

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

Loretta Dranoff remembered

Thank you, Jordan Levin, for the reflections on Miami's maturation from Paradise Lost to Paradise Sought in the Sept. 13 article *Arts Pioneers* article in the Season of the Arts issue.

I particularly appreciate the focus on the stellar individuals who labored in the proverbial dark for so many years, pushing culture forward. But there were others as well.

One of those was the renowned duo pianist and educator Loretta Dranoff.

In the late 1980s, Dranoff created the most respected international competition dedicated solely to the art form of duo pianism, so respected that it is one of only five competitions in the United States that is a member of the prestigious Federation Mondiale des Concours Internationaux de Musique in Geneva, Switzerland. She wanted to create new works for this genre as well, so she commissioned the star composers of the time. There was nothing like it anywhere else.

Today, after almost 30 years, the Dranoff has shown its deep and continued dedication to our cultural community. Dranoff's vision became reality with her perseverance, and the help of governmental representatives and private citizens who were the funders, seekers and discoverers of the nascent garden of the arts.

GABRIELE FIORENTINO, PRESIDENT, THE DRANOFF INTERNATIONAL 2 PIANO FOUNDATION, MIAMI



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