
David Clark Isele



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1946 - 2016

SOUTH BEND - David Clark Isele, composer, singer, organist and the Notre Dame Glee Club from 1973-1979, has died in Tampa, Fla. He joined the faculty of the Department of Music at Notre Dame at the invitation of Prof. Daniel H. Pedtke who directed the Glee Club from 1938-1979.

Dr. Isele graduated from Oberlin College and completed his doctorate at the Eastman School of Music. He earned his master's degrees in organ at Southern Methodist University. Known to his students as "Doc," he was a prominent figure at the University. Since the formerly all-male Notre Dame had recently begun to create a mixed chorus which he directed as well as the Glee Club. He made up many of the Glee Club's favorite pieces such as the Alma Mater, Notre Dame Our Mother, and many others, all of which are currently still in use.

With his colleague, Sue Seid Martin, he also served as organist and choir director at Sacred Heart, and like Bach, often wrote new Masses, psalms and antiphons for the church, which were sung in parishes all over the nation. He traveled extensively with both the Glee Club and the Sacred Heart Choir throughout the United States, and twice to Europe.

In 1980 Isele joined the University of Tampa, Florida, as professor of music and serving as organist and music minister at Sacred Heart Church in Tampa. Even after moving to Tampa, he continued to compose for choruses and solo performers in many different venues.

Most recently, Isele returned to South Bend in October, 2015 for the celebration of the Notre Dame Glee Club, conducting a number of songs with the returnees with the whole group of more than 500 singers who returned for the reunion, in the South Bend Community Auditorium.

He is survived by a sister, Bronwyn, a son, Curtis, daughter-in-law, Amanda and and will be deeply missed by students, colleagues and friends, though his music

A memorial service for Dr. Isele will be held next Saturday, August 27, in Tampa Dr. Isele's honor may contact the Notre Dame Glee Club or the University of Tar

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