

# In Memoriam

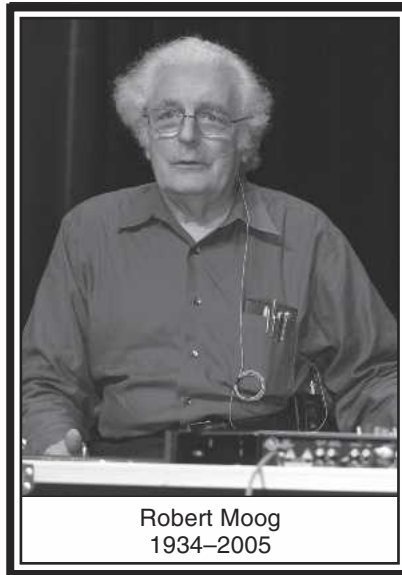
**R**obert Moog, AES fellow, electronic music pioneer, and founder of Moog Music Inc., died on August 21, at his home in Asheville, N.C. He was 71 years old. In late April 2005 Moog was diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer (glioblastoma multiforme or GBM) and had received both radiation treatment and chemotherapy.

Moog was born in New York City and received a B.S. in physics from Queens College, a B.S. in electrical engineering from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in engineering physics from Cornell University in 1965. He received honorary doctorates from Polytechnic University, Lycoming College, and Berklee College of Music.

Michael Adams, president of Moog Music Inc., shared the following thoughts about Moog: “Bob has been such a huge inspiration to all of us. In losing him, we lose a creator, visionary and friend. He was someone who taught us well and he was proud of this company and its people. Bob shaped music in deep and meaningful ways by changing how music could be produced and ultimately, how it would sound. He contributed to a new soundscape—a legacy that we will continue in his honor. He was a musical pioneer for the love of it and musicians everywhere have had the opportunity to expand their own creative horizons with Bob’s inventions. He will truly be missed by all of us, but we take comfort in the fact that his musical innovations will live on in the music he inspired and the products we will continue to make.”

Moog started building theremins as a teenager and established the R.A. Moog Company in 1954. One of the first electronic musical instruments, the theremin provides a unique, tremulous sound.

In 1963, Moog created the first Moog Modular synthesizer, with the more portable Minimoog following in 1970. The Minimoog opened the world of synthesized music to thousands of musicians. Moog sold Moog



Music in 1971 to Bill Waytena, who then sold it to Norlin Music in 1975. Moog left Moog Music, a division of Norlin Music in 1977. In 1978, he founded Big Briar Inc., in the mountains of western North Carolina, which then took the Moog Music name in May 2002. Today, the Asheville-based company designs and builds high-quality analog synthesizers, guitar effects modules, theremins, and a unique controller for acoustic piano called the PianoBar. Moog remained active in the company up to the day he was diagnosed.

Moog’s instruments have influenced many styles of music from jazz to rock, R&B to classical. Moog keyboards can be heard in the music of artists as diverse as funk masters Parliament and Funkadelic; rock icons Yes, the Beatles, and Emerson, Lake and Palmer; and jazz greats Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea.

Today, top musicians still seek out Moog instruments. Moog keyboards and the music they helped create have enjoyed a strong following among players and aficionados. The original theremins designed by Moog enjoy a renaissance today. They are used by popular groups and serious musicians for effects and classical music. Musicians and studio technicians across many musical genres have woven the timeless sound of Moog into an inte-

gral part of our musical culture. A documentary film about him and his work called “Moog” opened in the fall of 2004.

A member of the review board of the *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society* since 1969, Moog received many awards including the Silver Medal of the Audio Engineering Society, the Trustee’s Award in 1970, and a Technical Grammy in 2002 from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, the *Billboard Magazine* Trendsetter’s Award, Seamus Award from the Society of Electroacoustic Music in the United States, and the Polar Music Prize from The Royal Swedish Academy of Music. He wrote and lectured extensively on a variety of topics in music technology and man-machine interface and contributed major articles to the *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *Encyclopedia of Applied Physics*.

Bob Moog was a warm, outgoing man, who enjoyed meeting people from all over the world. He especially appreciated what he called “the magical connection” between music-makers and their instruments.

He is survived by his wife, Ileana, his children, Laura Moog Lanier, Matthew Moog, Michelle Moog-Koussa, and Renee Moog; his step-daughter Miranda Richmond; and former wife, Shirleigh.

A public memorial was held at the Orange Peel in Asheville on August 24. Anyone who wishes to make a contribution in his memory may donate to <http://www.caringbridge.com/visit/bobmoog>.

Moog’s family has established The Bob Moog Foundation dedicated to the advancement of electronic music in his memory. Many of his longtime collaborators including musicians, engineers, and educators have agreed to sit on its executive board including David Borden, Wendy Carlos, Joel Chadabe, John Eaton, David Mash, and Rick Wakeman. For information about the foundation, contact Matthew Moog at [mattmoog@yahoo.com](mailto:mattmoog@yahoo.com).