

## THALLIS HOYT DRAKE

A native of Chicago, **Thallis Hoyt Drake** has been a resident of Milwaukee since 1953. She was employed for six and a half years as the secretary in the architectural firm of Maynard W. Meyer & Associates, during which time she was a founding member of the (now defunct) Women's Architectural League, serving as its president from 1960-1962. Following her marriage to Milwaukee architect Douglas Drake in 1957, and while raising their three children, she joined several musical organizations, initially the Civic Music Association and the MacDowell Club of Milwaukee. Trained as a violinist, she was accepted into the latter as a Performing Member and sat on its Board of Directors for eleven years, serving as its president from 1965-1967.

Involvement with some of the MacDowell Club members led her to explore 'early' strings and, subsequently, appear for over three decades in performances with *The Medieval Consort* and, as a founding member, with the *Milwaukee Consort of Viols*, *Euterpe*, a Baroque trio, and *Les Jongleurs*, all devoted to pre-19th Century repertoires. While her children attended elementary school, Drake became a paraprofessional in the Milwaukee Public Schools and later, from 1975-77, held a two-year appointment as Secretary to the Chairman of the Music Department at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

During this time Drake served on several Boards, including the MacDowell Club, the Milwaukee Symphony Women's League, the Milwaukee Art Museum's Friends of Art, and the Civic Music Association, serving the latter as its president from 1974-1976, ultimately becoming its Executive Administrator from 1977-1991, a total of two decades. From 1981 until 1995, Drake coordinated the Summer Concerts at the Boerner Botanical Gardens, resumed the task in 1997 for the Lake Park Friends' popular *Musical Mondays* and, since 2001, has arranged the music for the Sunday morning *Sopra Mare Café* series at the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum.

In 1986, Drake founded the Early Music Now concert series, volunteering as the organization's Executive Director until 2001 when it reached a position to engage a full time General Manager.

Officially "retired," she became a docent for the Milwaukee Symphony's Youth Concerts, sat on Arts Board of Saint John's on the Lake for several years, and has returned to the MacDowell Club Board, currently serving as its Publicity Chairman, and was Co-Chair of its season-long 2008-2009 Centennial Celebration.