



NMPA & HFA Mourn Passing of Beebe Bourne on November 1, 2005
Member of the NMPA Board of Trustees and Owner of Bourne Music Publishing

November 2, 2005 – The National Music Publishers Association (NMPA) and The Harry Fox Agency (HFA) are greatly saddened to announce the passing of Board member Beebe Bourne on November 1 after a battle with cancer. Ms. Bourne was part of the legendary Bourne music publishing family, and through the Bourne Co., controlled the publishing of such American classics as “Unforgettable,” “Me And My Shadow,” “When You Wish Upon A Star,” “Swinging On A Star” and “Black Magic Woman,” in addition to operating International Music Co., one of the most important publishers of classical music in the world. Visitation will be Thursday, November 3 at the Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home in New York City; services will be held Friday, November 4 at 2pm at St. Jean Baptiste in New York City. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ms. Bourne’s memory to the Lighthouse International Music School.

“Beebe Bourne was the First Lady of music publishing,” said Irwin Z. Robinson, Chairman of the NMPA Board of Directors and Chairman and CEO of Famous Music Publishing. “Beebe had music publishing in her blood, and she did so much to promote the rights of music publishers and songwriters. Our condolences go out to the Bourne Music family.”

“Beebe was the illustration of the word ‘class,’” said David Israelite, President and CEO, NMPA. “She was respected by all that knew her, and she was also incredibly kind. I will miss her greatly.”

“Beebe was a true lady of great poise and character,” said Gary L. Churgin, President and CEO of the Harry Fox Agency, the NMPA’s licensing affiliate. “She was deeply supportive of HFA and of me personally, and her views on the concerns of the independent music publisher were invaluable. Our industry has lost one of its greats.”

In addition to serving on the Board of the NMPA and on its International and Legislative Committees, Ms. Bourne had been President of the Music Publishers Association, Executive Director of the New York Chapter of the Association of Independent Music Publishers, and was a member of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A. In 2002, she received the Women in Music Touchstone Award given for Distinguished Service to the Music Industry, and just this spring she had received the 2005 Abe Olman Publishers Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame. She was only the second woman to receive the award; the first was her mother, Bonnie Bourne.

Bourne Co. was founded in 1919 by Ms. Bourne’s father, Saul Bourne, with Irving Berlin and Max Winslow. Before taking over the reins of the company from her mother in 1991, Ms. Bourne had held such diverse positions as President and C.O.O. of the THinc Consulting Group; C.E.O. of Seversky Electronatom; Special Assistant to the President Of The United States; and Executive Assistant to the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

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