



**Maria Rosé of London, widow of Alfred Rosé, died Monday at the age of 89.**

## Maria Rosé donated Mahler collection

Free Press staff

A funeral service will be conducted tomorrow for Maria Rosé, a longtime Londoner who helped connect the Viennese world of great composer Gustav Mahler to the University of Western Ontario.

Rosé, who died Monday at the age of 89, was the widow of Alfred Rosé, a former UWO music professor and Mahler's nephew.

She was born Maria Caroline Schmutzer on July 5, 1909.

The Rosés, who were married in 1933, fled Austria to escape the Nazis in 1938. They came to London after the Second World War and Alfred Rosé became a pioneering member of the UWO music faculty.

Maria Rosé decided her late husband's world-class collection of Mahler-related material should be available for scholarly research, choosing the UWO music library as home for its more than 1,000 items.

Mahler died in 1911 at the age of 51. Alfred Rosé's mother, Justine, was Mahler's sister.

The collection includes the manuscript for Mahler's Piano Quartet and the Scherzo movement of his Fourth Symphony and early Mahler wills and his Vienna Opera pay sheet.

There are also letters from such luminaries as Richard Strauss, Anton Bruckner, Arnold Schoenberg and Franz Liszt.

When the Gustav Mahler-Alfred Rosé Room at the UWO music library opened

in 1983, Maria Rosé was the guest of honour. She said then her late husband would have felt great satisfaction in knowing the material would be available to students and scholars.

Three years ago, she donated more material to the university, including a bust of Mahler by sculptor Auguste Rodin.

"It's a wonderful collection," says UWO music reference librarian Lisa Philpott. "It's a great snapshot into the music ... of that era."

One Londoner who knew the Rosés well is former Free Press music critic Richard Newman. "She had a dignity about her that was very special," he says of Maria. "She and Alfred made their house on Cheapside Street a little Vienna."

Newman says the Rosés helped stage a production in London of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* in the late 1940s, with Maria sewing costumes. The two were also active at a Catholic Church in south London, where she was the organist and her husband directed the choir.

"She was very much attuned to everything that was going on around the world musically," says Newman.

The Mahler-Rosé room, Room 234 in Talbot College, may be visited by calling 661-3913 for an appointment.

Tomorrow's service will be conducted at 11 a.m. at the James A. Harris Funeral Home, on Richmond Street at St. James Street, in north London. Friends may call an hour before the service begins.

### ROSÉ

Maria at McCormick Home on Monday, May 3, 1999. Mrs. Maria C. Rosé of London, in her 90th year, wife of the late Professor Alfred E. Rosé. Survived by nephews in Austria. Predeceased by her brother and sister. Friends may call during the hour preceding the funeral service which will be conducted in the James A. Harris Funeral Home, Richmond Street at St. James on Friday, May 7 at 11:00 a.m. Cremation: Woodland Crematorium.