

# DONOR STORIES

## HOWARD V. JONES

### “Howard V. Jones Chamber Music Fund & Howard V. Jones Opera Fund”



HOWARD V. JONES

Howard Vallence Jones, Jr. grew up during the Great Depression. His parents weren't particularly musical, but they bought a wind-up phonograph when Howard was a toddler and often listened to classical records on it. They also had Howard take piano lessons starting at the age of four. At the age of twelve, his piano lessons became a casualty of the Great Depression, and he was forced to quit. However, as a result of his lessons and listening to music on the phonograph, Howard's life-long love affair with classical music became deeply entrenched, which later inspired him to establish funds to support classical music presentations for the citizens of this area in perpetuity.

Howard was born in the Masonic Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, on April 6, 1922, to Howard Vallence Jones, Sr. and Frances Ninetta Edmondson Jones. Howard's father was a salesman for the railroad until the Great Depression, which caused his father to change careers and become a salesman of leather goods. His mother's father was a farmer with land on the outskirts of Springfield, Missouri. Howard's father-in-law was a bank examiner, and was ultimately the head of a savings and loan co.

Howard stated, "Living through the depression and my father losing his job taught me some valuable lessons, including the value of money."

*“Living through the great depression taught me some valuable lessons”*

Most likely, some of these life experiences also led Howard to value academics, as he was a real bookworm as a young boy and, as he states, "not at all athletic."

Born in Chicago, Howard, an only child, moved to Denver at the age of five years, and at the age of 15 moved to the Boston area. During their time in the Boston Area, Howard's family lived in both Newton Centre and Waban, both part of the city of Newton. He graduated from Newton High School in 1939 and then entered Harvard College. In 1942, he was called to serve in the US Army and World War II and served until 1945. In 1946, he received his A.B., m.c.l., from Harvard College and in 1947 his A.M., from Harvard University. In 1950, he received his PhD from Harvard University. From 1948 to 1949 Howard did his doctoral research in England, associated with the Institute of Historical Research, London University.

In 1950, Howard became an assistant professor of history at the University of New Hampshire. In 1954, he came to Cedar Falls, Iowa, to become an assistant professor of history at the University of Northern Iowa (then called Iowa State Teacher's College). This move proved to be of great importance to Howard, for it was in the Commons of UNI that Howard was to meet Ellen Margaret Aakvik. She became his wife on July 21, 1956 in Richmond, Indiana.

It was no wonder that Howard and Ellen connected. Both had moved several times during their youth. Ellen was born in Canby, Minnesota, on October 10, 1925, to George W. Aakvik and Iva Elizabeth McCallum. She lived in Minneapolis, went to high school in Indianapolis and attended college in Cincinnati. Howard and Ellen were both only children and enjoyed good childhoods with solid parents, middle class neighborhoods, quality schools and many good friends. Both families had financial difficulties during the depression, although Howard's family struggled slightly more than Ellen's.

Another great connection between Howard and Ellen was their mutual love of music. Ellen graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music with her B.A. and M.A. in Music. At the time Howard met Ellen, she was teaching in the Department of Music at UNI (then Iowa State Teachers College). Ellen also taught private piano lessons. She was an accomplished pianist and soloed with the Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestras. Howard and Ellen were blessed with two children, Catherine Ellen Jones Morales and Howard Vallance Jones III (deceased, April 12, 2004), and two grandchildren, Sean Jacob Huffnagle and Kayle Marcus Huffnagle. Ellen died December 18, 2000.

Howard had a distinguished career at UNI. He was the Chair of the Faculty in 1963, the first University Commencement Marshall, wrote the scenario for the first commencement ceremony in the UNI-Dome, received the Iowa State Teachers College (now UNI) Alumni Service Award and retired from UNI in 1991.

Howard was very active in areas that promoted his love of music. In 1958, he was chair of the Iowa State Teachers College Lecture-Concert Series (later UNI Artists Series), started the UNI Chamber Music Series in 1967, started the UNI-Civic Arts Association (later the Friends of the Gallagher-Bluedorn), joined the Association of College and University Concert Managers (now the Association of Performing Arts Presenters) serving on the Board as National Conference Chairman and Vice President and President, received the Fannie Taylor Award for exceptional service (highest award given to members), received the Harold Shaw award for distinguished presentation of soloists, received honorary Lifetime Member on the Advisory Board of the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, lifetime Member-Friends of the GBPAC, was a member of Phi Beta Kapa, Pi Gamma Mu, Phi Alpha Theta, the Association of Ancient Historians, American Historical Association and the Conference on British Studies. Howard was also a president of the Cedar Falls Rotary and published articles on English History and Concert Management. Howard had many hobbies including genealogy and duplicate bridge.

Howard's interests and abilities were many, but his love for classical music had always stayed in the forefront. He established funds to benefit concerts by solo artists, especially pianists at UNI; a fund to support a first chair percussionist for the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra and the Howard V. Jones Chamber Music Fund and Howard V. Jones Opera Fund at the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa to support romances of classical chamber music in Black Hawk County. Just before he passed away on May 17, 2013, Howard established the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Endowment Fund to benefit the organization, which he was a great supporter of.

Through his funds and because of his generosity, Howard's legacy as a teacher and a supporter of classical music will live on, benefiting the citizens of Black Hawk County forever.

*\*\*Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.*