RICHARD WERNICK

What a delight it is to participate in this celebration of Bobby Man's career! I look back to a man who was an icon for me and the leader of an iconic string quartet, young and energetic with its musical head on straight. But when Bobby and I first met thirty-six years ago it was not through the Juilliard Quartet, but rather through the Naumburg Foundation who had the goodness to grant me an award and offer a commission. What a pleasure it was to finally become associated with Bobby and his dear Lucy. As the years went by the association and friendship with the Juilliard Quartet grew deeper. I got to know Bobby not just as a violinist, but as a conductor and most importantly, as a visionary.

Bob's *Weltanshauung*, never overtly articulate, but clear as a bell, has always been to follow one's own deeper vision, to pursue and champion the music in which he believed, with indifference toward, and perhaps even contempt for, the latest musical fads and trends, that is if anyone could imagine Bobby expressing contempt for anything. His sense of preserving the thread of musical value that has persisted in music for millennia, irrespective of style or fashion, continues to be an important model for so many of us, and a gift to be deeply appreciated and respected.

Bravi, bravissimi to Bobby and Lucy!

