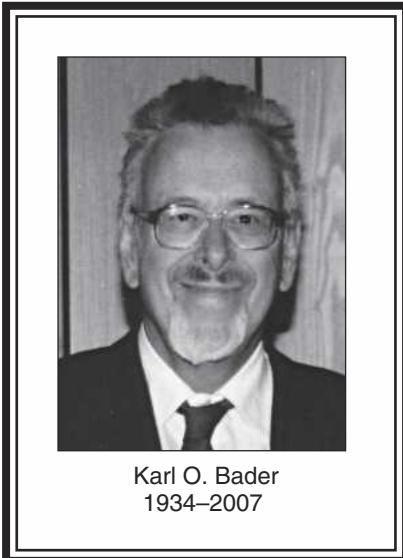


# In Memoriam

**K**arl Otto Bäder, an AES fellow of many years, passed away of a unexpected heart attack while quietly walking in the woods near his home in southwestern Germany. We hope that he died in peace. He is survived by his dear wife Gisela, three grown sons who followed him as engineers and musicians, and four grandchildren. All of us who knew him will miss his warmth and enthusiasm. Nobody can fill the hole that he left.

Karl, or Carlo as his many friends knew him, will be best remembered for his kindness and selfless dedication to nurturing students, young professionals, and colleagues of all disciplines. He was part of the generation in Europe that faced the task of rebuilding a destroyed country, and he carried that commitment to a better society throughout his life. His life motto might be summarized as build, respect, create, educate—help people and institutions to grow and thrive. He serves as a symbol of the best of his generation for today's young audio engineers.

An important part of Carlo's legacy is his contribution to creating the AES as a truly international community. In 1970, with the help of some of his colleagues, he established the first European Section. And in 1971 he was one of the organizers of the first AES European Convention, held in Cologne. He also served as a vice president of the Central Region of Europe, helping to organize many student sections. He was always present to support these students in finding a successful way into the audio world. As a member of the Board of Governors, he helped steer the Society to achieve its long-term goals at a time of uncertainty and confusion. At



Karl O. Bader  
1934–2007

conventions and meetings, he was always educating and teaching about new technology to anyone who wanted to learn. Similarly, his intellectual curiosity made him a lifelong learner. Often working without publicity and recognition, he was more interested in making the world a better place than in receiving public accolades. He was widely honored and respected.

Carlo was educated at the Technical University of Berlin, where he received the degrees of Diplom-Engineer and Diplom-Tonmeister. As a student he developed his love of music, playing the saxophone in the university's big band. He could not have been happier to find a career path that allowed him to combine both of his passions—engineering and music—by becoming an audio engineer. In both activities he always maintained the highest standards. Throughout his life he sustained and combined both interests. He organized the Carlo Bader Big Band, which specialized in playing his own contemporary jazz compositions in yearly concerts and in several CD

recordings. As an esteemed member of his local community, he communicated his love of the music to everyone in the audience. When he retired from active professional life, he had the time to focus more on his music, among other activities becoming choirmaster for a local choral group. Yet when he received a call from the Technical Hochschule that they suddenly needed a teacher for their Tonmeister course, he accepted that position because he could not abandon those students who wanted to learn our craft. He loved to feel needed and useful.

I can remember meeting Carlo at his first major job at EMT in 1966, when he was just recovering from his first heart attack. Even with the knowledge, that his life might be short, he embraced living to the fullest until his weak heart eventually caught up with him again. He made the best of those 40 years. At EMT, he became chief engineer and marketing director, and somewhat later he became a marketing manager at Studer in Switzerland. The products of his companies were well known worldwide for their high quality and innovative technology. They included LP record players, reverberation plates, mixing consoles, and signal processing modules, just to name a few. Without his contribution in these early days of professional audio, our professional world would not be what it is today.

During his long involvement with EMT, we worked together to develop many products, the first electronic digital reverberation system, the EMT-250, being the best known. It started a new wave in audio, becoming an instant classic among sound engineers. As one of the founders of

digital audio, I am incorrectly viewed as the creator of that technology. In fact, Carlo was a major contributor and the product could not have been born without his dedication, wisdom, marketing knowledge, and exquisite musical ear. It was truly a joint effort, and our U.S. and German patents list both of us as inventors. I can still remember his trip to the U.S., where he and I lived and worked in an 18th century farmhouse in New Hampshire to develop the reverberation prototype. We were a team in the truest sense of the word, and I treasure the memory of that week of intimate living and working. Our intense discussions were mutually invigorating because we shared the common goal of creating something very special.

During the four decades that we shared, our families became close friends. What I am today, like many others in both the professional audio world and the musical world, is a reflection of all that I gained from being part of his life. As one of the truly educated Europeans, he taught me about wines, politics, history, culture, music, and became a model that I still use in making life decisions. We could sit for hours with a bottle of wine talking about every imaginable subject. When consulting with EMT, his home became my home, and his family became my family. His generosity was second to none.

It is sad to say good-bye to such a wonderful person. Like many others across the globe, I loved Karl Otto Bäder.

Barry Blesser