

In Memoriam

Roy Pritts, AES life member and fellow, educator, musician, composer, author, administrator, and recording engineer, died in Aurora, Colorado on June 20. He was 70 years old.

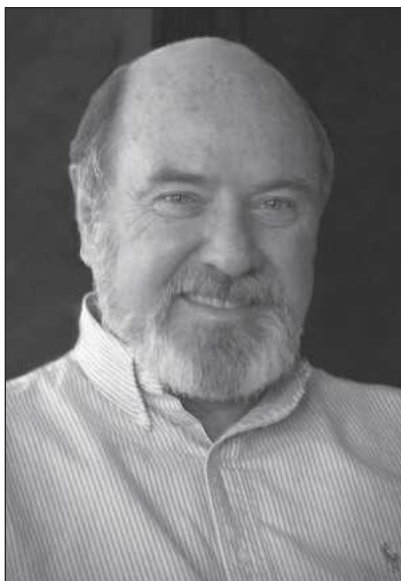
Pritts was born in 1936 in Denver and graduated from East High School in 1955. He attended the University of Denver where he earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1966 and a Master of Arts in composition in 1975. The University of Colorado Board of Regents presented the Centennial Medallion to him in 1976 for service to the university. In 1981 he received the faculty award from the University of Colorado at Denver for "Outstanding Research, Publications and Creative Work."

As a consultant in audio forensics, he advised the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and numerous other Colorado agencies.

Pritts established the Music Technology/Recording Arts program at the University of Colorado at Denver in 1971 and was instrumental in founding the graduate program in recording arts in 2002. He taught audio engineering, electronic music, and music composition until his retirement in May 2006.

During his tenure he served as the resident dean of the College of Music (now the College of Arts & Media at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center) from 1984-1989. He also taught audio engineering courses at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, the University of Miami, the Institutes of Cinematography in both St. Petersburg and Moscow, the Moscow State University (Russia), the technical universities of Gdansk (Poland) and Prague (Czech Republic), Taller de Arte Sonoro (Venezuela), and the University of Lulea-Pitea (Sweden).

As a professional musician and composer, he was on the arranging



Roy Pritts
1937–2007

staffs of the Martha Raye television show and the Stan Kenton Orchestra, and performed with such artists as Les Elgart, Billy May, John Denver, The Carpenters, The Fifth Dimension, Elvis Presley, and Andrew Lloyd Webber. He also performed with the Denver Symphony Orchestra and created multimedia compositions for the Gates Planetarium. He played trombone, piano, synthesizer, as well as other instruments.

An active member of the Audio Engineering Society, he was past president and held a variety of leadership positions, serving twice on the Board of Governors, chairing the education, membership and admissions, awards, nominations, and regions and sections committees, as well as vice president of the Western USA/Canada Region. He was also chair of the Distinguished Speakers Program. He wrote technical articles, presented papers, and served on panels on education, audio recording, acoustics, hearing damage, and electronic music to other professional societies including the Society of Broadcast Engineers, Acoustical Society of America,

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Society of Professional Audio Recording Services. Pritts also published in *Mix Magazine*, *Pro Sound News*, *EQ* magazine and *Downbeat* magazine. His biography appeared in the International *Who's Who in Music and Musicians*, and in the *Who's Who in American Music*. The Pritts Collection of historical audio technology is on display at the National Center for Voice and Speech in Denver.

Roger Furness, AES executive director, commented, "Roy first joined the AES in 1974 and served the society very well in numerous executive positions. He was chair of the Colorado Section, and was instrumental in promoting the Education Fair/Forum at International conventions of the AES and directed the establishment of the Student Delegate Assembly. He visited many student sections of the society in the U.S., Venezuela, Sweden, Russia, Poland, and Croatia. He chaired the AES Conference on Audio Forensics held in Denver in 2005."

Furness continued: "Roy was very generous with his time and knowledge, especially to students, and his opinion was respected and sought. His sense of humor was well known and his friends and colleagues enjoyed his company both in audio discussions and socially. He will be greatly missed by many people in the audio world."

Survivors include a sister, four children, and seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and companion Wanda Newman. The family has established a scholarship in his honor for graduate students in audio at the University of Colorado Denver. Contributions should be payable to ARCS Colorado, P.O. Box 6808, Denver, CO 80206-0808. On the memo line of your check, write: Roy Pritts Memorial.