

Death Notice

It is with sadness that the Study Group on African Music announces the passing of Emeritus Professor J.H. Kwabena Nketia, who died on 13 March 2019 at the blessed age of 1997. Andrews Agyemfra-Tettey, his erstwhile Personal Assistant and Curator of the Kwabena Nketia Creative Legacy in Music and the Related Arts, and webmaster of the Ethno Music Circle (on the Telegram Messenger app) describes Prof Nketia's final moments as follows:

We are all indeed bereaved, at both personal and scholarly levels. He was fine until last week. He was rushed to the University of Ghana Hospital Emergency Room last Monday morning, with general weakness and breathlessness. He was stabilized by the Physician-Specialist and his team of brave doctors and gallant nurses, and, as a precaution, referred to a higher hospital later in the day, but was deemed too delicate to be moved. The medical staff continued to administer relentless intensive care.

I worked closely with the medical staff for 24 hours. He was better and alert by Tuesday morning (12th March), with his eyes wide open, and even laughing feebly and mischievously at my music therapy jokes, under the oxygen mask and serpentine intravenous tubes and cardio attachments. He nodded when I took my leave to go to work briefly at my office and to return soon. That was at 10pm GMT.

At 01:00 he was given a thorough antiseptic bed bath. He rested comfortably, sleeping naturally, breathing evenly. Suddenly at 02:30 he began struggling violently in bed. The team of three doctors, five nurses and four emergency staff sprang into commendable resuscitative procedures, but he was already underway to his ancestors! Cause of death: massive cardiac arrest, myocardial infarction and pulmonary embolism. Official time of death: 02:55.

Gloom descended on the entire Emergency Room, with doctors and nurses deflated alike, distraught and disorganized in sorrow. The last Offices were performed on him and a mortician was called in.....

Please respect the silence and space of the bereaved Family, while they grieve, plan for the funeral and heal.

Rest in peace Professor Joseph hanson Nketia!

SALUTE!

Andrews K. Agyemfra-Tettey.