

A Memory of Morton Feldman

by Hadassah Markson



Hadassah Markson

Photo: 1949 Yearbook, Queens College



Morton Feldman

Photo: 1944 Yearbook, High School of Music & Art

Hadassah Markson (née Binder) died, aged 90, on 2 December 2017. In her youth she attended the High School of Music & Art in New York at the same time as Morton Feldman. Though not in the same year as him, she knew him, and, in later years, liked to recount the poignant and revealing memory recorded below. After high school, Hadassah continued in music at Queens College, New York, and became the Director of the School of Music and Arts at the 92nd Street Y (Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association), a landmark institution which throughout the years has presented countless very important artists in the field of poetry and music.

“Oh, we were kids! I guess something like 14 or 15. I was studying piano and he was in the school orchestra. He had a crush on another girl, but I don't know why, he would call me up day and night and say: Listen to these gorgeous chords! Then he would put the telephone receiver inside the piano and keep playing the new chords he had discovered! Well, he was tying up our home phone and my parents didn't like that! The problem was that there was no way I could hang up the phone and he was too busy playing his chords to hear me asking him to hang up!”

(Hadassah Markson in conversation with Zahra Partovi, 2016)



High School of Music & Art building, New York

Photo: Zahra Partovi