

Doris Kay Kraushaar, Soprano
Mu Phi Epsilon

The Early Years

I have enjoyed a varied, wonderful career in vocal music. It all began in Gladwin, Michigan in the Methodist Church when I was around five years old. I remember sitting in my child-sized wicker rocker, rocking my doll and singing "Sleep, Baby, Sleep".

The Children's Choir was especially important to me. We took part in the "Gladwin Hour", a radio program over WBCM in Bay City, Michigan with the Rev. Karl Keefer as director.

Rev. Keefer was also instrumental in arranging a trip where all three Gladwin Methodist choirs would sing at the Detroit Calvary Methodist Church. The highlight of the whole trip for me was attending "The Ford Sunday Evening Hour". The Detroit Symphony played, and guest artist was the Metropolitan Opera soprano Helen Traubel. I was deeply impressed with this great artist and was convinced that somehow singing would be a large part of my life.

Having the leading role in "Pirates of Penzance", high school chorus, church choir, and singing for groups around town filled my high school days with singing. In June, 1942 I graduated from Gladwin High School. I soon followed my father, a well-established draftsman at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti, MI. My cousins and I decided to pack our bags and join him. I soon found my little niche in the plant radio station from time to time!

I was pleased to find a wonderful voice teacher, Carl Lindengren, at Michigan State Normal College, now known as Eastern Michigan University (EMU) in Ypsilanti, MI. I joined my father in the choir at Ypsilanti Methodist Church. When my mother and sister moved down to Ann Arbor, we all attended First Methodist Church in Ann Arbor.

Carl Lindengren encouraged me to enroll at EMU, and I soon became a soprano soloist at the Congregational Church in Ypsilanti. During the summers of '46 and '47 I attended Albion College summer school in Bay View, MI to take part in a wonderful music program where I studied with Harden Van Duersen, our choir director at the Methodist Church in Ann Arbor and voice professor at the University of Michigan. Waitressing at the Bay View Inn gave me housing and a small salary plus tips, making it all possible. Not only did I enjoy voice lessons, but recitals, opera scenes, and a wonderful choir.

After summer school, I transferred to the University of Michigan as a voice major. When Mr. Van Duersen left, he was replaced by Dr. Philip Duey from New York City. He was a fine teacher, so my U. of M. experience was outstanding. I enjoyed opportunities to sing: roles in three different operas, soloist with Women's Glee Club, with U. of M. orchestra, as Mary Turner in "Of Thee I Sing" (U. M.'s first musical), Gilbert and Sullivan, and soprano soloist at First Baptist Church in Ann Arbor. My senior recital was March 20, 1949, and I graduated in June, 1949.

New York City came next. Dr. Duey put me in touch with another student living there that helped me find a room. He also put me in touch with an agent who found a church job for me as soprano soloist at a Methodist Church in Freeport, Long Island. I found a job as a dental assistant to pay for the rent and voice lessons. I located a teacher, Margaret Sherman, a really fine teacher that gave me lasting technique.

The Middle Years

My husband Donald, a Methodist minister, held positions in two different churches in Napoleon and Saline, Michigan. Because I was a trained musician, it was almost expected that the minister's wife would direct the choir. After a year or so it became two choirs and then three. I found that I really loved working with children and young people. My husband and I took members of the choirs to a Methodist Choir Camp at Lake Huron Methodist Camp for seven summers; Don as Dean and myself as Co-dean.

I joined Mu Phi Epsilon in 1979, invited by my friend and church organist Mary McCall Stubbins. I have been an active member of the Ann Arbor Alumni Chapter for 33 years, serving as its Corresponding Secretary for many of those years. I performed at meetings numerous times, at least once a year.

I also sang with several church, college, and community choirs during these years. Some of the works performed included:

Works for Solo, Quartet, Chorus, and Orchestra:

Jackson Choral Society-

- “Five Psalms”- Christopher Le Fleming
- “The Messiah”- George Fredrich Handel
- “Elijah”- Felix Mendelssohn
- “The Creation”- Hayden

Battle Creek Community Chorus-

- “The Messiah”- GF Handel

Saginaw Choral Society-

- “Laud to the Nativity”- Respighi

University of Michigan Summer Session Chorus and Orchestra-

- “Mozart Requiem”

Coe College Choir, Cedar Rapids, Iowa-

- “The Creation”- FJ Hayden

May Festival, University of Michigan Choral Union-

- With the Philadelphia Orchestra
- “Fern Hill”- Corigliano (Quartet)

Bach Festival Society, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan

- “Christmas Oratorio”- JS Bach

Coventry Choral Society of the First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Michigan

- “Judas Maccabaeus”- GF Handel
- “Te Deum”- CH Graun
- “Belshazzar's Feast”- GF Handel
- “The Passion of our Lord (According to St. John)”- GF Handel

“Israel in Egypt”- Handel (Nitocris)
“Sampson”- Handel (Delilah)
“The Passion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”- CH Graun
“Lift Up Your Heads”- CH Graun

Trinity Episcopal Church, Marshall, Michigan
“The Triumph of the Cross”- HA Matthews

Albion College Choral Society
“Come, Ye Sons of Art Away”- H. Purcell
“Coronation Mass”- Mozart
“Psalm 104”- John Obetz
“Lilith”- Anthony Taffs
“Ten Virgins” (Dance Opera)- Anthony Taffs

Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Some of the solo works performed:

“Hodie”- Ralph Vaughan Williams
“Gloria”- Poulenc
“Requiem”- Brahms
“Magnificat”- JS Bach
“Requiem”- Mozart
“Mass in C Minor”- Mozart
“Lord Nelson Mass- Hayden”“Requiem”- Faure
“Coronation Mass”- Mozart
“Gloria”- Vivaldi

Three Dissertation Recitals for Saxophone and Voice
Ron Attinger- Alto Saxophone
Beverly Attinger- Piano

Vocal Music Teacher, Saline Community Schools, Saline, Michigan:

I taught vocal music in the Saline schools for 19 years (1967-1986). I had a variety of general music classes at the elementary level, and also several choirs at the Junior High and High School levels. I also started an after school group called “Varsity Blues”.

Some of the musical selections performed by my school groups included:

Sixth Grade Choir Productions-

Scenes From:

“Sound of Music”
“Tom Sawyer”
“Oliver”
“Mary Poppins”
“Dr. Dolittle”
“Annie”

Seventh Grade Choir Productions-

Selections from:

“Barnum”

“Annie”

High School Choir Productions-

“The Boy Friend”- Vocal Director

“Carousel”- Artistic and Vocal Director

Took student musicians to New York City for a week of Broadway shows three years in a row where we had private sessions with leading performers.

The Later Years

JAZZELEGANCE: I gave quite a few programs for Mu Phi meetings with Anita Bassett at the piano. Anita could play anything in any style. At one of our rehearsals, we invited Charlotte Owens to join us with her saxophone. It was such fun, we decided to surprise our Mu Phi audience and half-way through our serious songs we would break into “Blue Skies” and others! (I had to grab a mic.) Mu Phi loved our 40's songs; thus *Jazzelegance* was born! For the next ten years or so we performed regularly in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, and libraries (and of course, Mu Phi).

THE SOCIETY OF MUSICAL ARTS: I became very involved in this organization made up of alumni members of Mu Phi Epsilon and Sigma Alpha Iota. The society provides six musical offerings a year at the Ann Arbor City Club. Also, a competition, begun circa 1939, is held at the University of Michigan School of Music every February for which students studying strings, piano, reed instruments, and voice (Jessye Norman was one of our first winners) perform, each field of study competing a round-robin arrangement. As publicity chairman, I took photos of the winners and had them published in the *Music Muse*, a U. of M. publication.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERESTS: My early start with photography came when I bought my first camera at age ten! I have enjoyed using my skills to help with Mu Phi and Society of Musical Arts publicity. I also took pictures for the Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce and the tourist bureau. One of my photos was chosen for the cover of the phone book and one was featured on a billboard, as well as a variety of booklets featuring Ann Arbor area attractions. I have photos published in three books: “*Gas Station Charlie*”, *Vibrant Ann Arbor*”, and “*Saline- City and Rural Scapes*”.

MUSICAL THEATER (Ann Arbor and Saline): After being in several musicals as a student at University of Michigan, I soon found my niche with the Saline Area Players and the Ann Arbor Civic Theater. I performed the following roles:

Saline Area Players-

“Carousel”- Nettie Fowler

“SAP a la Carte”- Tiffany

“How to Succeed in Business”- Miss Jones

“Sound of Music”- Chorus

Ann Arbor Civic Theater-

“Sound of Music”- Sister Margareta

“Music Man”- Pick-a-Little-Lady and solo lines

“Mame”- Chorus

EUROPEAN FESTIVAL CHORUS AND EUROPEAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA- I traveled to Europe with this group for four summers and performed the following works:

July, 1980

“Elijah”- Mendelssohn (Westminster Cathedral, England)

“C Minor Mass”- Mozart (Salzburg, Austria)

“Mass in D-Minor”- Bruckner (Linz, Austria)

“Missa Solemnis”- Beethoven (Vienna, Austria)

July, 1981

“Requiem”- V. Reghini

“Stabat Mater”- Rossini (J. Hollenbach, director)

August, 1983

“Brahms Requiem” (Claudio Abbado, director; with the European Youth Orchestra)

“Verdi Requiem” (Verona, Italy)

“Messiah”- Handel (Thessaloniki, Greece)

“Te Deum”- Bruckner

July-August, 1984

“Mass in D Minor”- Anton Dvorak

“War Requiem”- Benjamin Britten