



A message from Perry – read out by Doug Mitchell

To My Good Friends & Members of the Ray Conniff Fan Club:

First, I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and successful convention. I'm so sorry I can't join you - especially as this year's convention takes place in one of my favorite cities. I will also miss seeing so many of you whom, through the years, I have come to call friends. But, of course, all of this is the result of my

very fortunate association with the artist you are here to celebrate.

In the 11 short years that I knew Ray, we made 9 albums together, performed countless live shows, and consumed hundreds of espressos! To me, he was not just a professional colleague but a dear friend, one whom I considered as close as any member of my family. Like many of you, I grew up listening to his music. It was always part of my "soundtrack." The fact that I had the opportunity to be a part of this great legacy means more to me than I can possibly describe. My affiliation with Ray brought me more wonderful experiences than I can count. Among these are each of you: the people I've met, and the many close friendships that have enriched my life immeasurably.

Though I'll be 9 hours behind you, I'll look forward to putting on one of my favorite tracks and raising a glass in solidarity as we toast to the man whose music has had such a profound effect on all of us.

Thank you and enjoy the convention, Perry