W. Patrick Pate

Charles Gildersleeve Vardell (1993-1962)

Performance/Accomplishment

- **After being hired by Salem College in 1923 to teach piano, organ, composition, and orchestration, he became Dean of the School of Music in 1928.**
- He served as Acting President of Salem Academy and College during the absence of Bishop Harold Rhondthaler
- In 1940, renowned conductor, Eugene Ormandy, stated that Charles Vardell was “one of the world’s greatest contemporary composers,” and chose Vardell’s symphony, “The Carolinian,” to be the first symphony by a North Carolinian to be performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra.
- He was a repeat winner (3 times) of the Shirley Cup, presented by the NC Teachers’ Association for outstanding musical composition in the state.
- Philip Kevin Smith, in his doctoral dissertation, “Charles Gildersleeve Vardell: A Survey of His Life and Works with a Stylistic Analysis...” (2001), calls Dr. Vardell a “gifted composer, accomplished organist and pianist, beloved teacher, able administrator, and arts visionary.” He continued his assessment of Vardell’s influence by stating “While no single person can be credited for the development of Winston-Salem’s artistic community, one cannot study the cultural history of the Piedmont region without encountering the name of Charles Gildersleeve Vardell.”
- He composed at least 112 individual works, including a symphony, chamber works, pieces for organ, piano, and solo songs. The Moravian Music Foundation presently houses his works.
- Under his leadership, Salem College became a member of the National Association of Schools of Music
- Member of American Guild of Organists
- Regional Vice-president of National Association of Schools of Music
- President (multiple times) of the NC State Music Teachers Association
- Served on Executive committee of National Music Teachers Association

Charles Gildersleeve Vardell (1893-1962)

Civic/Community Involvement

- **Dr. Vardell was the primary instigator and facilitator for the creation of the Winston-Salem Symphony as a professional symphony, made up of Salem College faculty and community members. Through his relationship with The Julliard School of Music, and after acquiring an appropriate grant, he was able to bring to Salem College, James Lerch, conductor and violinist, whom he charged with the formation of the orchestra, as noted.**
- **The Winston-Salem Symphony website, www.wssymphony.org, notes that the symphony “was founded by Dr. Vardell in 1946 and was managed under the auspices of Salem College until 1948.”**
- Chair of the Board of the Winston-Salem Symphony (1949-1950) and occasional soloist.
- Director of Civic Music Association of Winston-Salem in 1949
- Head of Executive Committee of the Winston-Salem Arts Council upon its founding. Under his leadership, the Arts Council brought eight independent arts groups under its umbrella.
- Recipient of the Award for Community Service in 1951 (Arts Council Award).
- Organist for multiple churches in Winston-Salem including Home Moravian (1935-1937 and 1943-51)), Reynolda Presbyterian (6 years), First Presbyterian (2 years), and Centenary Methodist (3 Years).
- An article in the Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel upon Dr. Vardell's death quoted Harry Krusz, a former general manager of the Chamber of Commerce, saying that Dr. Vardell was a “musician (that)businessmen like to talk to.... (His)down-to-earth manner, his talent for finding a sensible compromise did as much as any other single person's efforts to put business and the arts on speaking terms with each other.”
- Author of “Organs in the Wilderness,” published in 1944, which was an historical sketch of the musical interests of the early Moravians in NC, particularly their use of organs in the Wachovia settlement. He originally wrote this piece as a presentation for the Torch Club of Winston-Salem, a national professional men's club.

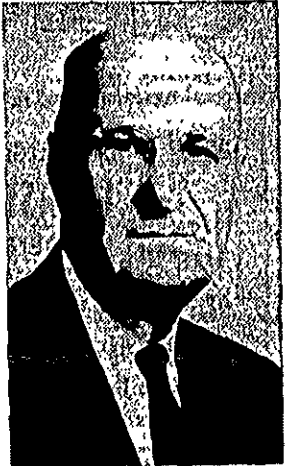
Charles Gildersleeve Vardell (1893-1962)

Personal Observation and Summation

My research for this nomination revealed Dr. Charles Vardell's inestimable value to the history of the arts in Winston-Salem. Multiple individuals observed his importance, as a professional and as a volunteer, to the growth of the town as an incubator for the arts. I have heard it expressed that one of the reasons UNCSCA is located here is that there was already a strong arts community, including Salem College's noted School of Music, with which UNCSCA (then the NC School of the Arts) shared faculty upon opening in 1963.

Finally, it merits mention that Dr. Vardell's compositional style, which incorporated elements of daily life, indigenous sounds and styles, local history, sights, and aromas, would mesh well with today's musical geography of cross-over music. The broad subject matter reflected in his compositions lends freshness and energy to his work, which can be appreciated, even today.

Dr. Vardell, 69, Musician, Dies



DR. CHARLES VARDELL
... rites tomorrow ...

Dr. Charles G. Vardell, a leading music figure in North Carolina for many years, died at 9 a.m. today at Baptist Hospital. He was 69 years old.

A resident of Laurinburg, he had been ill five weeks. He entered the hospital here two weeks ago.

He was a nationally-known composer, an accomplished organist, a lifelong teacher of music.

From 1920 to 1951, he was dean of the Salem College School of Music.

He served as acting president of the college during a brief absence of the late Bishop Howard Rondthaler.

He left Salem to become dean of the Conservatory of Music at Flora Macdonald College at Red Springs.

In 1960 he was named acting president of the college. He became president there just before the school's merger with Presbyterian Junior College and Peace College to form St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

He moved to the Laurinburg campus of the new college as dean of its conservatory of music.

Born in Salisbury

Dr. Vardell was born in Salisbury August 19, 1893.

His father, the late Dr. Charles G. Vardell, was president and president emeritus of Flora Macdonald.

His mother, Linda Ruple Vardell, was a noted pianist and founder of the college's Conservatory of Music.

She gave her son his early training in music. He continued his studies at Princeton University, where he served as student organist for three years prior to his graduation in 1914.

He later attended the Institute of Music Arts at New York City (now Juilliard School of Music) and was graduated in 1915. He received postgraduate artists' and teachers' diplomas in 1916.

After a year of teaching at Hatchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn., Dr. Vardell entered YMCA work for several years, working as secretary in an officers' training camp at Oglethorpe, Ga.

In 1919 he was named dean of the Flora Macdonald conservatory. He taught at Salem from 1923 until he was named dean of the music school in 1928.

Dr. Vardell's major compositions were written during his more than 25 years in Winston-Salem.

Probably the best known is his symphony, "Carolinian," based on folk songs of the Appalachian Mountains.

The symphony was performed by the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra in 1940. Conductor Eugene Ormandy called it "an important addition to the literature of American music." It was the Philadelphia orchestra's first performance of a symphony work.
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Dr. Vardell, Musician, Dies at 69

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ten by a North Carolinian.
Several of Dr. Vardell's lesser-known works were performed throughout the country.

His cantata for piano and orchestra, "The Inimitable Lovers," was selected for performance by the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music at a festival of American music in 1951.

Other compositions include "Joe Clark Steps Out," a setting of old Southern folk dances; "Song in the Wilderness," a cantata for a poem written by Paul Green; "Lullaby in the Manger," a Christmas anthem; and "From a Mountain Walk," a suite.

Gained Cup

The latter composition won Dr. Vardell permanent possession of the Shirley Cup, offered annually for the best work by a North Carolina composer. It marked his third time as cup winner.

Dr. Vardell also composed the Salem College alma mater.

During his years in Winston-Salem, he took a leading role in community arts and church affairs.

He served as board chairman of the Winston-Salem Symphony (occasionally joining the orchestra as soloist), as a director of the Civic Music Association, as a member of the executive committee of the Arts Council.

He served as organist six years at Reynolds Presbyterian Church, two years at First Presbyterian, three years at Centenary Methodist. He was organist and choir director at Home Moravian Church from 1934 to 1938, returning to the job for several years in 1943.

Member of Guild

He was an associate in the American Guild of Organists, was one time president of the N. C. Music Educators Association and a vice president of the National Association of Schools of Music.

Dr. Vardell completed his requirements in 1940 for master's and doctor's degrees at Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y.

At the time of his death he belonged to First Presbyterian Church at Laurinburg and to the Rotary Club there.

He was married June 16, 1920, to the former Eleanor Ferrill, who survives.

Their only daughter, Mrs. Clemens Sandresky of 722 S. Church Street, is an associate professor of music composition at Salem College. Her husband is dean of the Salem School of Music.

Dr. Vardell is also survived by three grandchildren: five sisters, Mrs. William B. McNett of Los Angeles, Calif., Mrs. James J. Murray of Lexington, Va., Mrs. Alexander Sprunt of Charleston, S. C., Mrs. Gaston Gage of Clemson, S. C., and Mrs. Elison A. Smyth of Blacksburg, Va.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside funeral will be conducted at 4 p.m. tomorrow at Salem Cemetery by Dr. Albert Wells of Laurinburg.

The body will be at Voglers Chapel until the service.

The family requests that memorials be made to charities of the donor's choice.

Dr. Charles Vardell

A graveside funeral service for Dr. Charles G. Vardell, who died yesterday morning at Baptist Hospital at the age of 69, was to be held at 4 p.m. today at Salem Cemetery.

A memorial service will be conducted at 5 p.m. Monday in the Liberal Arts Auditorium on the St. Andrews Presbyterian College campus, where Dr. Vardell was dean of the conservatory of music.

Dr. Vardell was a leading music and education figure in the state for many years. He was dean of the Salem College School of Music here from 1928 to 1951 and was at one time acting president of the college.