

Dr. Thomas G. Hall, (1933 – 2023)



Dear Friends,

I am writing to let you know of the passing of a beloved member of our Association, Professor Emeritus of Music Thomas G. Hall. As many of you may know, Tom was also an active member of the executive board of our Association, called the Working Group. He was an inaugural member whose contributions were many, notably raising the idea of our being an advocate for newly retired faculty with any questions they may have. This is an issue our Working Group was pursuing when the Covid pandemic caused us to cease meeting. It is our hope to resume our Working Group committee meetings in the near future to advance our goals which includes furthering Tom's objectives, and to meet as an Association in person.

On a personal note, Tom was a great and loyal friend and colleague. I am heartbroken to learn of his passing. I first encountered Tom in 1984 when I was a newly hired part-time librarian working at the reference desk at night in the Thurmond Clarke Memorial Library and in walked a tall gentleman in an Easter bunny costume, head to toe, a costume I later learned was made by his dear wife, Willy '64 (MA '75); he carried a basket and was passing out chocolate eggs. Who could resist being endeared by this kind soul.

Below please find the notification of Tom's passing from the Office of the Provost. On behalf of Tom's friends in the Working Group, he will be greatly missed.

Sincerely,
Claudia Horn
Communication Chair
Retired and Emeritus Faculty Association of Chapman University



From the Office of the Provost

Norma Bouchard, Ph.D.

It is with deep sadness that I announce the loss of Professor Emeritus of Music Thomas G. Hall, Ph.D. He passed away on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at home with his wife, Willy '64, caring for him. They had been married since 1970.

Professor Hall was an essential part of Chapman's history and the success of the Conservatory. We all knew him as an individual who dedicated much of his time and energy to Chapman University in various capacities and demonstrated an exceptional interest in students, the music program, and philanthropy.

His time as a teacher and administrator spanned 33 years. I want to take this moment to honor his incredible life and the legacy that he has left behind for the Chapman Family.

As many of you know, Tom exuded compassion, creativity, and an incredible sense of humor as an educator. He worked as a professor within Chapman's Department of Music (which eventually became the Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music within the College of Performing Arts) from 1968 until his retirement in 2001.

He was professor of viola performance and music history and founded the Early Music Ensemble, beginning with performances by his music history students. Soon after his arrival, Tom established the Chapman Chamber Players, which allowed students and faculty to collaborate. The group existed for many years. His legacy lives on in generations of students who benefitted from his knowledge and wisdom.

During his time at Chapman, Tom served in numerous leadership roles. Among other positions, he served as Chair of the Music Department from 1974–1983, during the time Berte Hall was built and served again from 1990–1991. He was the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs of the School of Music and a representative from Chapman to the National Association of Schools of Music. He continued to represent Chapman in that capacity until 2004.

"A measure of Tom's dedication to the Conservatory is that (although long retired by then) he came to my presentation to the faculty when I interviewed for the dean's position in spring 2015 and asked me important questions," said Dean and Professor Giulio Ongaro, Ph.D., the Berte Hall Family Chair in Music. "He and I talked afterward, and I appreciated his input. Tom and Willy were also particularly helpful to my wife and me in our transition to Orange and Chapman, and Cheryl and I will always be grateful for that."

Added Amy Graziano, Ph.D., Chair and Professor of Music Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music: "He was someone I could turn to for advice, no matter the issue, and he always enjoyed a good discussion, usually making me laugh with his very dry sense of humor. I am grateful that I benefited from his mentorship and wisdom, and I will miss him very much."

Tom was an active member of “The Working Group,” the executive board of the Retired and Emeritus Faculty Association of Chapman University; he always joked that it was a ridiculously long name. Tom helped secure speakers for the fall luncheons and actively contributed to ideas and programming throughout the year.

When you look at the pictures of emeriti faculty on the wall in the Henley Reading Room of Leatherby Libraries, you will find Tom Hall in an Easter bunny suit, as it was in his tradition to pass out chocolate Easter eggs in costume from about 1973 until his retirement. He loved spreading joy within the Chapman Family.

Outside of Chapman, he was the principal violist of the Carmel Bach Festival from 1972–1992, a freelance violist in the southern California region, and a long-term member of the American Viola Society and the San Gabriel Valley Symphony Orchestra. He was still active in retirement, producing performance editions of viola music found in manuscripts at the Primrose Archive, Brigham Young University.

In addition to his work as a professor, Tom, alongside his beloved Willy, gave generously to support Chapman and its students. Their impact can be felt in practically every corner of campus, from the Leatherby Libraries to the College of Performing Arts to endowed scholarships to Town & Gown to the Economic Forecast and other programs; their contributions have been appreciated immensely. Tom and Willy joined the Charles C. Chapman Legacy Society in 2003, having planned thoughtfully by establishing a charitable remainder trust that will one day benefit the university. The couple undoubtedly shared as deep a love for Chapman as Chapman has for them.