

Biography for John (and Margaret) Mueller

John and Margaret Mueller - Salem College 1955-1995

John Mueller - North Carolina School of the Arts 1958-1995

John and Margaret Mueller are graduates of Oberlin College Conservatory of Music. John Mueller received a Bachelor of Music in organ. He received a Master's Degree at the University of Michigan in 1952 and completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Boston University in 1969. They both received Fulbright awards for study with Helmut Walcha in Germany.

Dr. Mueller taught organ and harpsichord at North Carolina School of the Arts for twenty-eight years and was Professor Emeritus of Salem College where he taught organ for forty years.

Dr. Mueller was a leader in the revival of the classic organ in the United States and in the teaching of stylistic practices of the Baroque and Romantic eras. He has been a guest faculty member of the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Summer Organist and Choirmaster at Harvard University's Memorial Church, and a member of the Fulbright Selection Committee for organ and harpsichord for six years.

Dr. Mueller served as organist and choirmaster at churches throughout the region, most recently at St. Anne's Episcopal Church and at Christ United Methodist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina.

John and Margaret Mueller presided over some of the first Flentrop organs in the United States, and throughout their careers worked to demonstrate the increased musicality made possible by slider wind chests sensitive action and special ensemble characteristics. "John Mueller was the consultant for seventeen organs in the Southeastern United States, including the Fisk organ at the UNC School of the Arts and the Flentrop organs in Shirley Recital Hall, Salem College and in Duke University's Chapel." (Kimberly Marshall The HARP Report 2011). The restoration of the 1965 Flentrop Organ in 2013 incorporated the new knowledge the Flentrop Firm had accumulated since the building of the organ in 1965, knowledge based on study of early instruments through their restorations. Dirk Koomans and his wife Yu Nagayama revoiced all of the flue work and reeds, Geert Spronk cleaned the entire organ and replaced worn action parts, and finally Richard Houghton replaced the piston action with a more flexible solid state system. The completed restoration places this organ as one of the crowning instruments in the state of North Carolina.