Lela Wing Benson

April 17, 1931 ~ September 29, 2016

Lela Wing Benson passed away peacefully on September 29, 2016 at the age of 85. Lela was born April 17, 1931 to Charles Rodolph and Viola Margaret Allen Wing in Raymond, Alberta, Canada. Lela greatly valued her noble Canadian heritage. Lela left Raymond to attend Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah where she pursued a degree in Home Economics. It was while at BYU that she was swept off her feet by the handsome Mark Amussen Benson. They were married December 30, 1952 in the Salt Lake Temple by Mark\s father, Apostle Ezra Taft Benson. Their early married years were spent in Palo Alto, CA while Mark attended Stanford and in Washington D.C. Lela\s life was devoted to her husband, children, faith, and love of music. She faithfully served in many church callings including positions in Relief Society, Primary, and a variety of ward and stake music callings. Mark and Lela raised their six children in Dallas Texas, Salt Lake City Utah, and Indiana. They maintained a great love and enthusiasm for Texas, while appreciating being near family in Utah. She and Mark lived in Indiana for three years while Mark presided over the Indiana/Michigan Mission. She traveled the mission extensively with Mark sharing her testimony with the missionaries and local saints. She was an energetic mission mother to hundreds of missionaries. The mission was later divided, and Mark and Lela continued their leadership over the Indiana/ Indianapolis Mission.

Lela was also a loyal member of Daughter of the Utah Pioneers for many years. Lela will be forever remembered as a beloved and devoted music teacher. Lela began her musical education in Canada as a young child. She continued her musical pursuits at BYU studying organ with the renowned Tabernacle organist, Alexander Schreiner. She then spent the rest of her life transferring her love of music to her appreciative children, grandchildren, and students. She was an active member of the Utah Music Teachers Association for thirty years. Later in life, through rigorous study and perseverance, she achieved the impressive National Music Teacher Certification.

Lela was preceded in death by her husband of sixty years, Mark (1929-2012), and her siblings Guy Alexander (Mary), Margaret Taylor (Harlan), David Wing (Joyce), and Barbara Coleman (Ken). Lela leaves behind her six children, Stephen Reed Benson, Stephanie Young (David), Stacey Ann Reeder (Martin), Margaret Ferry (Benjamin), Mary Richards (Ryan), Michael Taft Benson (Debi), 34 grandchildren, and 38 great-grandchildren.

A viewing will be held at Larkin Mortuary (260 East South Temple) on Friday, October 7th, from 6 to 8 p.m. Funeral services will be held in the Ensign Stake Center (135 "A" Street) on October 8th at 11 a.m. A viewing will also be held prior to the services from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Ensign Stake Center. Interment services will be held in Whitney, Idaho.