Muriel Port Stevens

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Muriel Stevens, the wife of the late Stanford S. Stevens and a lifelong Rhode Island resident, died Dec. 7. Born in Providence, she attended Classical High School and Pembroke College and went on to receive a master's of music in piano from the Yale School of Music. She taught piano at Yale and privately, and worked at Brown University as an assistant in the Music Department, where she became acquainted with Francis Madeira, founder of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra.



Muriel began her affiliation with the Philharmonic in 1948 when, as a musician and the mother of two young children, she saw a need for the fledgling orchestra to provide concerts for local schools. She worked as a volunteer with the Philharmonic and helped establish its Educational Concerts Program, which, with the help of the Providence School Department, The Providence Journal, Almacs and the Outlet Company, took off and eventually included all of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns. She became a member of the Board, and was eventually elected president of the Philharmonic in 1962 and manager in 1964.

At the Philharmonic