



Jerome T. Schwab

August 20, 1929 - September 14, 2019

Jerome T. Schwab was born to Rev. Walter H. and Hulda (Bender) Schwab on August 20, 1929 in Slater, MO. The family moved to California, MO where Jerome attended St. Paul's Lutheran elementary school, and California High School. It was in California that a young Jerome took his first piano lesson, played for his first church service, and, perhaps most importantly, received his first Boston Terrier. Jerome graduated from California High School in 1947. He took a scenic route toward his Bachelor of Science degree in Education, which he earned from Concordia Teacher's College, River Forest (now Concordia University Chicago) in 1954. He then earned a Master of Music in Church Music from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

Jerome (he prefers Jerry) spent most of his life bringing the joy of music to others. After completing his degrees Jerry went on to serve as a teacher, organist, and choir director for Lutheran schools and churches in Missouri (correctly pronounced Mis-sour-ah if you asked him) including: Messiah Lutheran Church and School, Independence; Grace Lutheran Church, Lexington; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Emma; St. Paul's Lutheran School, Sedalia; Lutheran High School, Kansas City; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Independence; and, Peace Lutheran Church, Greenview. Jerry served as a Professor of Music and the College Choir Director at St. Paul's College, Concordia, MO for twenty-six years. It was at St. Paul's that Jerry hired a young piano instructor who would go on to become his wife of 51 years, Diana

Holland.

Jerry passed away early in the morning on Saturday, September 14, 2019. He was at home with his wife and daughters (and a beloved Boston Terrier) by his side. His wishes were to be cremated, and to NOT have a funeral (he'd played for hundreds in his lifetime). His ashes will be interred at the St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Slater, MO where his parents and many other relatives are buried. Jerry is survived by his wife Diana, his daughter Julie (Sea) Atwood, his daughter Amy (Kevin) Whiting, his son Brad, his grandchildren Alex and Audrey Atwood, Zayne Schwab, and Grace and Eden Whiting.

The family suggests memorial contributions to Peace Lutheran Church in Greenview, MO, Ozarks Kat and K9 animal shelter, St. Paul's Lutheran High School, Concordia, MO or The Kansas City Lutheran High School Choir and Band Tour.

"Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!" 1 Chronicles 16:9

Tribute Wall

CR

“ I knew Jerome T. Schwab as Professor Schwab. It was my privilege to meet Professor Schwab in the fall of 1967 and be one of his students. Professor Schwab made a huge difference in my life and not just in music which he did that as well. He helped me see the bigger picture when it came to music and church work. We all looked up to Professor Schwab like a “music god.” He wasn’t just a great musician, he was kind, but demanding the best from us in a very quiet way. None of us ever wanted to disappoint Professor Schwab. Thank you Professor Schwab, you helped me and so many others, be better human beings; as well as a better musicians.

Charles W. Rowland - January 12, 2021 at 08:06 AM

 Julie Atwood

Thank you for this, I was at St. Paul's this past weekend and it made me miss him a lot.


Julie Atwood - September 16, 2021 at 04:21 PM

 Julie Atwood

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall




Julie Atwood - October 23, 2019 at 03:51 PM

 Julie
Atwood

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall




Julie Atwood - October 23, 2019 at 03:49 PM

 Julie
Atwood

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Julie Atwood - October 23, 2019 at 03:45 PM

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Julie Atwood - October 23, 2019 at 03:44 PM

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Atwood

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Julie Atwood - October 23, 2019 at 03:42 PM

PO

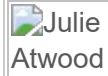
“ *Jerry was one of the main influences on my decision to become a music teacher. I remember singing in a Christmas concert and the button of his sportcoat flew off and landed in a lady's lap in the front row while he was directing. He just smiled and kept conducting. ...one of the coolest teachers ever!*

Peter olson - September 19, 2019 at 07:48 AM

 Pastor
Shane

“ *Mr. Schwab was my organ instructor and choir director. Not only that he was an awesome role model for me as to what a Christian man is. I remember being on choir tour with him and serving as his personal assistant. He was always a perfect gentleman. One time he had a concert to play. He asked me to turn pages for him as he was doing some long Bach pieces. It was always a pleasure to be able to give back to him as much as he gave to me. He will always have a special place in the hearts of all who knew and loved him, especially mine.*

Pastor Shane - September 17, 2019 at 10:48 PM



Julie Atwood

Thanks very much for this, I love hearing about dad and his students. I also got to be his page turner at church sometimes, when I was finally a good enough piano student to be able to follow along. It was always a bit of an honor to be next to him on the bench. It's was also a bit hard to stay focused if I caught sight of his feet and just how fast they could move. I'll never understand how anyone can be that coordinated, or be able to follow all those notes. And he made it look so EASY! Thanks for sharing this with us. 💙

Julie Atwood - September 18, 2019 at 12:20 AM

JJ

“*John and I were at St. Paul's Jr. College in 1960-1962. We were both blessed with being chosen for Mr. Schwab's choir and John continued his organ studies under him. The choir tours will be one of our favorite memories in thinking back. Several years later, we could not believe when he graciously agreed to play for our wedding ceremony. About 25 years later, we were all able to catch up again at Jane Schuette Petri's house. We will be including your entire family in our thoughts and our prayers in the days ahead. We retired in Concordia about 5 years ago and think of him often as we go to events on campus.*”

JoAn Bethke Jacobsen - September 17, 2019 at 07:18 PM



Julie Atwood

Thank you so very much for sharing this with us! And I'm so glad you got to have him play at your wedding. He enjoyed those, as they were opportunities to play "fast and loud", just how he liked to. 💙

Julie Atwood - September 18, 2019 at 12:25 AM

JC

*Mr. Schwab was such a role model for my sisters and me. We were all fortunate enough to be in his choir at SPC. This man was a true, Christian servant of God.
Jeanine Weinrich Consolino*

Jeanine Weinrich Consolino - September 18, 2019 at 01:39 PM

LF

It was my privilege to be a student at St. Paul's High School and Junior College and then I came back as principal of the high school during Jerry's tenure, and Janet and I went to church with the Schwabs at Holy Cross, Emma. (We are Brad's baptismal sponsors). Jerry's gentle, self-effacing nature was such a great Christian model. It was an honor and unique experience to be in his college choir and I loved to see him in his tux and tails with that white bow tie. His dad, Walter, was also a great mentor to me. How blessed we are that God gives us special folks like Jerry that just make our lives better. I share with you the sure hope of the Resurrection and reunion in heaven. Len Fiedler

Leonard Fiedler - September 21, 2019 at 06:59 AM