

Sesame Street's "Sunny Days" available at Georgetown

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College Press
Exchange

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CPX) Joe Raposo's name may not ring any bells, but there's hardly a college student across the nation who isn't familiar with his work. Raposo was only 51 when he died from complications of malignant lymphoma in 1989, but his family has ensured that his memory will live on at Georgetown University. In November, Raposo's wife, Pat Collins-Sarnoff, donated several of his original music sheets commonly known as "lead sheets" to the university's Lauinger Library.

The site was chosen primarily for two reasons: Raposo's daughter graduated from Georgetown last year, and the school is located in Washington, D.C., where legislators have awarded federal funding to "Sesame Street" for the last 30 years. Sue Martin, university librarian, said the preservation of Raposo's original works and correspondence, all dating from the inception of "Sesame Street" would be beneficial for "study now, and for future generations."

"'Sesame Street' was, and will continue to be, important for decades of children," she said. "It has had an undeniable impact on society."

With the words - "Sunny daayys, sweepin' the clouds awaayy" Raposo sent children scrambling for a spot in front of the TV so they could visit for a while with their muppet friends.

Raposo, the show's co-creator and one of its lead composers, penned not only the theme song but such timeless children's classics as "C is for Cookie," and "Bein' Green."

"'Sesame Street' songs are still fabulous," said Lauren Cerullo, a sophomore at Georgetown. "I also learned how to read from that show, not to mention how to count to ten in Spanish and a million other really useful things."

Having that music in the library is for some reason an enormously cheering thing."

"'Sesame Street' makes me feel like a little girl again," gushed Tracy Lyons, a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana. "Like when I used to have a Cookie Monster doll and tried to shove cookies in his mouth to make him eat. I hope that it's on when I have kids."

Not even those who were somehow too cool to hang out with Big Bird, Burt and Ernie, the Cookie Monster, Grover and Oscar the Grouch, could escape Raposo's influence. He also wrote other familiar favorites such as "Sing (Sing a Song)" the score for "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," and the theme song for that wacky one-guy-lives-with-two-girls '70s sitcom, "Three's Company."

"There's nothing better than a sitcom based on miscommunications and misunderstandings with a fantastic theme song to back it up," said Liz McArdle, a sophomore at Georgetown and a self-described aficionado of "Three's Company."

