

About the Author

Edith Hillman Boxill, music therapist, author, educator, and social activist, was widely recognized as an authority on music therapy for individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition to her clinical and faculty positions as Director of Music Therapy at the Manhattan Borough of Developmental Services and Adjunct Professor of Music Therapy at New York University, Ms. Boxill authored three major publications, including *Music Therapy for Living* (MMB Music, 1989) and the more autobiographical, *The Miracle of Music Therapy* (Barcelona Publishers, 1997). Her Folkways recording titled “Music Therapy for the Developmentally Disabled,” now available in various formats through the Smithsonian Institution, is prized today as an early example of what ultimately came to be known as “outsider art.”

As founder of *Music Therapists for Peace*, an initiative that envisioned the expansion of music therapy “beyond the treatment room to all people, everywhere,” Ms. Boxill directed and encouraged music therapists worldwide to apply the multicultural, cross-cultural perspective of music therapy and its various methods of interaction and communication to such efforts as conflict resolution, the reduction of violence in thought, expression, and action, and the furtherance of peaceful relationships at every level of human existence, from the personal to the global.

Ms. Boxill received a number of significant awards during her long career of service to humanity and to the profession of music therapy, including the lifetime achievement award from the American Association for Music Therapy, and a United Nations Peace and Cooperation in School Award in 1998 for her anthem, “Citizens of the World,” which she accepted in Madrid, Spain. She was also the first recipient of the award that bears her name, the Edith Hillman Boxill Award for Distinguished Achievement in Music Therapy, given by New York University. Ms. Boxill passed away in 2005 at the age of 88.