



## Class of 2022

### Lucille Halfvarson, music



Lucille Robertson Halfvarson was born in Petersburg, Illinois on May 17, 1919, the only child of Harris Morton and Lucille (Fox) Robertson. She grew up in Galva, IL. Lucille received her Bachelor of Arts, Phi Beta Kappa, from Knox College in Galesburg, IL, in 1941.

Lucille met Sten Halfvarson in Aurora IL, where she was teaching music and speech at Freeman Elementary School. Sten was the choir director at West Aurora High School. He and Lucille were married August 8, 1946, in Galva. They had four (4) children, Laura, Eric, Linnea and Mary.

While caring for their children, Lucille served as a church choir director and taught private voice lessons at home. She worked with Sten on her vocal technique, specializing in Oratorio performance. Lucille studied with Dr. Theodore Harrison of the American Conservatory. There she studied all the soprano arias from Handel's *Messiah* and became well-known for her many *Messiah* performances around the Midwest. In 1969, she received her Master of Music degree from the American Conservatory.

From 1968 to 1992, Lucille established and conducted the Waubensee District Chorus and for 25 years, promoted the community tradition of a *Messiah* performance at the Paramount Arts Center in Aurora. Lucille was named the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Image Maker of 1992 and the 1996 Woman of the year by the Aurora YWCA. With Jay Harriman, she formed the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame and served on its board for many years.

Other honors include the Cosmopolitan Club Distinguished Service Award, Distinguished Alumni of Knox College, Paul Davis fellow, Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

She held memberships in Philanthropic Education Organization (PEO) Sisterhood, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Music Educators National Conference, and the American Choral Director's Association. She served as Chair of Paramount Celebration of the Arts, and on the Board of Directors of YWCA Aurora.

Lucille Robertson Halfvarson passed away November 8, 2010, at the age of 91.