

Harlan Thomas



B.S. in Music - Bowling Green

Master of Music Education – University of Michigan

Orchestra
Band
Velvetones
Music Appreciation
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We are saddened to report that RRHS teacher and musical director Harlan Thomas passed away on Friday, September 4. A memorial service will be held this Saturday, September 26, in Westlake, Ohio, with afternoon and evening visiting hours on Friday, September 25.



HARLAN LLOYD THOMAS (June 11, 1920- September 4, 2015) Age 95, of Rocky River, OH. passed away on Friday, September 4, 2015 at the Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve in Westlake, OH. Harlan was the husband of Snow S. Thomas. He was born in Garrettsville, Ohio to the late John and Maude Thomas on June 11, 1920. As a music teacher for 35 years, Harlan was chairperson of the Rocky River High School Music Department and director of a wide variety of school vocal and instrumental music groups between 1945 and 1976. He earned his undergraduate degree from Baldwin-Wallace University Conservatory of Music, and his Master's degree from the University of Michigan Conservatory of Music. His love of Music was expressed through many activities over the course of his life in and out of the classroom. Through his love of Classical Music, he inspired a love for the this genre in generations of students, and as a believer in the sacred value of the teaching profession, he served as an important source of inspiration and support to many students who pursued careers as professional musicians. Throughout the years, he held many positions of leadership in the community including Founding Director of the Rocky River Madrigal Singers, Board Member of the Rocky River Chamber Music Society, Instructor in the Cuyahoga County College Encore Senior Adult Program, and Director of the John Knox Presbyterian Chancel Choir. In addition to his wife, he is survived by: one daughter, Mary (Joe) Schrock, of Goshen, Indiana; one son, John (Lisa) Thomas of Westlake, Ohio; two step-children, Hank Folmar of Rocky River and Ann (Mike) Moody of Las Vegas, Nevada; four grandchildren, Steven (Darla) Schrock; David Schrock; Timothy Thomas and Elizabeth Thomas; two step-grand children, Brock and Rachael Moody; and one great-grandchild Samuel Schrock. He was preceded in death by his first wife, June L. Thomas (nee Breneman) (1919-1885); three sisters, Clarabelle Griffiths, Roberta Thorout, and Dorothy Wendelkin; and a brother Alfred Thomas. Memorial Services will take place Saturday, September 26, 2015 at 11:AM at CATAVOLOS BERRY FUNERAL HOME, 23040 Center Ridge Rd. , Westlake, OH, where the family will receive friends on Friday September 25 from 4-6 PM and 7-9 PM. The family suggests Memorial Contributions be made to the Cleveland Orchestra Foundation. www.catavolosberryfuneralhome.com

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Jack Nakel sent the following note on July 4, 2012:

I don't know if this will be of any interest to our '62 classmates, but I can report that Harlan Thomas, conductor of the the RRJHS and RRHS bands during our time at those schools is is alive and reasonably well at age 92, residing at an assisted living facility in Rocky River with his wife, Snow. The facility is called Harbor Court, at 22900 Center Ridge Rd., just east of Clague Rd.

While visiting my mother recently at the same facility, he and I passed each other as I was entering the elevator in the lobby. He was using a walker to get around, but the face was unmistakable. I immediately thought it was him, but was not sure. So I checked with one of the administrators who confirmed his identity and said he had been "teaching music until relatively recently." On July 3, I

telephoned the facility to check on my mother's health, and the administrator offered that that Harlan was in great spirits because he had recently viewed an ultrasound image of a great-grandchild, and was looking forward to the next ultrasound image so he would know the sex of the baby. I asked if he was sufficiently coherent to talk with former band members, in case they wanted to contact him, and she said "yes, absolutely." I would suggest a call in advance, however, to the office there, so as not to surprise him unnecessarily. the number is 440-356-2282.