

Harry Carter was born in 1933, in Kentucky. Growing up in Lexington, Kentucky, he attended local schools and graduated with a degree in Music from the University of Kentucky. He went to USC on a clarinet scholarship where he got his Master's Degree in clarinet performance. While there he also studied choral conducting with Dr. Charles Hirt. Following graduation, he became chair of the choral department at the new Ramona High School in Riverside, California. After 3 years he took a leave of absence to teach at the U.S. Army Dependents School in Karlsruhe, Germany. After co-directing a German-American music festival, he joined the Karlsruhe Kammerchor and participated in EUROPA CANTAT 1 in Passau, Germany. He became an individual member of The European Federation of Young Choirs.

Returning to Riverside for one more year at Ramona, Harry founded the Riverside Chorale which continues to the present day. Harry then matriculated at the University of Illinois in Urbana to pursue a Doctor of Music Arts degree. While at the U. of I, he conducted the Mens Glee Club and organized the University Chamber Choir.

Returning to California, he then taught for two years at Chabot Jr. College. The remainder of his teaching career was at California State University, Hayward, as head of Vocal-Choral Studies. His University and Chamber singers performed with the San Francisco and Oakland Symphony Orchestras and were featured at conventions of the American Choral Directors Association.

In the early 1970s, Seiji Ozawa asked Harry and Joe Liebling to organize and audition singers to form a symphony chorus which they did. Harry then badly injured his back and was unable to continue after the first concert.

Harry had an enduring interest in the International choral movement. In the summer of 1991 he was guest conductor at the International Singing Week in Lucerne, Switzerland. In July 1993, he was guest conductor for the International Singing Week in Tabor, Czech Republic. He was a member of the International Federation of Choral Music and Organizing Chairman of the choral directors International Exchange Programs jointly sponsored by IFCM and ACDA.

Dr. Carter was the founder and musical director of the San Francisco Bay Area Chamber Choir. In addition to regular performances in the Bay Area, the group has made many concert tours with performances in twelve countries. Harry retired from the group in 2015 and the choir continues to perform under the leadership of Dr. Buddy James.

In addition to his music career, Harry was the devoted husband to his wife Ellen for 66 years. Harry was the father of two sons, Geoffry and Steven. He encouraged them to be involved in musical activities in school and college. Both boys played and toured with the Oakland Youth Symphony. Geoff has had a long career as a high school choir director. Our whole family loved to go sailing on the San Francisco Bay. In the winter we enjoyed skiing together. Harry was an accomplished swimmer, and he swam several times a week at the

Hayward Plunge. From age 70 to 80 he enjoyed scuba diving. Harry and Ellen took long walks at nearby Lake Chabot frequently until Harry's last illness.

In their retirement, Harry and Ellen loved to travel. Their final trip was a cruise on the Aegean Sea, returning at the end of October. Harry went into the hospital for emergency surgery on Nov. 10. He passed away at the end of March after several complications blocked his recovery.

Harry is survived by his wife, Ellen, son Geoffry, son Steven, daughter-in-law Claire, 6 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Harry's name to the California State University East Bay Music Department will be appreciated. A Memorial will be held on June 24 at 2 P.M. at Eden United Church of Christ in Hayward.