

John Stayton Simonton Jr.

John was born in Honolulu, Hawaii to John and Eva Simonton and he grew up in New Orleans, LA. While working on his degrees in electrical engineering and psychology at Louisiana Tech University in 1965, he met and married Linda Kay Brumfield. After completing his degree in 1967, John moved to Oklahoma to work for the first computerized jet engine test facility at Tinker A.F.B.

In 1968, John founded PAiA Electronics, Inc. PAiA was dedicated to providing affordable synthesizer kits to the do-it-yourself electronic musician. He was known for many of his designs, particularly the Gnome MicroSynthesizer, the SMPL System SMPTE / MIDI / Machine synchronizer and the PAiA Programmable Drum Set, which is credited with being the first commercially available user-programmable percussion box.

Many musicians received their first exposure to synthesis with PAiA's modular systems, and scores of engineers, scientists and technicians were first exposed to their professions through his many trade journal articles. His work with starved tube circuitry produced the TubeHead series of preamplifiers and his most recent project was PAiA's Theremax theremin.

John was a widely read author and contributor in the electronic popular press. John was the publisher of *Polyphony* magazine, first published in 1975, and later renamed *Electronic Musician*. *Electronic Musician* was sold in 1985. John was



also a founding partner of High Technology, Inc., the first computer store in Oklahoma in 1976, which was also the first national wholesale distributor for Apple Computer.

John was deeply dedicated to doing what was right. He was a mentor and inspiration to many do-it-yourselfers. He encouraged them to pursue avocations and careers in engineering and music, and provided the tools that helped them realize their dreams.

In the last 13 years, John's commitment to his work at PAiA was only surpassed by his passion for his children and grandchildren. "Papa J" as he was known to the kids, encouraged his grandchildren in all their interests. Due to those interests, he took on horses as a hobby and has acted as a gymnastics support coach. He even built a small farm in Arcadia to enjoy his horses and ride with his family and friends.

John was well-loved by his family and the do-it-yourself electronic musician community. He is missed.

"For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun?

And what is to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.

And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb.

And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance."

The Prophet, Kahlil Gibran

Service Schedule

Welcome and Opening Words

Charles Weddington

A Legacy of Love, Learning and Life

*Staci Craig
Trey Simonton
Nikki Craig*

Poem reading

Nikki & Kai

A Tribute to John

Family Friends

Reading On Farewell, *The Prophet*, Kahlil Gibran

Charles Weddington

A Time of Sharing

*You are invited to
share your memories of John.*

Closing Reading On Joy and Sorrow *The Prophet*, Kahlil Gibran

Buddy Brumfield

The Simontons

Wife

Linda Kay Simonton

Daughter and Son-in-law

Staci and David Craig

Son and Daughter-in-law

Trey and Teri Simonton

Grandchildren

Nikki Craig

Callie Simonton

Kai Simonton

Father- and Mother-in-law

James and Lois Brumfield

Memorial Fund

A John S. Simonton Memorial Fund has been established at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, PO Box 1146, Oklahoma City 73101. The fund will be distributed as education scholarships in engineering, economics and political science.

The Traveler

The traveler awaits the evening tide;
He doesn't know what's on the other side;
But something deep inside of him is
whispering go;
He's searching for a reason to say "no."

~ John S. Simonton, Jr.
Summer 2005
Punalu'u, Hawaii



John S. Simonton, Jr.

June 24, 1943 – Nov. 25, 2005

*Memorial Service
December 10, 2005
Omniplex Science Museum*