

*At a Meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on March 1, 2016, the following Minute was placed upon the records.*

**David Grattan Hughes**

**Born: June 14, 1926**

**Died: April 30, 2015**

David Hughes, Fanny P. Mason Professor of Music, *Emeritus*, at Harvard, died in Paris on April 30, 2015; he was 88.

Born on June 14, 1926, in Norwalk, Connecticut, Hughes was a lifelong Harvard man. After his A.B. (summa cum laude, 1947), he served with the U.S. Army in Japan before returning to take his A.M. in 1954 and his Ph.D. in 1956 with a dissertation on music in the fourteenth century. He was appointed to the faculty in that year and served until his retirement. Hughes was chair of the Department from 1961 to 1965 and also served as the Head Tutor, advising generations of undergraduates, and as the advisor on a series of distinguished dissertations. His commitment to music and to music's place in the world was witnessed by his many years of teaching in the Harvard Extension School.

David's dissertation, on the remarkable transition in musical style at the end of the fourteenth century, continues to enrich and enlighten those scholars who turn to it—as they still do: there is an underground project to digitize it for use on the internet.

Masterly articles, dealing mainly with issues of transmission and filiation in medieval chant, especially in the area of tropes, established Hughes as an authority in his field. With John R. Bryden, he published *An Index of Gregorian Chant* (Harvard, 1969); his textbook, *A History of European Music: the Art Music Tradition of Western Culture*, was published by McGraw Hill in 1974.

In a volume of essays in David's honor, one of his most distinguished students, Alejandro Planchart, wrote, "Pursuing the implications of any of his research essays, works where the lucidly presented surface opens up on careful reading to present an extraordinary number of ideas tightly compressed and carefully interwoven, could easily occupy the better part of a scholarly career."

In 1959 Hughes assumed the editorship of *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, the principal scholarly journal in our field. The journal had fallen behind in its publication, and it was vitally important to the Society that it be brought back to regular publication. Hughes collected and edited a wide range of material and oversaw a double issue for the Summer-Fall of 1959, marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Society. This helped to put the publication back on its feet and was a vitally important step in restoring the organization to good health and future prosperity. He was made an Honorary Member of the Society in 2006.

Hughes was a true polymath. There were few subjects in music on which he could not enrich and enliven a conversation, and he was a fluent pianist, able to play almost anything from memory—vocal, instrumental, or orchestral. Students at Harvard remember his lively conversation, his challenging seminars, and his self-effacing sense of humor.

Hughes lived in Belmont for many years, later retiring to coastal Maine. His annual trips to Paris combined research with rejuvenation. He was married to the former Janet Brandon, who died in 2007. He is survived by his daughters, Catherine E. C. Hughes of Charlotte, Vermont, and Anne Cox of Kew Gardens, New York, as well as his son-in-law, Ian Cox.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Lockwood  
Anne C. Shreffler  
Christoph J. Wolff  
Thomas F. Kelly, Chair

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Portions of this Minute were previously published in “David Grattan Hughes, 88: Musicologist was ‘a lifelong Harvard man’,” *Gazette*, July 16, 2015, <http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2015/07/david-grattan-hughes-88/>.