

## SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF GLORIA M. LENHOFF AND HOWARD LENHOFF

Lyric soprano and accordionist Gloria Lenhoff, a Williams syndrome musical savant, has a repertoire of over 2,000 pieces and has performed overseas and throughout the United States. Gloria, who has received acclaim from near and far, sings in 30 foreign languages, providing music for all tastes: popular, religious, folk, classical and opera.

She first came upon the national scene in the PBS award-winning documentary, "Bravo Gloria," directed by Arlene Alda. In the past few years Gloria has been featured on 60 Minutes (updated once and broadcast five times), Nightline, Inside Edition, Discovery Health (2006), The Learning Channel (2006) and in four foreign specials: Chile, Holland, and two Japanese channels (2003-04). She has both absolute and relative pitch and learns by listening.

Gloria was the first Williams musician to come upon the international scene and has stimulated the current of flurry of activity regarding the uncanny musical abilities of the population of cognitively impaired people having Williams syndrome. Because of her, the first music camp for the cognitively impaired was started near the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, MA. The camp ran for ten consecutive years. As an outgrowth of the camp, the new Berkshire Hills Music Academy (BHMA) for the cognitively impaired, a year-round residential academy, the first of its kind, has completed five academic years and now sponsors the summer camp. The BHMA is situated on an estate acquired from Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts On October 25, 2006, a book on Gloria's story was published –*The Strangest Song*, by Teri Sforza, Prometheus Books.

She has performed with members of the LA Opera and the Boston Lyric Opera, and at the Wheeler Opera House of Aspen, CO and the Bardavon Opera House of NY as well as at the Treasure Island Hotel in Las Vegas, the Ritz Carlton in Boston, and the Beverly Hills Hotel. Ms. Lenhoff has been featured twice as guest soloist with a San Diego Community Orchestra (TICO) and as featured soloist with the San Diego Master Chorale. In the she has performed in England Spain, and Israel. At the Ritz Carlton in Boston she sang and played her accordion with Aerosmith musicians. Three weeks later she soloed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D. C. With Opera Memphis, she sang Soprano I in the Hebrew and Philistine Choruses in the production of *Samson and Dalila* (2005), Celebration of Denyse Graves (2006) and *Il Trovatore*. January of 2007.

Howard M. Lenhoff, Ph. D. Professor Emeritus, University of California; Adjunct Professor of Psychology, University of Massachusetts (2001-4); Adjunct Professor of Biology, University of Mississippi; Principal Investigator of National Science Foundation grant on Music Cognition in Williams Syndrome. Senior author of "Williams Syndrome and the Brain," Dec., 1997 Scientific American and Absolute Pitch in Williams Syndrome. Founder and on Professional Committee of Berkshire Hills Music Academy for Cognitively Impaired (BHMA). Former member of the Board of Trustees of the Williams Syndrome Association and President and Executive Vice President, Williams Syndrome Foundation. Co-editor and chapter author of *Williams Syndrome: Research and Clinical Implications*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006. Father of Williams syndrome soprano and accordionist, Gloria. Professor Lenhoff is recognized as a popular teacher at the University of California, known for his enthusiasm, broad knowledge, wit, and ability to make difficult concepts understandable to the non-biologists.

Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, 1958-1963

Distinguished Fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science, 1986.

Honorary Member of the Société de Physique et d'Histoire naturelle de Genève 1990.

Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi

Thirteen books and over 200 academic papers