

# Helen Cordell Terzo dies

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## Founder of Highland Park Symphony

Services will be held 10 a.m. Saturday at Utter McKinley Highland Park Mortuary for Mrs. Helen Cordell Terzo, Highland Park community leader and founder of the Highland Park Symphony Association.

On a motion by Councilman Arthur Snyder the city council adjourned yesterday morning at the close of business in respect to her memory. Mrs. Terzo was praised by Snyder for the many contributions she had made to northeast Los Angeles during a long career devoted largely to public service.

Mrs. Terzo, who died Tuesday at a local hospital, is survived by a daughter, Betty Collins of Houston, and a son, George W. Phillips of Highland Park. Her husband, Victor Terzo, died in March of this year.

In addition to founding the local Symphony Association and guiding it through 24 years of existence, Mrs. Terzo had served since 1947 as a member of the music commission of the county of Los Angeles, holding the title of president-emeritus. She was also co-founder of the Symphony League of Los Angeles County.

She was born in Joplin, Mo., and attended the Julliard School of Music, graduating in 1924.

### TALENTED SOPRANO

A talented soprano, she made her operatic debut as Gilda in "Rigoletto" with the St. Louis opera.

She also performed as soloist at the reception for Charles Lindbergh after his trans-Atlantic flight, and she was "song bird" at the St. Louis Exposition in 1926.

After her retirement as a soloist, she served as a voice coach. She was patron of the Santa Monica Civic Light Opera Association and the Southeast Symphony Association, both patterned after the Highland Park Symphony, consider-



**DEATH TAKES MUSIC LEADER** — Mrs. Helen Cordell Terzo, founder-president of the Highland Park Symphony Association and charter member of the Los Angeles County Music Commission, died early Tuesday morning. She is shown holding a resolution from board of supervisors, one of many honors she received for her leadership in the cultural development of Northeast Los Angeles.

ed one of the finest in the country.

In addition to her work with the various symphony groups, she continued as a voice teacher at her home at 127 S. Ave. 58.

In 1966 Mrs. Terzo was presented with a scroll from the Los Angeles City Council, honoring her for her "outstanding career of unselfish and devoted service to the people of her city and her accomplishments which have helped to broaden the cultural horizons of the city."

In 1968, she was chosen Woman of the Year by the Highland Park Business and Professional Women's Club.

Interment will be in Mountain View Cemetery, Altadena.

# Editorial

HIGHLAND PARK NEWS-HERALD & JOURNAL  
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**HELEN CORDELL TERZO**

## Death claims founder of symphony orchestra

The death Tuesday of Mrs. Helen Cordell Terzo, founder of the Highland Park Symphony Orchestra, stills one of Northeast Los Angeles' most dynamic personalities.

Mrs. Terzo "lived for music" and it is through her efforts that her community has a professional community orchestra without peer. A talented soprano, Mrs. Terzo founded the Highland Park Symphony Orchestra 24 years ago, enabling the northeast communities to enjoy the fine music which filled and shaped her life.

The task to which she dedicated herself was not always easy. There were times when it appeared the symphony orchestra would not make it through a season financially. Mrs. Terzo always came through. Her hard work, know-how and dogged determination that the orchestra would live overcame every obstacle. It is now her memorial.

Mrs. Terzo was appointed a commissioner of music for Los Angeles County in 1947 and served in that capacity until her death. Born in Joplin, Mo., Mrs. Terzo attended Juilliard School of music, graduating in 1924. She made her operatic debut as Gilda in "Rigoletto" with the St. Louis opera.

She performed as soloist at the reception for Charles Lindbergh after his historic flight across the Atlantic in 1927 and was "song bird" of the St. Louis Exposition in 1926. After her retirement as a soloist, she served as a voice coach. She was patron of the Santa Monica Civic Light Opera Association and the Southeast Symphony Association, both patterned after the Highland Park Symphony, considered one of the finest in the country.

In 1966 she was presented a scroll from the Los Angeles City Council honoring her "outstanding career of unselfish and devoted service to the people of her city and her accomplishments which have helped to broaden the cultural horizons of the city." We note her passing with sorrow.