

March 19, 2002

David Mann, 85, Composer and Pianist

David Mann, who wrote the music for the popular 1955 song "In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning," which was recorded by Frank Sinatra, died on March 1 in Manhattan.

He was 85 and lived in Kinnelon, N.J.

Mr. Mann, who was known professionally as Dave Mann, was also a pianist and arranger and served as President Harry S. Truman's official White House pianist for eight months.

The title of "In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning," with words by Bob Hilliard, became the name of a Sinatra album. Mr. Mann's best-known songs included "There, I've Said It Again" (1945), with words and music by him and Redd Evans.

The song "Somebody Bad Stole de Wedding Bell" (1954) with music by Mr. Mann and words by Mr. Hilliard, was used in the Copacabana nightclub show in New York and was recorded by Eartha Kitt.

Mr. Mann was born in Philadelphia, where he grew up and attended the Curtis Institute of Music. He served in the Army in World War II and lived in New York City for much of his adult life.

A marriage of 21 years to Babette Freeman ended in divorce.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Penny; two sons, Jeffrey and Samuel; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.
