

Don Elliott Dies; Famed Musician

Associated Press

WESTON — Don Elliott, famed musician, jazz artist and composer, died Thursday at his home after a bout with cancer.

Born in Somerville, N.J., the 57-year-old Elliott was featured vibraphonist with the George Shearing Quintet at the time of its biggest hit, "Lullaby of Birdland," in 1950.

He also wrote musical scores for television commercials and films, and appeared and recorded with the Benny Goodman Sextet and Buddy Rich's Quartet.

Elliott, who also played the trumpet and mellophone, invented the Flugelbone, a cross between a Flugelhorn and a trombone.

He was president of New England Jazz Society and, although ill with cancer, appeared at the Westport Town Hall in a special concert on June 10.

He is survived by his wife, Doris; a son, Dean, and a daughter, Doriane.

Private services will be held in Somerville. A special service will be held in Westport July 14. A jazz memorial is planned in New York City July 21.