

A photograph of Michael Schwartzkopf, a man with glasses and a dark suit, standing at a podium on a stage. He is smiling and gesturing with his hands as if conducting. In the background, other people are visible, including a woman in a white dress on the right and several men in suits. The lighting is focused on the stage.

SCHWARTZKOPF ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE

By Ron Kovener, *Indiana '55*

Michael Schwartzkopf, *Indiana '69* directed a grand conclusion to his career at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music with the 62nd anniversary concert of the 100-plus member Singing Hoosiers. The concert was Michael's final time to direct this internationally recognized singing group. Schwartzkopf is only the third director of this premier collegiate concert show choir. At the conclusion of the regular part of the March 31 concert, Schwartzkopf's outstanding service was recognized.

As part of the recognition retired U.S. Representative Lee Hamilton, remembered notable experiences he shared with Michael who had sung a love ballad to his wife. He also told of Michael's embarrassing problems when house-sitting the Hamilton's Washington house. Indiana University President Michael McRobbie then hung the university's Distinguished Service Medal around Michael's neck on a crimson ribbon. The Singing Hoosiers alumni president announced that a tulip poplar tree was planted outside the main school of music building in honor of Michael and his wife, Marilyn. This new tree is just across Third Street from the Delta Upsilon chapter house. Following these presentations, the traditional gathering of the Singing Hoosiers alumni filled the stage with many more voices for the final vocal selections.

Michael was a member of the Singing Hoosiers early in the organization's existence while an IU undergraduate. In an interview for the Indiana chapter's newsletter when Michael arrived as an IU faculty member, he said that his membership in DU was a special advantage to a music school student since he could sleep late and make a last minute dash across the street to arrive in time for his first class each day. Fraternity brothers paved the way for Michael's involvement in the Singing Hoosiers.



Michael Schwartzkopf, *Indiana '69* wears the Indiana University Distinguished Service Metal following his 17-year career with the Singing Hoosiers. Photo courtesy of Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.



Brother Michael Judd, *Indiana '65* was a member of the Singing Hoosiers, with *Earl Rivers, Indiana '66* and John Stevenson, *Indiana '67*. When Stevenson's son, Owen, attended IU, he was a Singing Hoosier with Michael as the director. With Earl, John, and the two Michaels in the chapter, it is not surprising that the chapter won the IU Sing competition several times in this era. Stevenson and Schwartzkopf participated in the choir's North Atlantic tour to Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland and also performed together in summer stock at the Wagon Wheel Playhouse. Judd and Schwartzkopf were part of the Singing Hoosiers group that did 40 shows one summer at the Indiana State Fair. Judd recalls that they were paid \$5 a show but, as Judd exclaims, "we were professional singers!" During his years as an IU professor, Michael has been regularly involved with the chapter, assisting with many activities, especially the senior dinner when seniors are inducted into alumni status. But, the IU Sing, in which the chapter shone during Michael's undergraduate years, is no longer held and he is disappointed that the current undergraduates do not sing the melodies of the familiar DU songs.

Following graduation, Michael was a member of The United States Army Chorus in Washington D.C. He was soloist on several occasions and performed frequently at the White House. He returned to IU to earn his masters in choral conducting in 1976 and received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1982. He again returned to IU

in 1995 as a faculty member teaching conducting and choral music education as well as directing the Singing Hoosiers for 17 years. During his tenure, the group earned significant recognition, made many popular recordings, and made concert trips throughout the US, in many European countries, and in China. The Singing Hoosiers have appeared with such legendary entertainers as Bob Hope, Tony Bennett, Duke Ellington, and Indiana's favorite son, Hoagy Carmichael. With Maestro Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati Pops, the Singing Hoosiers performed at Carnegie Hall in 1995 and made many recordings with the Pops. They also appeared on a televised PBS Christmas special with Mel Tormé. The Singing Hoosiers were a popular feature during the inauguration of President Obama when they appeared at the Indiana State Society Inaugural Ball.

During his years in Bloomington, Schwartzkopf was also director of the choir at First United Methodist Church in downtown Bloomington. He has conducted numerous choral masterworks with the church choir, wrapping up his tenure with a performance of Mendelssohn's Oratorio, "Elijah." This masterwork featured a forty member choir and a thirty-three piece orchestra. Following the performance, parishioners expressed appreciation and said goodbye at a huge reception.

Michael has planned his departure very carefully. He and wife Marilyn have built a new home in South Carolina where he says he is going to improve his game of golf.