



Class of 2022

Sten Halfvarson, music



Sten Halfvarson was born in Wilksburg, Pennsylvania on February 11, 1915, the son of Swedish immigrant parents. The family moved to Chicago in 1929, where his father was a mechanical engineer for Westinghouse.

Sten's musical education developed during his years at Senn High School. A baritone, he was invited to sing in the Chicago A Cappella Choir, where director/composer Noble Cain was his mentor. Sten sang in the choir from 1929 to 1936 in radio concert broadcasts and on tours.

Sten attended North Park College for two years, then received his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Northwestern University. He also served in WWII from 1942-1945.

Sten married fellow teacher and musician Lucille Robertson in 1946 and they raised their four children in Aurora, IL. For forty years, Sten taught music and directed various choirs at West Aurora High School. He was known for his dedication to excellence and as one of the biggest promoters of a cappella music within the Illinois public education sector.

Over many years, Sten served as a faculty member at summer camps hosted by nine (9) universities from Illinois to Maine. He also supervised 106 student teachers throughout his teaching career and directed 50 music festivals in the region.

Sten was the Director of Music for 42 years at the New England Congregational Church in Aurora. He created the church's Christmas Eve musical service and wrote contemporary anthems for the choir, many based on scripture.

Throughout his career, Sten composed original music. In 2002, his works were published by Alliance Publications. The *Sten Halfvarson Choral Series* represents "the fruit of Sten's life's work among and for musicians who love to sing, filling the world with the beauty of song."

On September 1, 2003, Sten Halfvarson died suddenly while on vacation in Wisconsin.