



# *Celebrating*

THE LIFE OF



*Vincent Joseph Robert  
Richter*

OCTOBER 26 1939 - APRIL 7 2025

Friday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Ebenezer Congregation, Osu.

11:00 am



# Order of Service

SCAN QR CODE TO  
DOWNLOAD THE DIGITAL  
FUNERAL PROGRAM



1. Call to worship
2. Processional Hymn
3. Salutation / Scripture Sentence
4. Hymn Pf502 (1-3)
5. Prayer
6. Song Composed by Newlove Annan - Choir
7. Biography / Tributes
8. Performance by Christian Fleischer
9. Scripture Reading
10. Hymn Pf565 (1-4)
11. Sermon
12. Christian Charity / Dedication Pf 563 (1-7)
13. Announcement
14. Song by Eben-Ezer
15. Benediction
16. Funeral March - Harold Richter
17. Recessional Hymn Pf 792

## PART II - AT THE GRAVE SIDE

18. Scripture Sentences - Minister
19. Hymn Pf 825 (1-2)
20. Exhortation & Prayer - Minister
21. Committal Minister
22. Song (Mo miniji nee amli) Pf 518 (1-2)
23. Vote of thanks - Family
24. Benediction - Minister

## Officiating Agents

Rev. Erasmus Mensah Laryea  
Rev. Joshua Nii Anang Ayettey  
Rev. Eric Nii Noi Thompson  
Rev. Erasmus Nii Anyetei Sowah



# *Biography of the Late Mr. Richter*

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..."

The late Vincent Joseph Robert Richter was born on October 26, 1939, in Portuguese Guinea (now Guinea Bissau) to the late Lawrence Ludwig Richter and Margaret Esi Richter (née Coleman). He was baptized on January 1st, 1947 and later confirmed into the Osu Ebenezer Presbyterian Church on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 1955.

Vincent began his formal education at St. Thomas Primary School and continued to the Osu Presbyterian Middle Boys Boarding School (Salem), where he earned his Middle School Leaving Certificate in October of 1955. He furthered his studies at the Osu Presbyterian Secondary School as one of its pioneer students, graduating in 1960 with his O-Level Certificate.

His passion for music was evident early on, leading him to join the Osu Ebenezer Presbyterian Church Choir, where he also served as an organist during church services. After completing his secondary education, Vincent was awarded a scholarship by the Government of Ghana to pursue post-secondary studies abroad. In 1962, he traveled to the Netherlands and enrolled at The Royal Conservatory of Music in The Hague. There, he studied music and graduated with the highest honors in music and piano performance.

Upon returning to Ghana in 1969, Vincent continued his service to the Osu Ebenezer Presbyterian Church as an organist and choirmaster, working alongside the late Mr. Azariah and the late Mr. Solomon Quartey. In 1975, he was among the choir masters transferred to assist the newly established Osu North Presbyterian Church. Later, he returned to Osu Ebenezer to succeed the late Jeremiah Engmann as the



main organist and choirmaster.

On December 23, 1972, Vincent married Gladys Lamiokor Richter (née Badoo), and together they were blessed with three sons.

Vincent's professional career in academia began in the early 1970s at the Specialist Training College (SIT), Winneba. He later joined the National Academy of Music (NAM) Winneba and where he taught and served as Head of the Piano Department, also serving as Deputy Head of the Academy. In the early 1980s, Vincent accepted a teaching position at the Music Department of Oyo State College of Education Ilesha, Nigeria, where he contributed significantly to the music faculty for many years and was well-known to music lovers at the University of Ibadan and Ife, Nigeria where he had the opportunity to demonstrate his music artistry, also appearing in a number of public performances, Radio and T.V programs in Ghana, Benin, Togo and Nigeria. Eventually, he returned to Ghana and continued his teaching at the National Academy Of Music in Winneba. He later accepted a teaching position at the University of Ghana's School of Performing Arts, Music Department, Legon in the early 1990s where he remained until his retirement in 2006.

In the final two years of his life, Vincent bravely battled health challenges. On April 7, 2025, he was called home to eternal rest by his Maker.

Vincent leaves behind his devoted wife Gladys, four beloved children: Lawrencina, Harold, Jeffrey, and Daniel, fourteen grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two brothers, one sister, and numerous family members and friends who will cherish his memory.

Vincent, rest peacefully in the Lord until we meet again.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

2 Timothy 4:7



# *Tribute by The Wife - Mrs. Gladys Richter*

Then I heard a voice from Heaven saying "write this: blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, from now on"

"Yes" says the spirit, "they would rest from their labour, for their works follow them". Revelations 14:13

I pay this tribute to my beloved husband, Mr Vincent Joseph Robert Richter whom I affectionately call Vincent

I have known Vincent for 66 years .i.e. Since 1959 when we were both fairly young.

We met during a carol service organized by this church: Osu Ebenezer

Presby Church where he was the organist and I a soloist.

After the programme, we talked for a short time after which

he invited me to their family's annual Christmas party.

From there, we started a relationship.

A few years into the relationship, in 1962 Vincent had the opportunity to travel to Holland to further his studies. Distance however was not a barrier while he was away. We kept the flame of affection burning.....sending well-wishing cards and love letters to each other.

Unfortunately, in those days, there wasn't anything like WhatsApp, Facebook or Instagram so we managed with letters.

In 1969 Vincent returned to Ghana and we continued our relationship from there, until we got married in 1972, and made a vow that only death can separate us.

Vincent my loving husband has been my friend and confidant since we got married.

Vincent was a cook and let me add here that "what Vincent cannot cook does not exist".

He was very strict and straight forward in his decisions, yet very jovial.

I remember a time during one of our conversations when he told me he had lived before, died and come back to life- that day we laughed over it.

How I wish that story was true because I really want him to come back.

Vincent, I miss your laughter and I miss your smile.... I miss everything about you, please come back.

He had been in good health for many years until the past three years when he started showing signs of ill health.

We went in and out of hospital a few times and those were really difficult moments for me-having to leave him in to leave him in the hands of total strangers to come home and sleep .

That was scary and very disturbing.

Sometimes I opted to sleep on the metal chairs at the "pay point" at the hospital- our children were not in support of this, but I insisted and sometimes stayed over.





Even though his health was failing each passing day, I continued to pray for divine healing. I prayed to God for a miracle as I sat constantly by his bed side.

Alas, on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 he slipped quietly into eternal sleep  
I felt completely shattered; my world became quiet and dark.  
How am I going to continue this journey without you?  
I am sad but thank God we lived to fulfil the vow we made.

God is the giver of life.

He is our sustenance and we cannot question Him.

Today ,I console myself with the hope of the resurrection, for I know that one day, at the sound of the last trumpet all the dead shall be raised to life .

Today there's no more pain but gain sleep on.....my dear husband.

Sleep on, Vincent .

May the angels cover your feet with fur and flowers.

Vincent yaa wɔ ojogbann

Yehowah k3 bo ato

Amen!!





# *Tribute by The Children*

John 5:24

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

Eulogy for Our Father – From His Children

Hello everyone!

As we stand before you today to honor and celebrate the life of our beloved father, Vincent Joseph Robert Richter, I speak on behalf of my mother, my siblings, and the entire Richter family when I say thank you. Your presence, love, support, and kindness during this difficult time mean more to us than words can ever express.

Our father was, and always will be, our hero and our role model. He was kind, humble, patient, and extraordinarily hardworking. He was also blessed with a musical gift that was simply divine. To us, he wasn't just a parent; he was a guide, a source of wisdom, and a man who led by quiet yet powerful example.



As his children, we carry countless memories of him that continue to warm our hearts. Whether it was showing us how to make paper airplanes or keeping us entertained with his playful mimicry, barking like a dog, bleating like a goat, meowing like a cat, or crowing like a rooster, he filled our childhood with joy, laughter, and wonder.

We always looked forward to his return home from his travels across West Africa, where he taught at various universities. Each homecoming was a celebration.

My sister Lawrencia recalls how she will never forget the feeling of reconnecting with dad and how warmly his wife Gladys, and us her brothers welcomed her. It was heartwarming to know he had spoken about her. She was surprised that after all these decades, he still spoke Dutch fluently, and she proudly enjoyed speaking it with him. She is grateful for the time she shared with him in the Netherlands and Ghana, precious moments between father and daughter. Her daughters, Whitney and Rowena, also enjoyed memorable times with him. He was clever, proud, kind, and strict, "No is no."

He loved laughing, telling stories, and joking until he could no longer speak. Lawrencia remembers his beautiful soft yet powerful voice and laughter. She cherishes the memories and the taste of the jollof rice and beans he cooked for her. There's so much more to say, but they understood each other, and she deeply loves him.

Lawrencia takes this opportunity to thank Gladys; Harold, who spent time with him in Ghana; and Jeffrey and Daniel, who cared for him during his illness. They all did what they could in their own ways.

Personally, what I admired most about our father was his musical brilliance, always displayed with grace, restraint, and humility. Though he possessed unmatched mastery on the piano, he never boasted or sought attention. He would only play publicly when persistently urged, and even then, with such modesty.



One cherished memory takes me back to our days at the National Academy of Music in Winneba, where I lived with him for a couple of years in the late 1980s. I'd be practicing piano in the living room, struggling through a piece. From his bedroom, without even seeing the piano, he'd call out, "Wrong note, Harold. It's an A... or a B... or F-sharp." I used to sit there in awe, wondering, "How does he even know that I'm playing a wrong note?" It wasn't until later, as I grew more musically advanced, that I learned he had what is referred to as, Perfect Pitch or Absolute Pitch, it is the rare ability to identify musical notes by ear without any reference. Just another sign of his remarkable gift.

Another vivid memory took place one late afternoon when I walked into his office at the Academy. There he was, seated at the piano with a few friends gathered around. To my amazement, he casually picked up the complete collection of Chopin's Piano Waltzes and began playing them, one after the other, with such effortless grace, it was as if the keys were simply obeying his thoughts. It was like watching a knife glide through butter, smooth, precise, and mesmerizing.

Just when I thought the moment couldn't get any more magical, he reached for Handel's Messiah and began to play and sing from it: Comfort Ye, My People and Every Valley Shall Be Exalted. His voice and the music wove together in a way that felt both powerful and intimate. That surreal moment etched itself into my heart, and it's one I'll carry with me always.

Jeffrey recounted how, when we were young, especially during our secondary school years, the end of each month was something we eagerly looked forward to. It was Daddy's payday. And Daddy's payday was our payday too. He had this wonderful ritual of filling our pockets every month with money. It was his way of showing love, and we cherished it.

Jeffrey will never forget those moments when Daddy would drive him to Labone Junction for a beer or two, sit together, and use the opportunity to share life lessons and gently correct some of his youthful mistakes. Those were treasured conversations. And when it comes to his cooking, the less said, the better, because his meals were simply unforgettable.

Jeffrey is grateful that he had the privilege to care for daddy during the final moments of his life.

We were all worried seeing Daddy lying on that hospital bed. There had never been a single time when he had ever been seriously ill. Despite our concerns, we truly believed he would recover. But sadly, that wasn't meant to be.

Jeffrey remembers one morning after cleaning Daddy in the hospital, he asked for a photo to be taken. We were surprised, he rarely asked for such things, especially not in that condition. But his face was radiant, full of life. That moment gave us hope. He looked so good, and for a while, our hearts were lit up with joy and optimism.

Reading through our mother's tribute, I'm reminded of the stories Daddy once told her, that he died, came back, and said things no one expected, only to recover and live fully for over a year before finally passing. Indeed, Daddy, you died, you came back, and then you left us again, this time to rest with your Maker. Never to return, but always to be remembered.

Another cherished, and frankly, mouthwatering, memory of our father was his top-tier culinary skills. The man could turn any meal into a masterpiece and whip up soups and salads that would make a chef weep with envy. His spaghetti? Legendary. As my younger brother Daniel recalls, the best jollof rice he's ever tasted came from our dad's kitchen, and that was during a medical emergency! Apparently, nothing heals faster than Dad's jollof. Forget antibiotics; just serve a plate of that rice and watch miracles happen.



One of our favorite stories that Dad loved to tell, and we loved to hear, was from his student days in the Netherlands in the 1960s. Picture this: he's zooming around on a motorcycle and gets pulled over by Dutch police for speeding. They talk to him in Dutch, and he responds in English. Thinking he didn't understand them, the officers let loose a few less-than-polite comments. He said nothing, took the ticket like a gentleman, and then, after they were done, he responded in fluent Dutch.

"You should have seen the look on their faces," he'd recall, smiling. He just let his multilingual mic-drop do the talking. Classic Dad, calm, classy, and a little bit savage.

From the Specialist Training College, the National Academy of Music in Winneba and all the way to the School of Performing Arts at the University of Ghana, where I had the honor of studying under him (yes, imagine the pressure of having your dad as your music lecturer), he left behind a legacy that continues to echo through lecture halls and concert stages.

To his colleagues and students, he was affectionately known as "The Almighty of the Piano" and "Chief Galantarian." But my personal favorite nickname was one I gave him myself: "CD." Why? Because when he played, the piano sounded as flawless as a compact disc, crisp, precise, and perfectly polished. His sight-reading, rhythmic command, and technique made it feel as if you were listening to a master recording. All you had to do was sit back and be amazed.

Beyond the concert and lecture halls, our father was also a broadcaster. Many may not know that he once hosted a classical music program on the now-defunct Groove FM Radio Station, called Hours With the Masters. Every Sunday, he would share not just music, but the rich stories and history behind it, a tradition I looked forward to with great anticipation. Our conversations about music were endless, enriching, and inspiring. Those are the moments I miss most.

After retiring from public life, he found peace in the simple pleasures of home, spending his days with his loving wife, Gladys, and his cherished grandchildren, whom he adored.

Our father was dearly loved, deeply respected, and profoundly impactful. His legacy will live on in the lives he touched, the music he created, and the values he instilled in all of us. We will miss him more than words can say.

Now, let us all give a big round of applause to our father, Vincent. (I know he would respond with a big "Hoo!" to this.)

Rest well, Daddy. We love you always.







Caption



# *Tribute by The Grand Children*

A Tribute to our beloved Grandpa, Vincent Joseph Richter.

Today, we gather with hearts full of love and memories to honor the life of a man who was much more than a Grandfather to us. He was a storyteller, a friend, and a father figure in our lives. Uncle Vincent as everyone fondly knew him was the heart of our family and the keeper of our childhood joy.

How could we ever forget those golden afternoons under the mango tree, where he would gather us his grandchildren, wide-eyed and eager for story time. Each tale he spun carried laughter, wisdom, and often a touch of playful mischief. And just when we thought we couldn't be more surprised, he would call us by the reversed forms of our names, making us giggle every single time. That was his way, simple moments turned into treasured memories.

Grandpa had a special way of showing love. We remember sitting outside together, enjoying the breeze, and the moment he'd hear the roasted groundnut seller passing by, he'd quickly call him over, just for us. That small, thoughtful gesture spoke volumes, it wasn't just about the groundnuts, but about how he always paid attention to the little things that brought us joy. And who could forget the Sundays after church? He'd send Laura and Jason down to the end of the road to buy spring rolls and pancakes, his way of keeping the joy of the day going. Those little rituals, filled with love and care, are what made time with him feel so special and unforgettable.

We will also deeply miss those vacation mornings when Grandpa would wake up before all of us just to prepare tea. No one asked, you simply did it, every single time. That quiet act of love and consistency is something we will always hold dear.

Your presence was calm but strong, gentle but full of purpose. You were a man who gave without asking for anything in return, who loved without conditions, and whose legacy will continue to live in our hearts and in the stories we pass down.

Grandpa had a pure heart, kind nature, and deep love for those around him. His gentle spirit, sense of humor, and unwavering kindness are some of the memories Laura recalls.

One of Rowena's fondest memories of you Grandpa, was meeting you at the airport in Amsterdam during your visit in the mid-2000s. She remembers how, after just a few short days with you, both she and her older sister Whitney instantly recognized where their mother had inherited her character and mannerisms, it was clear she was your daughter.

The first time you FaceTimed me remains one of the most beautiful moments of my life. It's a memory that your great-granddaughter Naraijah also holds dear, Grandpa finally mastered the smartphone.

We are so grateful for the conversations, laughter, and jokes we've shared with you. And we're especially proud to hear you speak fluent Dutch, it fills our hearts with joy, Rowena recalls.

Grandpa, we will miss your voice, your laughter, your thoughtful acts, and the way you made everything feel like home. The mango tree will never feel quite the same without you beneath it, weaving stories in the shade. But we will continue to sit under it, and when we do, we will hear your voice in the wind, telling us once more that we were always, deeply, and endlessly loved.

Rest well, Grandpa, your stories and your love live on in us.



# *Tribute from The Nephews and Nieces*

Revelations 21:4

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more pain; for the former things are passed away."

To all those who have gathered here today in Love to show their final respects to our beloved Late Uncle Vincent, also known as "The Maestro" by those in his Community of Musicians, we say Thank You for coming.

Grief is the price we pay for Love. It can't be shared. It's carried alone individually in our hearts. What is lovely never dies but it passes into another loveliness. Grieving is a necessary passage and a difficult transition to finally let go of sorrow.

Though this loss is painful, we the Nephews and Nieces want to remember what a gentle Giant our Uncle Vincent was to our family. He was the source of Wisdom in our family, not to mention a Celebrated Piano Virtuoso and an adept Choirmaster. Though most of the family members didn't attend his performances with the Ghana National Symphony Orchestra or the numerous Piano Recitals and Concerts at the British Council and The Arts Center or at the Residences of Diplomats and Ambassadors, we saw and heard you masterfully play the Piano and Pipe Organ in our Churches. And this made us very proud and blessed to have you in our family.

Uncle Vincent may be a maestro to the world but to us his nephews and nieces, he was simply our Uncle Vincent.

He was a very playfull person especially with children. He would see a child and immediately go like " my name is" and he would mention the child's name. This always confuses the child. That was his way of starting a conversation with a child. He was assertive but affable. It's no secret music runs deeply in our family DNA. It's a beauty to be present in any of our family gatherings and suddenly hear music exploding from a corner and everyone joining in to sing. Uncle Vincent would always provide the background organ with his mouth. He could easily use his mouth to give sounds aa if it's an organ being played. He could alao mimic the sound of any animal with his lips. These are some of the priceless memories we share in our family.

Uncle Vincent lived a quiet, kind and generous life with music teaching and performances dominating his active and fun life. Music is the Gift God gave him and he explored it and used it to the best of his ability. He did exactly what His Maker sent him to do. He completed his task on Earth flawlessly.

Uncle Vincent, though you're no longer with us, your Spirit will continually live on in every aspect of our lives and you can be sure that music will continue to unite us and bring our family even closer together.

Like a Bird singing in the rain, let grateful memories survive in a time of sorrow.

Rest in Peace, Uncle Vincent!





# *Tribute by The Siblings*

Eulogy For Maestro Vincent Joseph Richter - Siblings!

We want to first and foremost extend our kind gratitude to all relatives, friends and colleagues who have gathered here today to honour this Great man.

Our brother Vincent Richter as we affectionately called him Bra Vincent or Vinco by some of his cousins was a great man who didn't play at all with his talent in music. He used to teach us how to play the piano on the grand piano we use to have in the house at the time, and some of us picked it up very quickly. He was a natural brilliant piano teacher.

He was very jovial and always cracking jokes with us in the house.

He led a morally upright life, guided by a strong sense of right. When it mattered, he spoke up and offered his best advice and opinion.

As we struggle to find the perfect words to explain our feelings about our brother, we reflect on the numerous important roles he had performed throughout his life.

We are saddened by the departure of our beloved brother but, we trust our Divine Comforter to see us through this very difficult period of great loss to our family.

As we bid you farewell, we will carry forward the love and laughter you brought into our lives. Though you are no longer with us in body, your spirit will forever echo in our hearts, reminding us to cherish each moment and hold tight to the bonds of family.

Bra Vincent, Rest In Perfect Peace with your Maker till we meet again.

Yaawo Odjogbann!













# *Tribute Ebenezer Church Choir- Osu*

The late Mr. Richter as affectionately called by all, joined the Ebenezer Church Choir in 1956 as a musician and with his talent, he started helping the then choir master to teach hymns/anthems and songs by playing the organ in the church as well.

Mr. Richter was smart, active and jovial at rehearsals and all activities in the choir, he was always the first to come to rehearsals.

In 1962, he travelled to Holland to further his course in music, and in 1969 Mr. Richter came back as a fully qualified musician to set the choir on higher levels.

The late Mr. Richter helped most of the individual choirs which fell under the former Accra East Choir's Union e.g (Epiphany/La/Teshie and Nungua) with his musical skills.

It was pure joy with the Choir's Union especially the Osu Ebenezer Choir to have had a talented and handsome musician to be playing the organ and teaching the music as well, one cannot absent himself/herself from rehearsals and church services because of the unity and happiness amongst members in the choir.



In 1975, the Osu District gave birth to a newly born Osu North Presby now Shalom, at Cantonments. The then choirmaster of Ebenezer Church Choir, late Mr. John Jeremiah Engmann of blessed memory at that time used to select some of his choristers every Sunday to render anthems and hymns at the Prisons Canteen where they fellowship, later on the mantle was handed over to late Mr. Vincent Richter who took over until their own choir was formed.

He was posted back to Ebenezer when new and substantive choirmaster was appointed at Osu North Presby .

In 1987 when the choir was about to celebrate her 50th anniversary, Late Mr. Vincent Richter taught the choir many anthems such as, Mikpo Lolo Ga, Soul Array, We bow down, Rock of our Salvation, The Heavens Declare etc, that day the recessional song: PRAISE BE TO THE LORD ALMIGHTY GOD was exceptional that shook the whole church as a result many people came to join the choir after the anniversary.

Mr. Richter had so many nicknames through the songs he taught us which he was unaware of some, e.g Soul Array, Mikpo Lolo Ga, We bow down, Mr. White, etc.

After the choir's 70th Anniversary, he was faced with many challenges, members absent themselves, lateness to rehearsals etc. which no one understood, that made him set aside from the choir for a while, but had been helping to play the organ sometimes on Sundays.

He fell sick and was admitted to the Ridge Hospital. When the choir heard he was discharged from the hospital they visited him twice, wished him well, prayed and sang his favourite songs not forgotten Mikpo Lolo Ga for him and he was very happy.

Uncle Richter, one of your nicknames you were aware of was (Anyee mo no), (unexplainable) as you journey on to your maker, the entire Osu District Choir and the defunct Accra East Choir's Union now Unification Committee wish you the very best of God's blessings till we meet on the portals of heaven.

Oké Yesu aya shia



# *Tribute by Past Students to Mr. Vincent J.R. Richter*

Music Educationist and Pianist par excellence, for his lifelong positive impact on Ghanaian Music Education and Performance Practice.

What a gentleman he was! Mr. Richter was handsome, purposeful and fatherly.

V.J.R Richter embodied the arts in the most beautiful way, especially through his humanity, smiles and love of fellow men and women.

He was simply a genius, but understood the patience it took for his students to reach the desired level.

On Legon Campus, you knew Mr. Richter was simply the best Pianist because whenever Prof. J.H.K Nketia received foreign visitors or there was an important University programme on campus in which classical art music was to sound from the piano, it was VJR they fell on.

In his day, he was simply the best Pianist and Piano Pedagogist the whole country could boast of. However, in his characteristic humility, he'd never respond to any such accolades.

He loved his students because he saw all of us as Harold - his son. He was so understanding of us as young people that we unanimously made him the "Patron Galant", where Galant in our context meant "boys who were Still exploring life and learning our lessons from our mistakes."

Today, we can proudly point to some of the finest musicians from Ghana who wouldn't be who and where they are without the positive input of V.J.R. Richter.

His students include Dr. George Mensah-Essilfie, (USA) Dr. George Dor, (USA), Mr. Clement Korletey-Sackey (Canada) , Mr. Bright Amankwah (USA) Dr, Paschal Young; (USA) Dr, Sauei Nyamuameh (USA), Dr. Amakye Boateng, (SPA), Mr. Harold Richter - His Son, (Canada) and Rev. Newlove Kojo Annan, to name a few.









# *Tribute from UEW*

## *Department of Music Education, Winneba*



1987 – Performance during the dedication of the musical instruments donated by Ms Joyce Aryee, then the Minister for Education, Sports and Culture, (Richter at the piano with G. E. Kwami conducting) and Dr. Mohammed Abdallah, Chairman of the National Commission on Culture.

Vincent Richter, one of the founding members of the National Academy of Music (NAM), Winneba, that metamorphosed into the Department of Music Education of the University College of Education of Winneba (UCEW) in 1992, was not only a virtuoso pianist but also a seasoned piano teacher who excelled not only in technical mastery but also in the ability to communicate and nurture talent in others.

He had great musical sensitivity and gave expressive interpretation in his piano performances that conveyed great varied emotions and depth. His stylistic versatility need not be overemphasized. He was proficient in a wide range of musical styles and historical periods.

With his deep pedagogical knowledge, he understood how technique, theory, ear training, and expression interconnected. He tailored instruction towards an excellence in theory and practice.

He was not only a virtuosic pianist, he was passionate about individual students' needs and learning styles. His legacies at NAM include the establishment of the Piano Unit, resulting in the training of several organists and pianists between 1974 to 1980. As a succession plan, he groomed Paul T. Kwami who took over from him when he left Winneba to work in Nigeria. Unfortunately, Paul Kwami (now deceased) also left not long to the USA who also handed over to Rev. Michael Ohene-Okanthah who held the fort until his retirement from the Department of Music Education, of the University of Education, Winneba.

The late Vincent Richter was an advocate of lifelong learning and professionalism in piano playing, and committed to its growth which he demonstrated after leaving NAM in the early 1980s and continued to keep up with trends in piano music, piano pedagogy, and music education until he was called by his maker.

On the occasion of your "Home Call," the Department of Music Education, University of Education, Winneba, is of the view that the Lord's bosom is where you deserve to rest.

Vincent, Rest in Absolute Peace.



# *Tribute by The National Symphony Orchestra*

"When beggars die, there are no comets seen; the heavens themselves blaze forth, the death of Princess".

Julius Caesar Act 2, Scene 2, Line 30-32.

Mr. Vincent Richter was designated as a best pianist in the country, Ghana. He truly transformed the orchestra, significantly impacting the soloists, instrumentalists and pianists through his exceptional skills in pianism.

Mr. Vincent Richter and other musicians like, M. Z Nayo, Mr. Blegeh, Diana Reindorf, helped to transform the national Symphony Orchestra in this 20<sup>th</sup> century. He encouraged everyone to strive for excellence through dedication study and encouraged them to pursue the ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) courses and exams, by then. He loved the Orchestra so much and would grace any occasion his successive directors would invite him to. His professional leadership undoubtedly raised the standards of the Orchestra, a legacy we strive to uphold to this day.

Later, He left the shores of Ghana to perform his skills at the Huge, Holland for good seven years. He was crowned the best pianist on the African continent. This made the western World to search where Ghana is, on the globe when it comes to music.

"Yoo ko miishi Kelewele ye Africa..." (As he was called in private life by the workers of the national Symphony Orchestra); An anthem for the Zulus of South Africa. He used the song to teach them Piano works. He was known as a strong disciplinarian, principled, transparent, trustworthy and lived up to his mandate to protect the nation's purse. When it comes to music, his personality and strong leadership qualities skills in music enabled the Orchestra generate revenue for government.

Though he appeared strict he was yet a very warm and friendly leader. Some of the employees of the Orchestra Fondly remembered him for his usual random extension of invitations to his Chambers during lunch just to interact over drinks. He also gave talented employees an opportunity to develop themselves.

Nii!!! Vincent Richter, national symphony orchestra celebrates you for your immense impact and contribution to the Orchestra.

Your legacy will live on through the countless lives you touched and the transformative impact you had on Ghana music sector.

May your good deeds follow you on your journey home.

Farewell Thee!





Caption



# *Tribute by The Department of Music University of Ghana*

Tribute from the Department of Music

"A good teacher is like a candle—it consumes itself to light the way for others."  
— Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

The Department of Music mourns the passing of Mr. Vincent Joseph Robert Richter with deep sadness and enduring respect. Mr. Richter served as a valued member of our faculty in the early 1990s, and though his tenure was not long, the impact he made on our students, colleagues, and academic tradition was profound.

Mr. Richter taught Music Forms and Analysis and Piano, two areas where his expertise shone with quiet brilliance. In lecture halls and practice rooms, he brought a sense of structure, patience, and seriousness to the study of music. His approach to analysis was methodical, yet insightful—always reminding students that beneath every phrase or motif was a world of meaning and intention waiting to be discovered. At the piano, he cultivated not just technical skill, but expressive depth, encouraging his students to play not louder, but truer.

He worked alongside a distinguished group of colleagues—Gyimah Larbi, Asante Darkwa, Willie Anku, C.K. Adom, Nissio Fiagbedzi, and Edmund John Collins—individuals who collectively helped shape the modern identity of the department. Among them, Mr. Richter was known for his humility, his dependable character, and his unwavering commitment to high standards. He never sought the spotlight, yet his presence was felt deeply by all who crossed his path.

To his peers, he was a trusted colleague. To his students, he was a mentor who believed in their potential. He brought with him the rare ability to both challenge and encourage, to correct without wounding, and to teach with clarity and grace.

Though the passage of time has moved many of us to different stages of life, the echoes of Mr. Richter's influence are still heard—in the teaching methods we use, in the values we uphold, and in the musicians who passed through his care. We honor him not only for what he taught, but for how he carried himself: with integrity, discipline, and deep respect for the art of music.

As we bid farewell to our colleague and friend, we do so with gratitude for a life that shaped others through the quiet power of education and example. May he rest in perfect peace.

Department of Music







# Hymns

## PH 502

1. Holy Ghost, the Infinite,  
Shine upon our nature's night  
With Thy blessed holy light,  
Comforter Divine.
- 2 We are sinful, cleanse us, Lord;  
We are faint, Thy strength afford;  
Lost, until by Thee restored,  
Comforter Divine.
- 3 Like the dew, Thy peace distil;  
Guide, subdue our wayward will,  
Things of Christ unfolding still,  
Comforter Divine.

## PH 792

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

- 1 Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. [Refrain]
- 2 Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
and if you lack for knowledge, he'll not refuse to lend. [Refrain]
- 3 If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." [Refrain]

## PH 563

1. Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on, till  
victory is won.
- 2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our \*fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the  
slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
- 3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way  
Thou who hast by Thy might led us into the light;  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land



TRIBUTE IN SONG TO MAESTRO V.J.R. RICHTER (1939-2025)  
PIANIST & MUSIC EDUCATIONIST PAR EXCELLENCE

HE REMAINS DEAR TO OUR HEARTS

## We Mourn the Dearest

Music and Words By:  
**Newlove Kojo Annan**  
14th May 2025

Solemn with Deep Reverence

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It is in 4/4 time and the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The score is divided into three systems. The first system starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and ends with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second system starts with a mezzo-forte (*f*) dynamic. The third system starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and ends with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The lyrics are written below the piano part.

*mp* *mf*

We mourn our dea - rest Teach - er, Our Fath - er, Mis - ter Rich - ter. Though

We mourn our dea - rest , er, Our Fa - ther Mis - ter Rich - ter. Though

*f*

dark be this day, and hope seem so far; In Christ we hope for

dark be this day, and hope seem so far; In Christ we hope for

*mf* *mp*

bright to - mo - row where the sun shall ne - ver set: May the stars, all the

bright to - mo - row where the sun shall ne - ver set: May all the



14 stars be kind! May all the An - gels wel - come him!

stars be kind to him! May the an - gels of God, wel - come him!

stars be kind to him! May all the An - gels wel - come him!

May the stars be kind to him! May the An - gels wel - come him!

17 *mf* To the Land of Peace, to the Land of *f* Glo - ry for ev ver more!

21 *f* Glo - ry for ev ver more! *mf* Where there

(ev - er more!)

24 shall be no - more pain, where there shall be no - more sor - row for ev - er more! May you



# When I am laid in earth.

Purcell

## Adagio lamentoso

Soprano

When I am la - id, am la - id in

8

S. earth, may my wro - ngs cre - ate no trou - ble. no trou - ble in, - thy breast.

14

S. When I am Re - mem - ber me, Re - mem - ber me, but

21

S. ah! - For - get my fate. Re - mem - ber me, but ah! - For - get my -

The musical score is written for Soprano and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/2. The tempo is marked 'Adagio lamentoso'. The score is divided into four systems. The first system shows the Soprano entering with the lyrics 'When I am la - id, am la - id in'. The second system continues the Soprano line with 'earth, may my wro - ngs cre - ate no trou - ble. no trou - ble in, - thy breast.' The third system shows the Soprano line with 'When I am Re - mem - ber me, Re - mem - ber me, but' and includes a first and second ending bracket. The fourth system shows the Soprano line with 'ah! - For - get my fate. Re - mem - ber me, but ah! - For - get my -'. The Piano accompaniment provides harmonic support throughout, with various chordal textures and melodic lines in both hands.



27

S. fate. Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me, but ah! -

32

S. For - get my fate. Re - mem - ber me, but ah! - For - get my - fate.

38

S.

46

S.



# Marche Funèbre

Sonata No.2 in B flat minor - Op.35 (3<sup>o</sup>Mvt)

Fr. Chopin (1837)

Transc. : B. Dewagtere

Piano

*pp* pesante e sostenuto *p* *poco cresc.*

avec Ped.

This system contains the first five measures of the piece. The right hand features a melody of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *pp* (pianissimo), *p* (piano), and *poco cresc.* (a little crescendo). The instruction 'avec Ped.' (with pedal) is written below the first measure.

6 *p* *cresc.*

This system contains measures 6 through 10. The right hand continues its melodic line with some slurs. The left hand maintains the eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *cresc.* (crescendo).

11 *fz* *fz* *più cresc.* *f*

This system contains measures 11 through 15. The right hand features more complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets. The left hand continues the accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *fz* (forzando), *più cresc.* (più crescendo), and *f* (forte).

16 *sf* *sempre f* *tr*

This system contains measures 16 through 20. The right hand has some rests and then returns with a melodic line. The left hand continues the accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *sf* (sforzando), *sempre f* (sempre forte), and *tr* (trill).



Marche Funèbre

20

dim. *p* *sf* *f*

*tr*

This system contains measures 20 through 23. The left hand features a series of chords and a trill in measure 20, followed by a melodic line with a trill in measure 21. The right hand has a melodic line with a trill in measure 20 and a series of eighth notes in measure 21. Dynamics include *dim.*, *p*, *sf*, and *f*. A trill is marked in measure 20.

24

*sf* *sempre f* *tr*

This system contains measures 24 through 27. The left hand has a series of chords and a trill in measure 24, followed by a melodic line with a trill in measure 25. The right hand has a melodic line with a trill in measure 24 and a series of eighth notes in measure 25. Dynamics include *sf*, *sempre f*, and *tr*.

28

*dim.* *p* *dim.* *pp*

*tr*

This system contains measures 28 through 32. The left hand features a series of chords and a trill in measure 28, followed by a melodic line with a trill in measure 29. The right hand has a melodic line with a trill in measure 28 and a series of eighth notes in measure 29. Dynamics include *dim.*, *p*, *dim.*, and *pp*. A trill is marked in measure 28.

33

*tr*

This system contains measures 33 through 37. The left hand has a series of chords and a trill in measure 33, followed by a melodic line with a trill in measure 34. The right hand has a melodic line with a trill in measure 33 and a series of eighth notes in measure 34. A trill is marked in measure 33.

38

*cresc.*

This system contains measures 38 through 42. The left hand has a series of chords and a trill in measure 38, followed by a melodic line with a trill in measure 39. The right hand has a melodic line with a trill in measure 38 and a series of eighth notes in measure 39. A crescendo is marked in measure 38.



Marche Funèbre

43 3

43 3

*pf* *dim.* *pp*

This system contains measures 43 through 47. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and ties, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *pf* (pianissimo forte) at measure 45, *dim.* (diminuendo) at measure 46, and *pp* (pianissimo) at measure 47. A rehearsal mark '3' is placed at the end of the system.

48

48

This system contains measures 48 through 52. The right hand continues the melodic line with slurs, and the left hand maintains the eighth-note accompaniment.

53

53

*pp*

This system contains measures 53 through 57. It includes a first ending (marked '1.') and a second ending (marked '2.'). The right hand has a melodic line with a trill in measure 53. The left hand continues the eighth-note accompaniment. A *pp* (pianissimo) marking is present in measure 56.

58

58

*p* *poco cresc.*

This system contains measures 58 through 62. The right hand plays a series of chords with a melodic line. The left hand continues the eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) at measure 58 and *poco cresc.* (poco crescendo) at measure 60.

63

63

*p* *cresc.* *fz*

This system contains measures 63 through 67. The right hand continues the melodic line. The left hand continues the eighth-note accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) at measure 63, *cresc.* (crescendo) at measure 64, and *fz* (forzando) at measures 66 and 67.



Marche Funèbre

4  
68

*più cresc.*

*f*

73

*sf*

*sempre f*

*dim.*

*p*

*sf*

*tr*

78

*f*

*sf*

82

*sempre f*

*dim.*

*p*

*tr*









# Celebration OF LIFE



The Richter Family of Osu, Christian Coleman - Head of Coleman Family of Osu and Akropong, Rev. Dr. Chris Hesse - Head of the Hesse Family, Head of the Nii Akoto We of Osu Alata, Head of Nii Adumuah We of Osu Agblaoshie, The Swanikier and Engmann Families of Osu, The Badoo Family of Osu and all allied families, The District Minister and the entire congregation of the Osu Ebenezer Presbyterian Church (OEPC), regret to announce with deep sorrow the transition of their beloved

## VINCENT JOSEPH ROBERT RICHTER

SUNRISE: 26th October, 1939 - SUNSET: 7th April, 2025

### FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS

AGED  
85

**LAYING IN STATE:** Thursday 19th June 2025 at 6:00pm at No. 14 Nii Nortey Omaboe Street, Osu. GA-081-1701

**BURIAL SERVICE:** Friday 20th June 2025, 11:00am at the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Eben-Ezer Congregation, Osu  
**INTERMENT:** Private Burial at the Osu Cemetery immediately after Burial Service

**WIDOW:** Gladys Lamiokor Richter

**CHILDREN:** Lawrence Faritza Richter, Harold Benjamin Richter, Jeffrey Joseph Richter & Daniel David Richter

**GRAND CHILDREN:** Whitney Selina van Ommeren, Rowena Irene van Ommeren, Katherine Anne-Louise Richter, Nattie Ruth Richter, Mahali Elizabeth Raven Richter, Emily Rebekah Richter, Brigitte Eve Richter, Anthony Lloyd Richter, Laura Gladys Richter, Jason Joseph Richter, Samuel Richter, Norah Harmony Richter, Vincent Gerardus Richter & Aimee Daisy Richter

**GREAT GRANDCHILDREN:** Naraijah Janais van Ommeren & Amiya Richter  
**IN-LAWS:** Ishmaelia Nmai

**BROTHERS & SISTER:** Mary Fleischer, Gilbert Richter & Ernest Richter

**COUSINS:** Benedicta Richter, Julius Richter, Christian Richter, Mrs. Christiana Takyi, Mrs. Fredricka Hinson, Eddy Abdo, Christian Coleman, Mrs. Gladys Gusha, Samuel Coleman, Catherine Asobo Coleman

**NEPHEWS & NIECES:** Mrs. Sylvia Kwakwa and siblings, Mrs. Paulina Amponsah and siblings, Gordon Richter, Paul Azu and siblings, Dr. Jonathan Richter and siblings, Abraham Quarthey-Papafio and siblings, Paulina Adeline Richter and sister, Mrs. Margaret Ofori and sister, Mrs. Roberta Hammond and brothers, Christian Fleischer and sister, Pearl Adeline Abankwa and sisters, Roland Ernest Richter, Dr. Nana Asantewa Afadzina and siblings, Dr. Johann Richter and siblings, George Richter, Mrs. Naomi Dedo Coppedge and sister, Philip Richter and sister, Barbara Quarshie and sister, Jabez Entsua-Mensah and siblings, Nii John Coleman (USA) and siblings, Nii John Coleman and Siblings, Mrs. Kate Ashirifi and siblings, Paul Botchway and siblings, Dorothy Takyi and siblings, Caroline Addington and siblings, Sarah Naa Adoley Nii-Boi, Alice Botchway and siblings, Linda Johnson and sisters, Mrs. Burguesson and siblings, Emmanuel Richter and siblings, Dr. Philip Richter and siblings, Henry Richter and siblings, Ludwig E. Richter and siblings.

**CHIEF MOURNERS:** The Richter Family of Osu, Christian Coleman - Head of Coleman Family of Osu and Akropong, Rev. Dr. Chris Hesse - Head of the Hesse Family, Head of the Nii Akoto We of Osu Alata, Head of Nii Adumuah We of Osu Agblaoshie, The Swanikier and Engmann Families of Osu, The Badoo Family of Osu and all allied families, Her Excellency Virginia Hesse, Tommy Swanikier, Edwin Badoo,

**DRESS CODE:** Black and White

**All Friends & Sympathizers Are Cordially Invited**