

Margaret Hodson Black
September 26, 1903 – November 28, 2001

Margaret Hodson Black was born on September 26, 1903, in Cecilton, Maryland. A beloved teacher and advisor to three generations, she entered school in Cecilton in 1910, graduated from Girl's Latin School in Baltimore in 1921, and in 1923 earned a special certificate in music from the Women's College of Delaware (now the University of Delaware). She earned her B.A. from the University of Delaware in 1939 and her master's in psychology from the same institution in 1949.

Miss Black's professional career extended four decades, from 1923 when she was first hired as a high school teacher in Easton, Maryland, to her retirement from her position as counseling psychologist at the University of Delaware in 1969. Miss Black was the first music major at Women's College of Delaware, and throughout her life playing and teaching music was a source of great pleasure. From 1923 to 1926 she was the first high school music teacher for Easton, from 1926 to 1929 she taught music at Frederick High School and methods of music teaching at Hood College. From 1929 to 1930 she was director of music at Salisbury State Normal School in Salisbury, Maryland. She was the first music supervisor for Cecil County from 1930 to 1932, taught part-time at the Teacher's College in Salisbury from 1932 to 1933 and then became director of music at Salisbury State College from 1933 to 1943.

During World War II she was a member of the Army Special Services from 1943 to 1946, serving at Camp Pickett, Virginia, and Indiantown Gap in Pennsylvania.

After the war, Miss Black entered a new phase in her career, earning a master's degree in psychology from the University of Delaware in 1949 and working for two decades as a licensed psychologist in Maryland and Delaware. From 1946 to 1949 she worked at the Psychological Counseling Center at the University of Delaware in both Wilmington and Newark. From 1949 to 1952, Miss Black was the director of student personnel services at Salisbury State College and taught one semester as professor of music. She continued to work as a counseling psychologist at the University of Delaware from 1952 until her retirement in 1969.

Continuing with her music during her active retirement, Miss Black taught piano and organ for another three decades. Some years she traveled to music festivals in Salzburg, Wales, and France. Living in her childhood home on West Main Street in Cecilton, she practiced daily on the grand piano in her living room and delighted selected friends with preludes and sonatas, playing well into her 90s.

Miss Black was a life member of the International Council of Psychologists and a charter member of the Delaware Psychological Association. She was also a member of the Easton Players and the Newark Drama Group. She wrote and directed the Salisbury Bi-Centennial Pageant with a cast of 500 people. In 1992, she was made professor emeritus at Salisbury State University and in 1997 was awarded a place in the Music Hall of Fame of the University of Maryland, College Park. Miss Black was also a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Cecilton, Maryland.