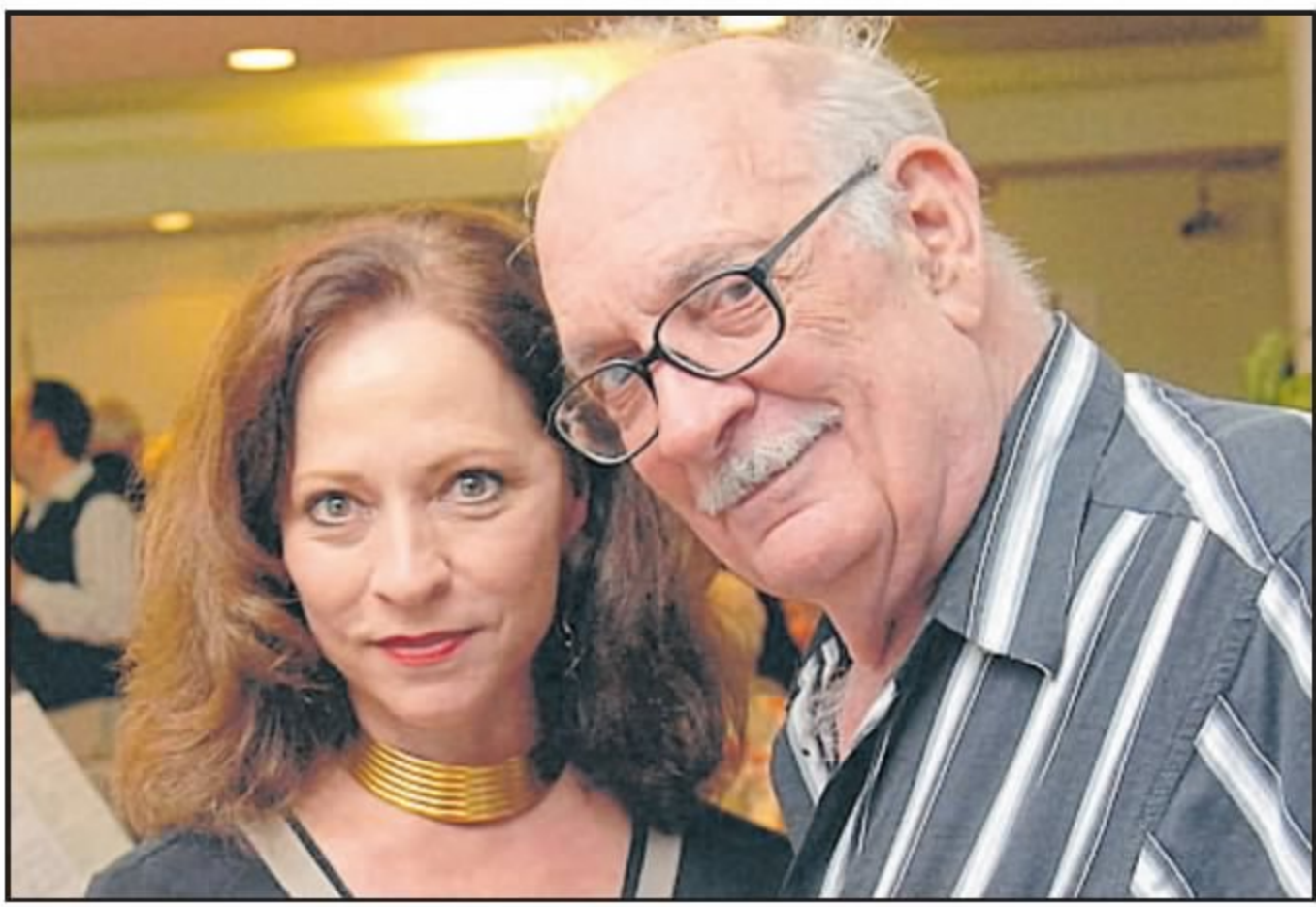




George Crumb celebrated his 90th birthday on Oct. 24. Sadly, his daughter, Ann Crumb, died of cancer on Oct. 31.

George Crumb. Having redefined what music can be, Crumb arrived at his 90th birthday on Oct. 24, not as the feared experimentalist of old, but as a beloved figure who opened up haunting new sound worlds. Organizations all over Philadelphia celebrated his birthday — Bowerbird, Chamber Orchestra First Editions, Swarthmore College, Haverford College, and Orchestra 2001. Sadly, his daughter, Ann Crumb, who sang the premieres of several of his works, died of cancer on Oct. 31. She was also a major Broadway figure, and was maybe the smartest soprano to ever star in an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. — *D.P.S.*

Singing City. Last Sunday's concert by this socially conscious choir followed a holiday theme, but the larger point was about immigrants and the music they brought with them. Would *The Nutcracker* be the earworm it is had George Balanchine never made his way from Russia to the United States? Singing City and Philadelphia Brass bundled works from Ireland, Germany, Russia, Puerto Rico, African American traditions, and others into a program entitled "Philadelphia: An Immigrant City." Music director Jeffrey Brillhart didn't explicitly say it to the audience at Old First Reformed United Church of Christ, but he didn't have to: America is immigration. — *P.D.*