



## Thomas D East

March 29, 1932 - December 11, 2013

Thomas D. East III, 81, passed away December 11, 2013 at The Toledo Hospital. He was born March 29, 1932 to Evelyn and Thomas D. East Jr. in Trinidad, CO. Thomas earned his B.S. at Colorado State College of Education, his Masters Degree from Indiana University and was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship enabling him to study in Darmstadt, Germany for six years, where he was the lead tenor at the Darmstadt Opera House. He taught at the University of Utah for 5 years and was the Director of Opera Studies at the University of Toledo from 1971 until his retirement in 2000. Tom served as the choir director for many churches, including Aldersgate U.M.C, Trilby U.M.C, Hampton Park Church and Sylvania First U.M.C. He was a soloist with the Toledo Opera, the Toledo Symphony and Utah Symphony, Central City Opera in Colorado, and the famed Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Tom was a voracious reader, who enjoyed the outdoors, especially fishing, and was a member of the Northwest Ohio Emmaus Community. Tom is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Judith "Doodet", sons, Thomas D. (Gloria) East IV, Michael C. (Yana) East; step children, Dori Sowle, Robert (Betsy) Ransford, Amy (Lloyd) Allen, Michael (Meg) Ransford; grandchildren, Thomas D. East V, Rosemary (Dan) Boelens, Patrick East, Alex East, Elizabeth Juhnke, Sarah and Willis Sowle, April, Madeline, and Maisy Ransford, Liam, Evan, and Bridget Allen, Timmy O'Rourke; great grandson, Roman Juhnke; brother, Gordon (Janet) East and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Special thanks to the doctors and staff at The Toledo Hospital I.C.U. A memorial service will

be held at 11:00am Monday December 16, 2013 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 4030 Douglas Rd., where friends are invited to visit after 9:00am. Memorial contributions may be made to the Aldersgate United Methodist Church media fun. Arrangement entrusted to Ansberg-West Funeral Directors (419) 472-7633. Condolences may be left online at [www.ansberg-west.com](http://www.ansberg-west.com)

# Tribute Wall

DW

“ My first voice teacher was a tenor named Thomas East. Thomas was the lead tenor at the Darmstadt Opera House in Germany for six seasons years ago.

One evening, during a performance of Tosca or La Traviata, he sang an aria in German as the production was being sung in German... the applause was so long, that the audience demanded an encore of that aria. So Thomas repeated the aria.

The next day in the Darmstadt newspaper, the headline read as follows: “Herr East gives us a rare treat, he sang the aria the first time in German, and his encore in Italian.”

He inadvertently sang the encore in its original language, and didn't realize it until the next day!!

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**Dr. Michael T Wagenhauser** - November 24, 2025 at 04:36 PM

DS

“ Professor East was my voice instruction during the 1980s. He was a very nice person. I just found out he passed away several years ago. I will miss him.

Larry Semark, PhD  
Albuquerque, NM



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**Dr. Larry Semark** - July 17, 2018 at 01:37 PM

JJ

“ I have such fond remembrance of Tom and of our performances together at UT, when I, too, was on the voice faculty. Tom was always optimistic, friendly, and very professional. Please accept my sincere sympathy to his family .Sincerely, Judy Hauman Dye

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**Judy Hauman Dye - judywdye@gmail.com judywdye@gmail.com** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ET

“ I have nice memories of Tom as a singer. Our deepest condolences at this sad time in your lives. Astrig

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**Ed and Astrig Tutelian** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Dearest Judy and Family, I am forever grateful that I was able to have the experience of Tom's expertise as a voice coach and as a caring friend. He brought out a voice in me I never knew I possessed and I hope to continue to share it in his honor. What a blessing from God I will never forget! I know The Lord is with you through this difficult time. With much sympathy, Sarah

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**Sarah Hess** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM