

In memoriam

H. Royce Saltzman
1928–2023

Royce Saltzman, ACDA President 1970–1981, died April 3, 2023, at the age of 94 after a brief bout with cancer.

Royce's great-grandmother, Catherine Eisenhower (aunt of President Eisenhower) was part of a migration of River Brethren who traveled west from Pennsylvania to Kansas in 1879. The church in Abilene—where the Eisenhower boys attended Sunday School, and where Royce's family were members—had no musical instruments, so the congregation sang a cappella. Singing was thus a part of Royce's life from early childhood.

In 1952 Royce married Phyllis Engle, daughter of missionaries to India. Phyllis was born in Darjeeling and attended school there until the age of eight, when she returned to the United States.

Royce's academic degrees, all with emphasis in music, included a BA from Goshen College; MMus, Northwestern University; and DMA, University of Southern California. He taught at Messiah College, Upland College, University of Southern California, and in 1964, came to the University of Oregon. While in southern California he directed choirs at Hollywood Presbyterian Church, North Hollywood Presbyterian Church, and First Methodist Church of Santa Monica. In Eugene, he conducted the choir at St. Mary's Episcopal Church for seven years.

At age 17, Royce worked his way to Poland on the liberty ship Wesley W. Barrett. He, along with other men and boys, tended 750 head of cattle and 50 horses being shipped to war-devastated countries after World War II—part of a project of UNNRA (United Nations Relief Rehabilitation Agency).

In 1968–69, Royce served as Director of the University of Oregon's International Center for Music Education, allowing students to enroll in Eugene but take coursework in Germany. It was during this period that he met Helmuth Rilling and in 1970 invited him to teach master classes at the University of Oregon. From this modest beginning emerged the internationally renowned Oregon Bach Festival, now in its 54th year. As co-founder of the Festival, Royce served as its executive director for 34 years.

As Professor of Music at the University of Oregon, Royce was Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Studies from 1972 to 1983. His civic involvement included the board of the Eugene/Springfield Visitors and Convention Bureau; Hult Endowment Committee of Eugene Arts Foundation; and Arts and Business Alliance of Eugene (ABAE).

Royce was past national President of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), which presently represents 21,000 choral conductors in the United States and Canada, and from 1985 to 1993 he served as President of the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM), a world organization which has a membership of conductors, choirs, and national organizations in more than 60 countries. He served as IFCM's representative in the planning of world symposia in Vienna, Stockholm, Vancouver, and Sydney; was a member of the Artistic Committee for the 2002 World Symposium on Choral Music in Minneapolis; and was advisor for, and delegate to, IFCM's International Choral Summit in Beijing.

In Washington, D.C. Royce served on five review panels of the National Endowment for the Arts. He was also on jury panels for choir competitions in Argentina, Canada, China, the Czech Republic,

Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and the United States. He lectured in Argentina, China, France, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, and the USA. He was a past member of the International Honorary Committee of *Zimriya Festival*, a world assembly of choirs in Israel, and of the Advisory Board of the *Academia Bach de Venezuela* in Caracas. He also served as an honorary member of the Board of Trustees, *International Bachakademie*, Stuttgart, Germany; advisor to the *Children's Palace*, a school for the arts in Guangzhou, China; and honorary advisor for the *China Fifth International Choir Festival*, Beijing.

Royce was a recipient of the *Bundesverdienstkreuz*, the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit, Germany's highest medal of honor for distinguished cultural service, presented by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany; Outstanding Alumnus, Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California; Alumni Merit Award, Northwestern University; Distinguished Service Award, University of Oregon; Distinguished Alumnus Award, Messiah College; Culture for Service Award, Goshen College; and Eugene's "First Citizen" Award. He received Chorus America's Distinguished Service Award; ACDA's highest recognition, The Robert Shaw Award; Lifetime Achievement Awards from IFCM (Macao) and the Sixth World Children's Choir Festival (Hong Kong); and Eugene Symphony's Advocate for the Arts award. He was also honored by the Seventy-Seventh Congressional Assembly, State of Oregon, for cultural contributions to the State of Oregon.

For more than 25 years Royce sang the *Star-Spangled Banner* at UO basketball games and was perhaps better known in the community for these appearances than his work as Professor at the University or Executive Director of the OBF. He was a long-standing member of First Congregational Church Eugene, where he served on the Worship and Stewardship Committees and the Board of Directors.

Royce is survived by his wife of nearly 71 years, Phyllis; four daughters, Kathy Romey (Patrick), Lisa Skopal (Trace), Jody Rose (Greg), and Marta Newton (Jack), six grandchildren (Adam, Erik, Josh, Bekah, Claire, Maddy, and McKenzie, who preceded him in death).

A Celebration of Life will be held during the Oregon Bach Festival on July 6, 2023, in Silva Concert Hall at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, Eugene, Oregon.