

prof. dr. Edsger W. Dijkstra

Education

Gymnasium Erasmianum in Rotterdam

(with highest possible marks for mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology), 1948

University of Leyden

Candidaats Examen, Mathematics and Physics, 1951

Doctoraal Examen, Theoretical Physics, 1956

University of Amsterdam

Ph.D. (Cum Laude), 1959

Professional Experience

Mathematical Centre, Amsterdam

Staff member, 1952 – 1962

Eindhoven University of Technology

Full Professor of Mathematics, 1962 – 1973

Burroughs Research Fellow / Professor

Extraordinarius, 1973 – 1984

The University of Texas at Austin

Professor and Schlumberger Centennial Chair in

Computer Sciences, 1984 – 1999

Honors and Awards

- Member of the Bataafsche Genootschap de Proefondervindelijke Wijsbegeerte, Rotterdam, 1964
- Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1971
- Distinguished Fellow of the British Computer Society, 1971
- Programming Systems and Languages Paper Award, 1971
- ACM Turing Award, 1972
- AFIPS Harry Goode Memorial Award, 1974
- Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1975
- Doctor of Science Honoris Causa, The Queen's University of Belfast, 1976
- Computer Pioneer Award, IEEE Computer Society, 1982
- ACM/SIGCSE Award for Outstanding Contributions to Computer Science Education, 1989
- ACM Fellow, 1994

Written Works

According to his Curriculum Vitae, E. W. Dijkstra is the author or co-author of 9 books, 12 book chapters, 40 journal articles, 34 contributions to conference proceedings, and 22 other publications. However these statistics only scratch the surface of his writings. The EWD series comprises over 1,200 manuscripts (with EWD 1318 the last in the series) that include technical papers, trip reports, and essays. While many of these are included among the published works mentioned above, many more are not. The spread of these manuscripts represents a unique form of "publication" via an informal distribution tree. Each EWD manuscript went to a small group of people, each of whom acted as a new distribution point to send copies to additional people—all over the world. At least one paper returned to him six generations later.

Visit the web site www.cs.utexas.edu/users/EWD/ for a collection of these writings.

The EWD Memorial Committee

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Department of Computer Sciences

Edsger Wybe Dijkstra

May 11, 1930 – August 6, 2002



A Memorial Celebration

Thursday, November 21, 2002
5:00 – 7:00 pm

Etter-Harbin Alumni Center
Connally Banquet Hall
The University of Texas at Austin

The Program

Opening Remarks

J Strother Moore
Chairman, Department of Computer Sciences
The University of Texas at Austin

Shawn Manley
Graduate Student, Department of Computer Sciences
The University of Texas at Austin

Xiaozhou (Steve) Li
Graduate Student, Department of Computer Sciences
The University of Texas at Austin

David Gries
Professor, Computer Science Department
University of Georgia

Recital

Pianist: Gregory Allen

Sonata in A Major, K. 331
I. Andante grazioso (Theme and Variations)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sonata in E-flat Major, Hob. 52
II. Adagio
Joseph Haydn

Sonata in A, K. 331
III. Allegretto alla Turca
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Impromptu in G-flat, Op. 90 No. 3
Franz Schubert

Mazurka in C# minor, Op. 30 No. 4
Frédéric François Chopin

Barcarolle in F# Major, Op. 60
Frédéric François Chopin

Intermezzo in E Major, Op. 116 No. 4
Johannes Brahms

Musical Notes

Although Edsger's favorite composer was Mozart, his musical tastes ranged as far back as Tartini and Corelli, and in the last couple of decades he had developed an enthusiasm for Dvorak.

Edsger was a longtime supporter of Austin's classical music radio station, KMFA. One of KMFA's business supporters, Mathematics, Inc., is familiar to readers of the EWD series (e.g., EWD 442) as Edsger's long-running spoof of the software industry.

Edsger was himself an accomplished pianist. He owned, shipped twice across the Atlantic, and often played, a Bösendorfer grand piano (Model 170).

The pieces in this recital include ones he played and liked to listen to. During his years in Austin, he attended and particularly enjoyed numerous performances by Professor Allen.

The Pianist



photo courtesy of Richard S. Orton

Gregory Allen
Professor of Piano, School of Music
The University of Texas at Austin

Professor Gregory Allen was the Grand Prize winner of the 1980 Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv, won the second prize at the 1978 Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels, and received top honors in the Los Angeles Young Musicians Foundation, the Gina Bachauer, and the Washington International Competitions.

Professor Allen has appeared with the New York, Los Angeles, and Israel Philharmonics, as well as orchestras in San Francisco, San Diego, Baltimore, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio.