

John (Jack) Mason

A T r i b u t e t o

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts dedicates this evening's performance of Mariachi Los Caporales featuring Manuel Vargas to Jack Mason, who served on the Ordway Center Board of Directors from September 2000 until the time of his death in June 2002.

This exciting performance was chosen for a number of reasons. Mr. Mason's love of the arts extended to the piano lessons he took for many of his earlier years and then reinstated in his adult life; to the guitar he taught himself; and to the accordion, which he also taught himself later in life.

Mr. Mason was very interested in foreign language and took many language courses so that he was fluent in German and could communicate well in French, Italian, Spanish, Korean, and most recently, Arabic.



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Having served on his local school board for seven years, Mr. Mason was known as the strong advocate for arts education. According to his wife Vivian, Mr. Mason "felt the arts were important in developing the total person."

The combination of all of these varied interests—musical instruments, foreign languages and the performing arts—lends itself to the dedication of this multicultural program to Mr. Mason. As Vivian Mason says, "I chose the performance of Mariachi Los Caporales featuring Manuel Vargas because Jack had registered for an accelerated Spanish program that would have started this fall. And, on Sunday afternoons, Jack always listened to the Mexican station, he loved the music because it was so happy."

Jack Mason was a U.S. Magistrate Judge. In addition to serving on the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts Board of Directors, he served on the boards for The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the MacPhail Center for the Arts, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and Minnesota Chorale.