

# A Passion for Living and a Legacy of Giving

**M**arion Offer-Cashman, an extraordinarily talented musician, has a passion for living and a strong desire to assist worthy young people in reaching their educational goals.

Born in Lawrence, Mass., the only child of Arthur and Claudia Offer, Marion says her interest in music began as a young child. She remembers looking through a catalog and longing for a violin, though she had never touched the instrument. In fact, it was not until she was 12 years old that she had the opportunity to take violin lessons. It was evident that Marion had a special talent and love for the violin when, three months later, she played her first solo for church—a Christmas piece titled *Star of the East*.

After receiving private lessons from Marie Nichols, an instructor at Sarah Lawrence College, Marion was offered a scholarship to this prestigious school; however, she declined because she thought she would be required to participate in activities on Sabbath. As a teenager, she played in the orchestra at Bradford Academy in Bradford, Mass. When she was in her early twenties, Marion had the opportunity to play with the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. And, when she attended Atlantic Union College for one year, she was asked to conduct the College Orchestra. Other educational opportunities included classes for Bible Instructors at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.



*Marion A. Offer, violinist*

Through the years, Marion added to her musical repertoire by learning to play the organ, piano, vibraharp and marimba. She was often asked to play her violin and other instruments for public evangelistic meetings conducted by Elders Clifford Reeves, Norval

Pease and others. In the late 1940s, Marion accepted a position as a Bible Instructor for the Southern New England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. A few years later, she received two calls for similar positions—one from the New York Conference and the



*Marion Offer-Cashman,  
friend of Andrews University*

other from the Florida Conference. Marion took the call to Florida and, through some unexpected circumstances, became the president's secretary—a position she held for more than eight years.

In 1951, Marion married the love of her life, Charles F. Cashman, whom she met when she was a teenager playing for an evangelistic meeting in Massachusetts. The story is told that Charles came to hear the message and the music, but never took his eyes off the musician from that day forward, even though they were not married

until several years later. Charles died in 1979.

Marion is a member of the Central Seventh-day Adventist Church in Orlando, Fla., and served as the church organist for more than 25 years until July 2000, when the challenges of macular degeneration made it impossible for her to read music. However, Marion is not one to sit around and brood. She celebrated her 89th birthday in 2000 by hosting a dinner party, followed by a Christmas program of music and readings!

Another "instrument" Marion has learned to play through the years is the financial "instrument" of charitable gift annuities. She is a prudent investor who has used charitable gift annuities as a way to guarantee income for life, reduce her taxes and have the satisfaction of making a gift of lasting significance through the Marion A. Offer-Cashman Endowed Scholarship Fund for worthy students.

Are you interested in learning how charitable gift annuities may provide you with an excellent way to increase your income, reduce your tax bill, and make a gift to Andrews University, all in one transaction? Please contact Sharon Terrell, director of Planned Giving and Trust Services, at (269) 471-3613 or [terrells@andrews.edu](mailto:terrells@andrews.edu) for a free personalized gift-annuity analysis that will answer your questions.

Remember, a gift annuity offers the advantages of: payout rates of up to 12%; income for one or two lives; tax savings and tax-free income; Capital Gains Tax savings, **and** the personal satisfaction of making a difference!