

Dr. Harry H. Harter and his wife Florence arrived at Maryville College in 1947, beginning a 34-year tradition of excellence in music and the fine arts at the College. A native of California, Dr. Harter's journey to Maryville took him from San Jose State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Music, to the University of Nebraska and a Master of Arts in Music in 1947. He earned his Doctor of Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary School of Music in 1961. He advanced from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor in 1957, to Professor in 1961, and was named Chairman of the Division of Fine Arts in 1964, the position he held until his retirement in 1981.

Dr. Harter began singing in front of an audience at First Christian Church in San Jose, California, in the late 1930s. He spent a year in Hollywood, California, working for Rudy Vallee Management as part of a male quartet known as *The Kingsmen*. He then served in the U. S. Army Air Force from 1943-1946, as a base chaplain's assistant in charge of chapel musicals and special music for services.

Under his leadership, the Concert Choir was renowned for its excellence. The choir tours across the country—some have called them “legendary”—served to share the College's story and music with thousands of people. One memorable concert was in honor of the College's Sesquicentennial and took place at New York's Carnegie Hall. The Choir was the featured chorus of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra for eight seasons and premiered numerous works of Dr. Harter and other composers.

Dr. Harter also shared his talent with several area churches. From 1947 to 1952, he served as Director of Music at First Baptist Church of Maryville, where he started one of the area's first graded children's choir programs. He directed the choirs at New Providence Presbyterian Church from 1953 to 1964, where he also began one of the area's first English Handbell Choirs. He and Florence were members of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Dr. Harter was well known in the community for his conducting of Handel's “Messiah” each Christmas season, and for directing Christmas Vespers and Easter Sunrise services on campus. In his later years, he performed with the Appalachian Ballet Company in performances of the “Nutcracker.”

Among his well-known compositions was “Requiem for a Fallen Nineveh,” which was published in 1953. His many choral arrangements of Scottish hymn tunes included “The Twenty-Third Psalm” to the tune *Crimond*. Each choir concert concluded with the singing of this work with the Lutkin “Benediction.” These are still performed today by alumni choirs and the Concert Choir.

For his accomplishments and dedication, he was awarded the Maryville College Medallion – the College's highest honor – in 1998. Following his death on August 8, 2004, he was buried in the Maryville College Cemetery.



The Choral Note Society in support of

the effort to establish the

The Dr. Harry Harter Choral Rehearsal Room



Dr. Harry H. Harter (March 9, 1916 -- August 8, 2004)

“Teacher, composer, arranger, vocalist, choir director, mentor, and friend.”



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Benefits:

***Titanium Notes* - Have the opportunity to purchase up to six (6) preferred seating tickets for the first three seasons and will receive invitations to two (2) VIP receptions in conjunction with featured performances.**

***Gold Notes* - Have the opportunity to purchase up to four (4) preferred seating tickets for the first three seasons.**

***All Notes* - Special choral receptions with guest pianists and orchestra guest pianists and accompanists**

All "note" society/contributor names will be listed on a plaque in the Choral Rehearsal Room.

- **Gifts of \$5,000 and more can be payable over 5 years**
- **Gift of \$1,000 - \$4,999 can be payable over 3 years**