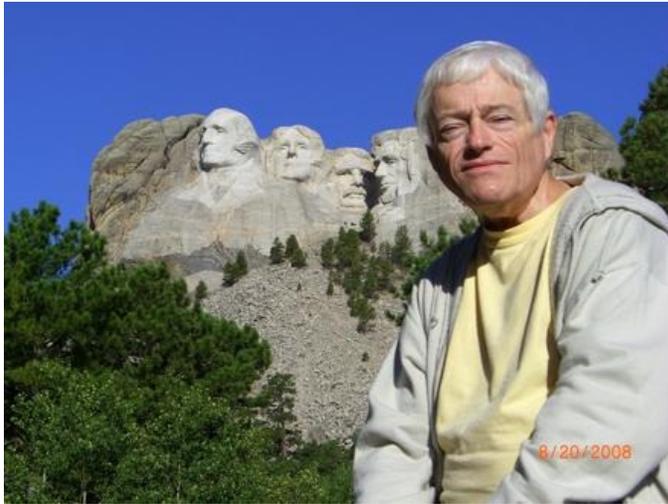


Rick McKinney's background in music education began at Simpson College. He completed his education at Truman State University with an MA in music education with a concentration in composition. He taught all levels of music education in Iowa public schools prior to earning his MA. From Truman, he went to Honolulu where he taught at the college level for Hawaii Pacific University, Chaminade University and the University of Hawaii System. He also served as music critic for the Honolulu Star Bulletin for the symphony



and opera seasons for six years. In addition to his teaching duties, he was music director for First United Methodist Church of Honolulu for a dozen years prior to his retirement in 1998. McKinney lost his vocal cords in 2000 to throat cancer due to Agent Orange exposure during his service in the U.S. Army. In his relatively short term of service in the army, he received numerous awards including a

Bronze Star for Valor, a Bronze star for service, A Vietnam Gallantry Metal with Palm Leaf and other medals and citations. In 2003 he returned to Kirksville, Missouri where he was the Community Chorus Director for ten years. He served as interim director of the Chancel Choir at First United Methodist Church in Kirksville. Throughout McKinney's life he has directed a variety of choral ensembles and coached many solo vocalists as well. He is an accomplished piano stylist and frequently featured in that capacity as well. McKinney writes and arranges choral and other genre of music. Prior to his move to Hawaii, he was frequently a guest conductor for choral festivals and show choir adjudicator from New York to Western Nebraska. His music has been published by five major choral music publishers and his compositions have been performed internationally.

McKinney annually speaks to graduate students at Truman State University, who study communication disorders. Under the moniker of McNotes, he has for three years written a blog that is carried in the Kirksville Daily Express as well as seven other Missouri newspapers. His blog reveals his personal reflections on topics of his choice and are published weekly.